



Pinocchio

Geppetto, a poor old wood carver, was making a puppet from a block of wood.

"You shall be my little boy," he said, "and I will call you Pinocchio."



He worked for hours and when he reached the mouth the puppet started making faces at Geppetto.

"Stop that, you naughty boy," Geppetto scolded.

"I won't stop!" cried Pinocchio.

"You can talk !" exclaimed Geppetto.

"You've given me a mouth to talk with." Pinocchio said as he rose to his feet and danced on the table top. "Look what I can do !" he squealed.

"Pinocchio, this is not the time to dance," Geppetto explained. "You must get a good nights rest. Tomorrow you will start going to school with the real boys. I have bought a book for you, with the few coins I have. You will learn many things, including how to behave."





As Pinocchio walked to school the next morning he stopped to look at a puppet show. He sold his book to go inside.

"I can dance and sing better than those puppets and I don't need strings," boasted Pinocchio, and he climbed onto the stage.

The Puppet Master was cross that Pinocchio had jumped onto his stage. He shouted at him to get down. But when he looked at the crowd of people he saw that they liked Pinocchio and so he decided to let him stay. He even paid him 5 copper coins.

"Take these coins and go straight home," said the Puppet Master.

Pinocchio put the coins into his sack.



Pinocchio did not go very far before he met a Fox and a Cat. Knowing that he had money, they pretended to be his friends. "Come with us. We'll teach you how to turn those copper pieces into gold," said the sneaky Cat.

"We want to help you get rich. Plant your coins under this magic tree. In a few hours they'll turn to gold," said the Fox.

