

The Duck and the Moon

By Leo Tolstoy

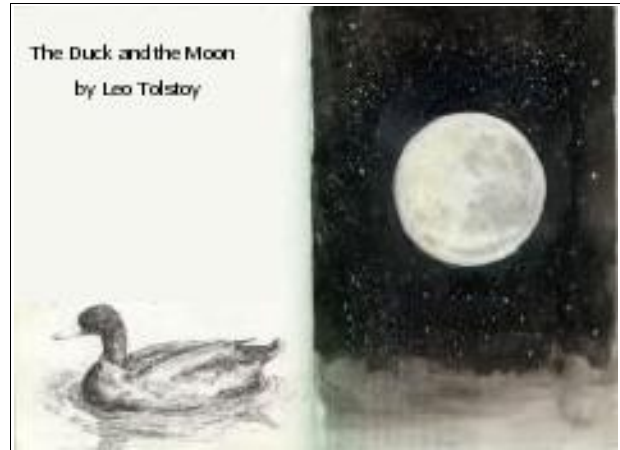
A duck was *once* swimming along the river looking for fish.

The *whole* day *passed*
without her *finding* a *single one*.

When night came
she saw the moon *reflected* on the water,
and thinking it was a fish
she *dove* down to catch it.

The other ducks saw her,
and they all *made fun* of her.

From that day
the duck was so *ashamed* and so *timid*,
that even when she did see a fish under water
she would not try to catch it,
and *before long* she died of hunger.



Vocabulary

1. *once* – adjective - One time.
2. *whole* – adjective – All of it.
3. *passed* – verb – Finished. (past tense)
4. *finding* – noun – To see, or discover.
5. *single one* – Even one.
6. *reflected* – verb – When you can see something in a mirror, or in the water. (past tense)
7. *dove* – verb – Go down into the water. (past tense)
8. *made fun* – Make jokes about someone, say someone is stupid.
9. *ashamed* – verb – Feel bad and stupid.
10. *timid* – adjective – Afraid.
11. *before long* - Soon, in a short time.

Questions

1. Why does the duck die?
2. What else can the duck do?
3. What does this story mean to you?