

Penguin



Readers

Tove Jansson

MOOMIN SHORTS



Penguin  Readers

MOOMIN SHORTS

ADAPTED FROM
TALES FROM MOOMINVALLEY

TOVE JANSSON

LEVEL

2

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ILLUSTRATED BY TOVE JANSSON
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Contents

People in the stories	6
New words	7
Note about the stories	8
Before-reading questions	8
The Last Dragon in the World	9
The Invisible Child	24
The Fir Tree	42
During-reading questions	54
After-reading questions	55
Exercises	56
Project work	60
Glossary	61

People in the stories



Moomintroll



Moominmamma
and Moominpappa



Snufkin



Little My



Snorkmaiden



A Hemulen

New words



candle



dragon



jar



paw



sledge



snout

Note about the stories

Tove Jansson (1914–2001) was from Finland. Her most famous stories are about the Moomin family. She wrote nine books about the Moomins and she drew beautiful pictures for her stories too. Today, people all **around*** the world love the Moomin family.

The Moomin family are Moominpappa, Moominmamma and Moomintroll. Sometimes, other people live with the Moomin family. In these stories, these people are Little My, Snorkmaiden and Snufkin.

Tove Jansson died in 2001 at the age of 86.

Before-reading questions

- 1 Look quickly at the stories and the pictures in the book. Are these sentences true or false?
 - a There are four stories in the book.
 - b The stories all happen in a city.
 - c The first story is about a dragon.
- 2 Look online, and read about Tove Jansson.
 - a What country was she from?
 - b What other books did she write about the Moomins?
- 3 Look at the picture on page 40. What is happening, do you think?

*Definitions of words in **bold** can be found in the glossary on pages 61–62.

The Last Dragon in the World

One Thursday, Moomintroll caught a small dragon in the long grass in the garden. He was very **surprised**. He put it into a glass jar.

The dragon had six legs, a bright green head and yellow eyes. It **shone** in the sun and it looked wonderful. Moomin put the top on the jar. The dragon opened its mouth and it showed lots of small white teeth.

“This dragon is small, but it’s very angry,” thought Moomintroll.

He carried the jar home. “I’m going to keep you,” he said quietly to the dragon. “I’ll love you. You can sleep by my side at night. You’ll start to like me. Then I’ll take you swimming in the sea.”

Moominpappa was in the garden but Moomintroll did not want him to see the dragon. He wanted to tell his friend Snufkin about it first.

Moomintroll **hid** the jar in his **paws** and he walked quietly to the back door of the house.



But, **suddenly**, Little My ran out. “What are you hiding in that jar?” she asked.

“I’m not hiding anything,” said Moomintroll. He ran quickly up to his room and he put the jar on the table. The dragon showed its teeth again.



“Come out, little friend,” said Moomintroll. He opened the top of the jar, then he closed the door. The dragon came out and it sat on the jar. Moomintroll put out his paw and he tried to **touch** the dragon. The dragon opened its mouth. It **blew** fire at Moomintroll and it **burned** him.



“Ow! You’re angry!” Moomintroll said to the dragon. “Oh, my beautiful little baby!” He liked the dragon very much.

Moomintroll pulled out a small box from under his bed. There was cake, bread and an apple inside. He took out the food and he put it by the dragon. But the dragon did not want the food.

There was a big **fly** on the window. The dragon ran quickly to the window. It killed the fly and then it ate it. Then the dragon looked at Moomintroll.

“Well done!” Moomintroll said to the dragon. “I’m going to have my lunch now. Wait for me here and be good.” He looked at the dragon with love in his eyes. “My little friend!” he said. Then he ran down and out to the **veranda**.

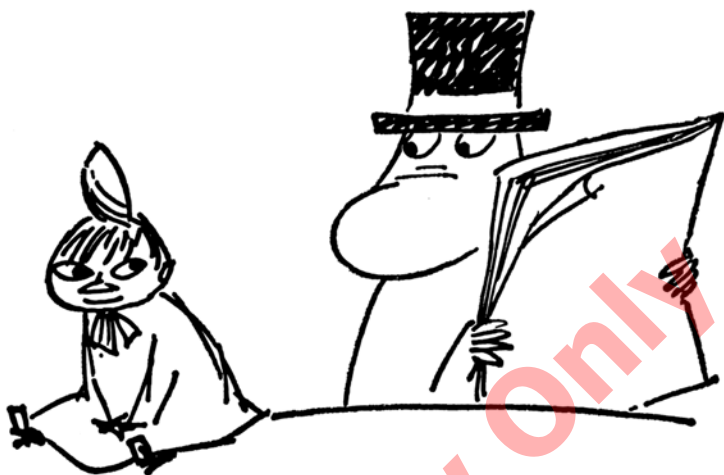
At lunch, Little My said, “Moomintroll is hiding something in a glass jar.”