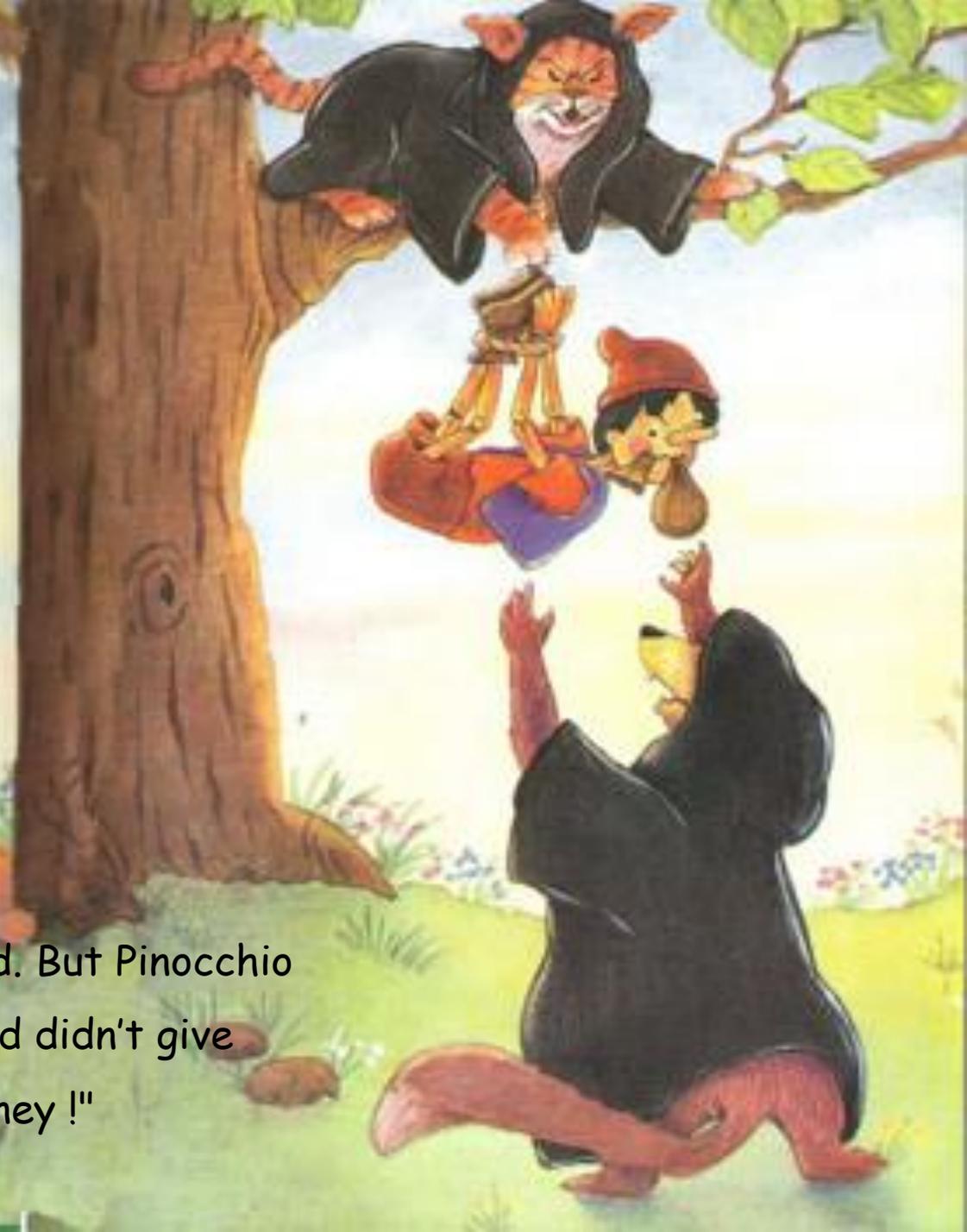


Pinocchio dug a hole and put the sack in it.

"Now let's go to the inn for supper." said the Cat.

After supper the Fox and Cat quickly snuck away and disguised themselves as thieves. They hid by the tree waiting for Pinocchio to come back and dig up the money. After Pinocchio dug up the coins they pounced on him.

"Give us your money!" they ordered. But Pinocchio held the sack between his teeth and didn't give the sack to them. "Give us your money!"



Pinocchio's Guardian Fairy, who had been keeping a close eye on him, sent her dog to chase the Fox and Cat away. When the Fox and Cat were gone the dog took Pinocchio back to the fairy's castle.

"Why didn't you go to school today?" the Fairy asked Pinocchio in a sweet voice.

"I did," answered Pinocchio.

Just then, his nose shot out like a tree branch.

"What's happening to my nose?" he cried.





"Every time you tell a lie, your nose will grow. When you tell the truth, it will shrink," said the Blue Fairy.

"Pinocchio, you can only become a real boy if you learn how to be brave, honest and generous."

The Blue Fairy told Pinocchio to go home and not to stop for any reason. Pinocchio tried to remember what the Blue Fairy told him.

On the way to home he met some boys.
"Come with us," said the boys. "We know
a wonderful place filled with games,
giant cakes, pretty candies, and
circuses."

What the boys didn't know was that if
you were bad, you were turned into
donkeys and trained for the circus.



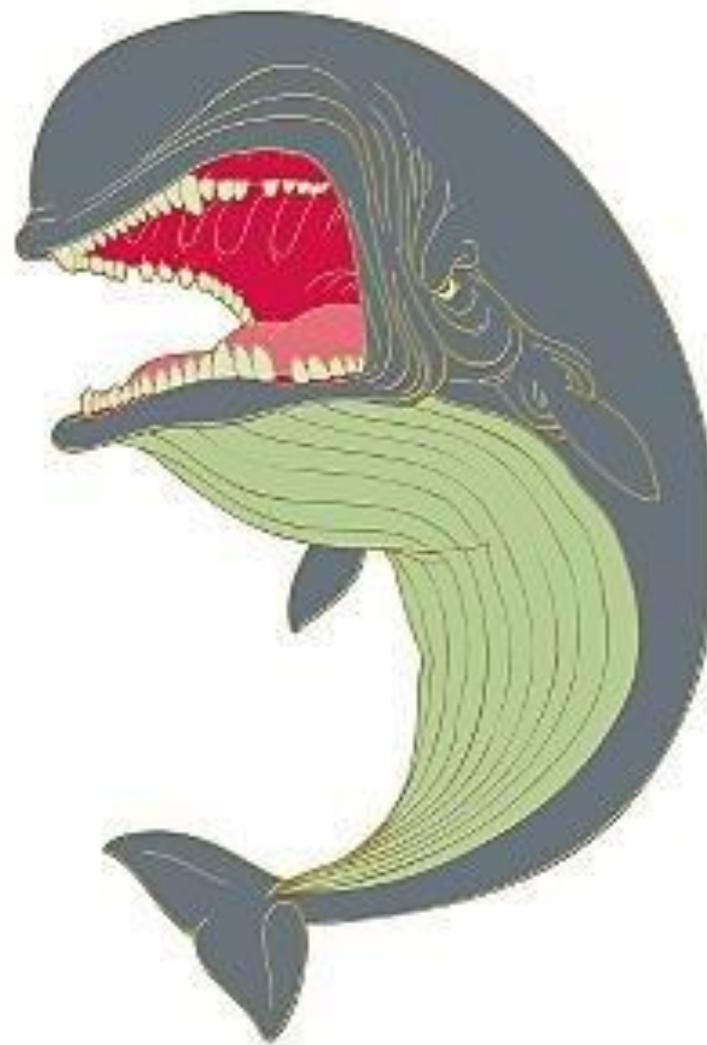
Soon the boys began changing into donkeys. "That's what happens to bad
boys," snarled the Circus Master.

