

**Ministry Of Higher Education &  
Sceintific Reasearh  
Tikrit University  
College of Basic Education / Shirqat  
Department of English**



# THE SHORT STORY

SECOND YEAR

**Asst. Lec . Shakir Hussein Ali**

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## **The story of 'The Happy Prince'**

### **PLOT:**

There is a statue of the Happy Prince in the middle of a really unhappy town. A swallow comes to sit on the statue's plinth. The swallow sees the happy prince crying and asks him why. The prince says there is too much sadness in the town and that the swallow should take all the jewels off the statue and give them to those who need them.

-The Swallow never flew away for the winter and dies. In addition, the greedy mayor of the town does not think the statue is beautiful anymore without the jewels and orders for the prince to be melted down. However, they find that the Prince's lead heart won't melt so they throw it down.

-Throughout the story, an angel who has been ordered by God to find the two most precious things he can find in city and bring them back to him. The angel brings back the dead Swallow and the lead heart of the Happy Prince. God is happy and says that the Swallow will now sing in Paradise garden forevermore and the Happy Prince shall praise me forever in the city of gold.

### **1-Major Characters: 1888**

#### **The Happy Prince**

The main character in this story. He used to live a happy life as a prince in the royal palace until he dies. A statue of him is then built and placed

on a tall column high above the city, where he is able to see all the ugliness and misery of his city. Originally the statue is gilded all over with thin leaves of fine gold. His eyes are two bright sapphires, and he has a large red ruby on his sword hilt. He gets compliments on his appearance and happiness from passersby. He asks a swallow to bring his ruby to a seamstress, his two sapphires to a playwright and a little match girl respectively, and deliver all the gold leaves covering his body to poor people. Then the statue of the happy prince looks little better than a beggar. The town councilors pull it down and melt it in a furnace. Its broken lead heart will not melt in the furnace, so it is thrown away.

### **The Swallow.**

He is on a journey to Egypt to join his friends for winter. He fails to go together with them because he falls in love with the reed, who then turns out not to be worth his stay. When he passes by the statue of the Happy Prince, he decides to take a break. Seeing the Happy Prince weep for the poor people, he agrees to be his messenger and help him give out his precious ruby, sapphires, and gold leaves to those in need. He also accompanies the Happy Prince and tells him stories for many days. However, after he finishes all those tasks, the weather has become so cold that he has no strength to fly any further. He dies at the feet of the Happy Prince.

## 2-Minor Characters

### **The Seamstress, The Little Boy, The playwright, The Little Match-girl, The Beautiful Angel.**

- 1- The first poor in the story is the seamstress. She is portrayed as a thin and worn face woman with coarse and red hand. She has a baby and he is lying ill on the bed. He has a fever, and asking for oranges. His mother has nothing to give him but river water, so he is crying.
- 2- The second poor is a young man whose hair is brown and crisp. His lips are red as a pomegranate and he has large and dreamy eyes. He is trying to finish a play for the Director of the Theater, but he is too cold to write anymore. There is no fire in the grate, and hunger has made him faint.
- 3- The third poor is the little match-girl. She has to give her father money or she will beat her if she goes home penniless. She has let her matches fall in gutter, and they are all spoiled. Her father will beat her if she does not bring home some money, and she is crying. She has no shoes or stockings, and her little head is bare.
- 4- An angel was signed with the task by God to bring two most precious things in the city. When he brought the leaden heart and the dead swallow, "You have rightly chosen," said God. The good deeds of "whomever" and "whatsoever" (Happy Prince and Swallow) must be paid fairly by God.