“Be quiet,” said Moomintroll. “Mamma,” he said to Moominmamma. “I would very much like to have my own small animal.”

“What?” said Moominpappa. He looked up from his newspaper.

“Moomintroll has a new animal,” said Moominmamma. “Does it **bite**?”

“It doesn’t bite very hard,” said Moomintroll.



“It’s too small.”

“Can we see it?” asked Little My. “Does it talk?”

Moomintroll was not happy. He wanted his dragon to be a **secret**. But you cannot have secrets in a family. They always know everything.

“I’m going down to the river after lunch,” said Moomintroll. “Mamma, nobody must go into my room.”

“Please don’t go into Moomintroll’s room, Little My,” said Moominmamma.

Moomintroll finished his lunch. Then he walked through the garden and down to the river. He was happy about his dragon again.

Moomintroll found Snufkin by the river. They sat together quietly for some minutes.

“Would you like to find a dragon?” asked Moomintroll.

“That’s not possible,” answered Snufkin. “There are no dragons in the world now.”

“No, there is one,” said Moomintroll. “It’s in a glass jar. It has very small green paws.”

Snufkin looked at Moomintroll. “That’s not true,” he said.

“Yes, it is true!” shouted Moomintroll. “I found a dragon!”

Snufkin was very surprised and Moomintroll was very happy.

During-reading questions

THE LAST DRAGON IN THE WORLD

- 1 What does Moomintroll find in the garden?
- 2 How does he carry it to the house?
- 3 Who does Moomintroll want to tell first about the dragon?
- 4 What does the dragon like to eat?
- 5 Why is Moomintroll sad about the dragon and Snufkin?
- 6 Why is Little My angry with the dragon?
- 7 “You’re nice, but I can’t keep you.” Why does Snufkin say this?
- 8 What does Snufkin tell the Hemulen to do?

THE INVISIBLE CHILD

- 1 Who does Too-ticky visit one evening?
- 2 How is Ninny different from other children?
- 3 Why does she wear a small bell?
- 4 Where does Ninny sleep?
- 5 How does the recipe help invisible people?
- 6 Why do the Moomin family go to the beach?
- 7 What does Ninny think about the sea?
- 8 Why does she bite Moominpappa?

THE FIR TREE

- 1 Where are the Moomin family sleeping?
- 2 Why does Moomintroll wake up?
- 3 Where do Moominpappa and Moomintroll get a tree from?
- 4 What does the woody tell the Moomins to put on the tree?
- 5 What are the Moomin family’s presents for Christmas?
- 6 What do the family give to the woody and his friends?
- 7 Why do the family hide under the table?
- 8 What happens to the Hemulen’s yellow mittens?

After-reading questions

- 1** Which of the three stories do you like best? Why?
- 2** “You cannot have secrets in a family.” Is this true, do you think?
- 3** Is Snufkin a good friend to Moomintroll, do you think?
Why/Why not?
- 4** How do these people help Ninny? Who does Ninny like best, do you think?
 - a** Too-ticky
 - b** Moominmamma
 - c** Moominpappa
 - d** Moomintroll
- 5** “I’m not frightened of Christmas now,” says Moomintroll. What does he learn about Christmas?
- 6** Would you like to live with the Moomin family?
Why/Why not?
- 7** Would you like to read more stories about this family?
Why/Why not?

Exercises

THE LAST DRAGON IN THE WORLD

1 Are these sentences *true or false*? Write the correct answers in your notebook.

- 1 The dragon has four legs. *false* ... *The dragon has six legs.*
- 2 Moomintroll and Snufkin are friends.
- 3 The dragon's favourite foods are cake, apples and bread.
- 4 The dragon does not bite.
- 5 The dragon can fly.
- 6 The dragon likes Moomintroll better than Snufkin.
- 7 The Hemulen gives Snufkin five fish.
- 8 The Hemulen takes the hat and the dragon.

2 Choose the correct verb forms to complete these sentences in your notebook.

- 1 Moomintroll **find** / **found** a small dragon in the garden.
- 2 The dragon **blew** / **blow** fire from its mouth.
- 3 "Moomintroll **is hiding** / **hide** something in a glass jar," said Little My.
- 4 "It doesn't **has** / **have** a name," said Moomintroll.
- 5 The dragon **flew** / **fly** into the garden.
- 6 Then it **sat** / **sitting** on Snufkin's shoulder.
- 7 "**Will** / **Would** you like some fish?" asked Snufkin.
- 8 That evening, Moomintroll **come** / **came** to see Snufkin.