

All the children were safe, but what had become of Margery's dear books and letters and other things?

Margery did not lose her school. A rich man who lived near ordered the schoolhouse to be rebuilt. He even paid for it himself.

Another man had heard of Margery's good sense. He offered her a home if she would teach his daughter. In fact he finally fell in love with Margery, and they were married in the great church.

And what do you think! On her wedding day, while the bells were ringing, Margery's brother Tommy came home. He had become the captain of a great ship. He had sailed to many lands, and he brought her all kinds of presents.

A house in the village was made up as a school, and all the boys and girls were taught to read and write.

LITTLE GOODY TWO SHOES



Ascribed to **GOLDSMITH**



A LearningIsland.org
Tale of Old

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Little Goody Two Shoes/ Ascribed to Goldsmith

Summary: A young girl always looks on the good side of life, no matter what her circumstances.

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Reading Level: 3.8

LITTLE GOODY TWO SHOES—V

One day Jumper came into the schoolroom. He was whining and whining. He took hold of Margery's dress and pulled and pulled.

“What do you want, Jumper?” asked Margery.

But the dog only whined and pulled her toward the door. At last Margery went outdoors to see what was the matter.

Then Jumper left her and ran back into the schoolroom. He took hold of the dress of one of the little girls and tugged and tugged. At last she too followed Jumper to the door.

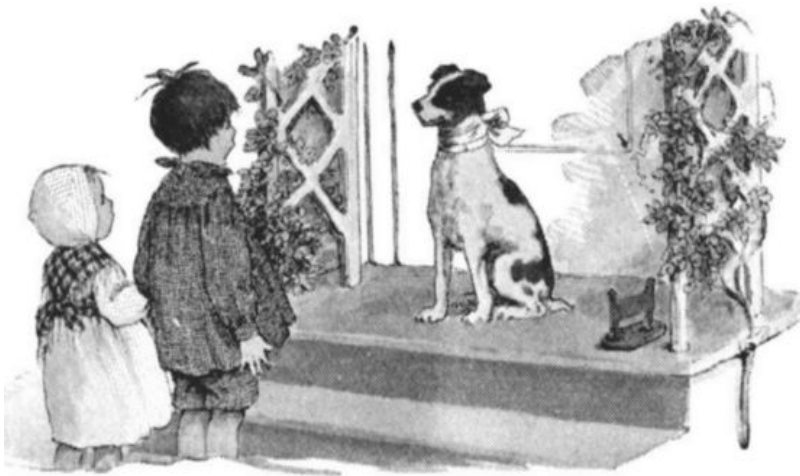
By this time all the children were on their feet and quickly followed the teacher out of the schoolroom.

They were none too soon. The last little girl had hardly passed the door when, with a great crash, the roof fell in.

Look at him sitting up and begging in the picture. Did you ever see a dog with such bright eyes? He almost seems able to talk.



Jumper, Jumper, Jumper! He was always playing and jumping about, and Jumper was a good name for him. His place was just outside the door.



LITTLE GOODY TWO SHOES

All the world must know that Two Shoes was not her real name. No; her father's name was Meanwell, and he was for many years a well-to-do farmer.

While Margery (for that was her real name) was yet a little girl her father became very poor. He was so poor that at last he and Margery's mother and Margery and her little brother were all turned out of doors. They did not have a roof to cover their heads.

Margery's father felt so unhappy that at last he died. Only a few days later Margery's mother died, too. Poor little Margery and her brother were left alone in the wide world.

Their sorrow would have made you pity them, but it would have done your heart good to see how fond they were of each other. They always went

about hand in hand, and when you saw one you were sure to see the other.



Look at them in the picture.

They were both very ragged, and though Tommy had two shoes, Margery had but one. They had nothing to live on but what kind people gave them. Each night they lay on the hay in just such a barn as you see here.



The lamb was trained to carry home the children's books if they behaved well at school. He was a fine, strong fellow.



Margery also had a little dog. His name was Jumper.

LITTLE GOODY TWO SHOES—IV

At last Margery grew up and was given a real class to teach and a real school to teach in. She still used her little wooden letters, and made the children fetch each one to spell the words.

One day, as Margery was going home from school, she saw some bad boys who had caught a young crow. She went over to them and gave them a penny for the poor little bird, and took him home.