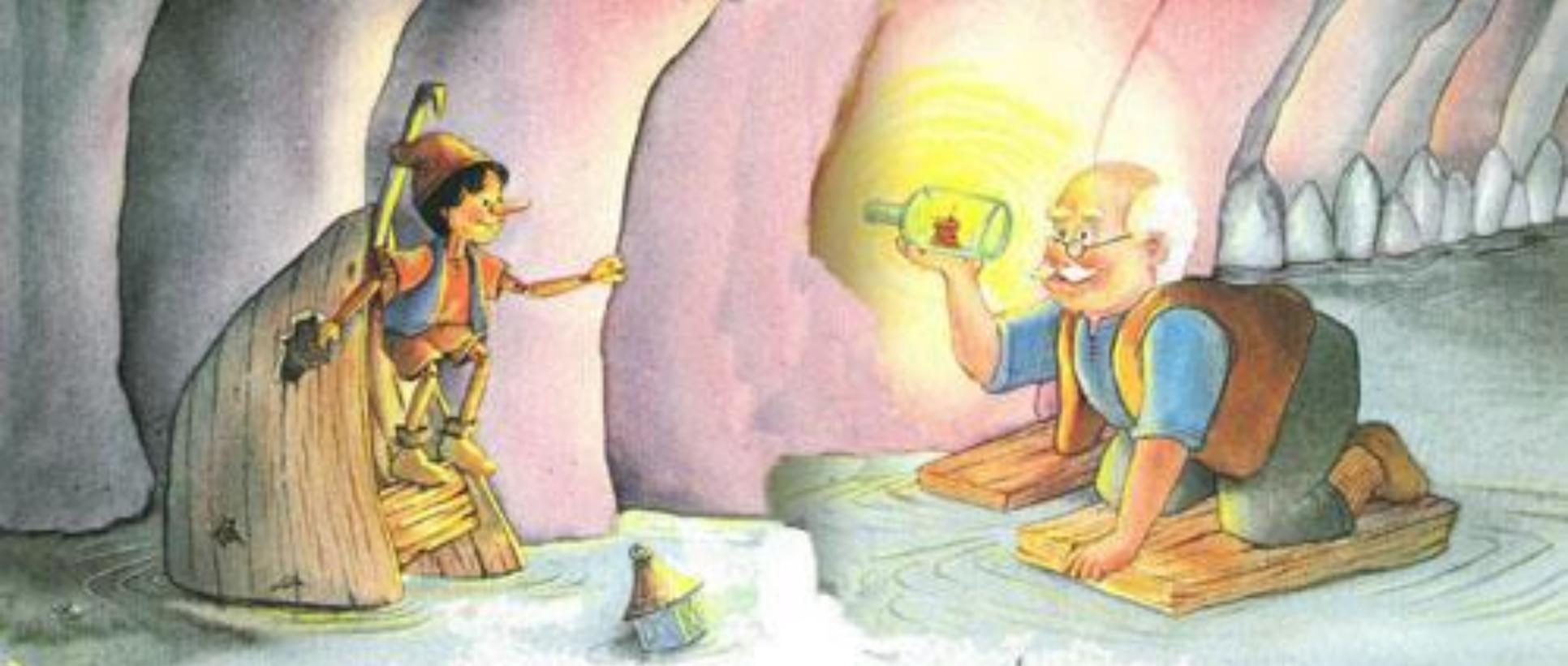
Pinocchio could only grow a donkey's ears, feet, and tail, because he was
made of wood. This meant the Circus Master couldn't sell him to the circus.

The Circus Master threw Pinocchio into the sea.

As soon as Pinocchio hit the water, the donkey tail fell off and his own ears and feet came back.

Pinocchio swam for a very long time. Just when he couldn't swim any longer, he was swallowed by a great whale.





It was very dark inside the whale.

Pinocchio kept floating deep into the whale's stomach.

In the darkness he could see a light.

"Who's there?" called Pinocchio, his voice echoing.

"Pinocchio, is that you?" asked a tired voice.

"Father, you're alive!" Pinocchio shouted with joy.

He wasn't scared anymore.



Pinocchio helped Geppetto build a big raft that would hold both of them.

When the raft was finished, Pinocchio tickled the whale.

"Hold tight, Father. When he sneezes, he'll blow us out of here!" cried Pinocchio.



Home at last, Geppetto tucked Pinocchio into his bed.

"Pinocchio, today you were brave, honest and generous," Geppetto said. "You are my son and I love you."

Pinocchio remembered what the Blue Fairy told him.

"Father, now that I've proven myself I'm waiting for something to happen," he whispered as he drifted off to sleep.

The next morning
Pinocchio came running
down the steps, jumping
and waving his arms.

He ran to Geppetto and
said,
"Look Father, I'm a real
boy!"

