Baba Yaga’s black geese

Once upon a time there were two children, Olga and Sergei. The children were warned not to play in the garden because Baba Yaga’s black geese had recently been seen. Baba Yaga was the witch who lived in the deep, dark woods and loved to eat children! But when Olga and Sergei’s parents went to market to buy sugar buns for tea and the children went outside and Sergei was kidnapped by the three black geese and taken to the deep, dark woods. Olga chased after the geese.

She ran and she ran and she ran like the wind.
“Olga, Olga, Olga…” called a fish who was lying on the bank by the river. “I haven’t got time to stop,” said Olga. “I’m in a rush to get to the deep, dark woods to save my brother Sergei from Baba Yaga.” But Olga did help the fish and was given a shell as a reward. “As you have helped me, so I shall help you,” said the fish. “If ever you find yourself in trouble, take this shell, throw it over your shoulder and I will come and help you.” “Thanks,” said Olga. And again she started to run towards the deep, dark woods.

She ran and she ran and she ran like the wind.
“Olga, Olga, Olga,” called a squirrel in a trap. “I haven’t got time to stop…” … But Olga did help the squirrel and received an acorn as a reward. ‘As you have helped me, so I shall help you…’

She ran and she ran and she ran like the wind.
“Olga, Olga, Olga,” called a mouse who couldn’t get into her hole…. Olga helped the mouse and was given a small stone as a reward. ‘As you have helped me, so I shall help you…’

In the deep, dark woods Olga found Baba Yaga’s house on three chicken legs. She rescued her brother but the three black geese woke up Baba Yaga and she started to chase them.

With her long bony arms and her long bony legs she reached out to grab the children when …

Olga put her hand into her pocket and pulled out the present from the fish - a shell. She threw it over her shoulder and a lake appeared. Baba Yaga drank it.

Baba Yaga came after them again, with her long bony arms… Olga put her hand into her pocket and pulled out the present from the squirrel - an acorn. She threw it over her shoulder and a forest appeared. Baba Yaga chomped her way through it.

Baba Yaga came after them again, with her long bony arms… Olga put her hand into her pocket and pulled out the present from the mouse - a stone. She threw it over her shoulder and a mountain appeared.

With her stomach full of lake and trees, even Baba Yaga couldn’t eat the mountain and the children got home just in time for tea.

For more stories like this, visit www.storymuseum.org.uk/1001stories