Margery called the crow Ralph, and under her care he grew into a very fine bird indeed. She even taught him to speak and to pick out a few of the letters.

Some time after this a poor lamb had lost his mother, and the farmer was about to kill him. Margery bought him and took him home with her to play with the children. This lamb she called Will, and a pretty fellow he was. He liked to run and play with the children.

LITTLE GOODY TWO SHOES—II

Mr. Smith was a very good man who lived in the town where little Margery and Tommy were born. Although he was a poor man, he took the children home to live with him.

“They shall not want for food nor for a bed to sleep in while I live,” he said.

Mr. Smith had a friend who was a very rich man. When he heard about Margery and Tommy, he gave Mr. Smith some money. Mr. Smith used it to buy little Margery a new pair of shoes and Tommy a new suit of clothes.



The rich man wanted to take Tommy with him to London to make a sailor of him.

When the time came for Tommy to go, both children began to cry. They kissed each other a hundred times. At last Tommy wiped away Margery's tears and said:

“Don't cry, little sister, for I will come home to you again and bring you beautiful clothes and much money.”

That night Margery went to bed weeping for her dear brother. It was the first time they had ever been apart.

The next morning the shoemaker came in with Margery's new shoes. She put them on in great glee and ran out to Mrs. Smith crying, “Two shoes, two shoes. See goody two shoes!” This she did to all the people she met, so that soon she was known far and wide as Goody Two Shoes.

“Well, Alice,” said Two Shoes, “have you learned your lesson?”

“Yes, indeed, I have,” said the little one, and taking the letters, she formed them in this way:

ba be bi bo bu da de di do du fa fe fi fo fu ha he
hi ho hu

As she formed them she gave their exact sounds.

The next place Margery came to was Gaffer Cook's house. Here a number of poor children all came around her at once. These children had been to her school longer than the first little tots, and could read words and lines.

This is what Margery gave them to read:

“He that will thrive must rise by five.”

“Truth can be blamed, but cannot be shamed.”

“A friend in need is a friend indeed.”

“A wise head makes a closed mouth.”

“A lie stands upon one leg, but truth upon two.”

“A good boy will make a good man.”

“Honor your parents and the world will honor you.”

“Love your friends and your friends will love you.”

Did you ever read lines like these in your books?

Billy picked them up, calling each one by its right name, and put them all in just their right places. They now looked like this:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Do you think you could have done as well as little Billy?

The next place Margery came to was Farmer Simpson's, and here it is.



“Bowwow, wow,” said the dog at the door.

“Be still, sir,” said Mrs. Simpson. “Why do you bark at little Two Shoes? Come, Alice, here is Goody Two Shoes ready to teach you.”

Then out came the little one.

LITTLE GOODY TWO SHOES—III

Dear little Margery saw how good and wise Mr. Smith was. She thought it was because he read so many books.

Soon Margery wished, above all, to learn to read. She would borrow books from the school children and sit down and read and read. Soon she could read better than any of her playmates.

Margery took such delight in her books that she wanted everybody else to read, too. She made a plan to teach very little children how to read.

First, she made letters out of bits of wood with her knife. She worked and worked until there were ten sets of the small letters:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

and six sets of the large letters:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V
W X Y Z

She then made the little tots spell words with her wooden letters. Take the word “plum” (and who can think of a better one!). The first little child picked up the letter p, the next l, the next u, the next m, and put them together, until the whole word was spelled.

If a child took up a wrong letter, he was to pay a fine or play no more.

Each morning, with her basket full of wooden letters, Margery went around from house to house. The little children learned to read very fast.



The first house she came to was Farmer Wilson's. See, here it is.



Margery stopped and ran up to the door. Tap, tap, tap.

“Who is there?”

“Only little Goody Two Shoes,” said Margery. “I’ve come to teach Billy.”

“Is that you, little Goody?” said Mrs. Wilson. “I am glad to see you.”

Then out came the little boy.

“How do, Doody Two Shoes,” said he, not being able to speak plainly.

Margery took little Billy by the hand and led him to a quiet spot under a tree. Then she threw the letters on the ground all mixed up together like this:

z a y w b m p j f x c o q g e k v n i d h r i t u s