





The golden duck

Once upon a time, in Warsaw, lived a boy called Lutek. He worked for an old Shoemaker. He was a very good worker, but he didn't earn much.

Every day Lutek walked past a palace. People said that a magic golden duck lived there. One day he decided to check if it is true and he went inside the palace. He went down to the cellar and at the bottom he saw a pond. There was a golden duck swimming around on the water. The duck looked at Lutek and swam to him. When it reached the stairs, it changed into a beautiful Princess and gave him a big bag of money. She said that if he spent all the money in one day, she would give him another bag like this every day of his life. There was one rule. He could spend the money only on himself. Than the Princess walked into the water and changed into a duck.

Lutek ran home with the money. The next day he quickly got dressed, thinking about how he could spend the money. First he decided to buy some new clothes. Then he went to the most expensive restaurant in Warsaw. He still had lots of money left. So he went to the theatre. After that he went to an expensive hotel. Outside the hotel there was a beggar. He asked him for some money. Lutek looked into his eye and saw that he was sad, cold and hungry. He gave him some money, forgetting what the Princess had said. Then there was a flash and Lutek's expensive clothes changed back into his old clothes. The beggar disappeared.

The next day, Lutek went to work. At work the old Shoemaker told him that he cannot work any more. He had no son, so he would like to give him his shop. Lutek thanked the old man.

He was a good shoemaker and he always had a lot of work. He got married and had children. He was never rich, but he was very happy.

And the golden duck? No one ever saw the duck or the Princess again.