

Tom Thumb

Introduction

Imagine a man as small as your thumb.
Where would he live? What would he wear?

In this story Tom Thumb is as small as a man's thumb. One day a fish swallows him. The fish is caught and sold to the King's chef. Just think what the chef thought when he opened the fish and saw Tom Thumb!

What do you think he did next?

Story written by Gill Munton
Illustrated by Tim Archbold



Tom Thumb

Tom Thumb was small.

In fact, he was no bigger than a man's thumb.



His bed was a matchbox
and his bath was an eggcup.

His cap was a button,
his belt was an elastic band,
and his jacket was lent to him by a doll.



He skipped with the insects,
and he chatted to the finches
and the frogs.

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It was when Tom Thumb was visiting the frogs
that things went badly wrong.

A big fish spotted him jumping into the pond.
It swam up to him, and gulp!
It snapped him up!



"Help!" yelled Tom Thumb, from the fish's tummy.

A man was fishing from the bank
with a rod and a bit of string.
When he pulled in the string,
a big fish was on the end of it.

Off he went to sell the fish
to the King's chef.



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In his kitchen, the King's chef cut the fish up.
He must have felt shocked when out stepped ...
Tom Thumb!!



"What can I do with this
little chap?"
the chef said to himself.
He had a think.
Then he popped Tom Thumb
into the King's plum pudding!

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When the pudding was cut, out stepped ... Tom Thumb!

He jumped into the King's dish,
crossed his legs and grinned at the King.

The King clapped and clapped.

"Thank you!" he said to the chef,
and handed him a big bag of gold.

"What a splendid little chap!

He can do tricks for my guests when I have a banquet!"



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So the King kept Tom Thumb.

He dressed him in velvet and silk,
and presented him with a little tin drum.

When the King had a banquet,
Tom Thumb banged on his drum
and did tricks for the guests.



The guests clapped, and lifted their goblets,
saying "Let's all drink to Tom Thumb!"

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Questions to read and answer

(Children complete without your help.)

1. Tom Thumb was very big / very small.
2. His bath was a box / an egg cup / a mug.
3. Tom Thumb was in a cat's tummy / a fish's tummy / a frog's tummy.
4. The chef put Tom Thumb in the King's bed / the King's plum pudding / the King's drink.
5. The chef got a big bag of gold / sand / fish.