



## WHO DID PATRICK'S HOMEWORK?

### BEFOREHAND

This story is about a lazy boy, Patrick who hated doing his homework. One day he saw his cat playing with a little doll but it was an elf. He insisted the elf to do his homework in return to protect him from the cat. Patrick was under the impression that it was the elf doing his homework but it wasn't true. Then, who did Patrick's homework? To know this, read the story.

The story starts with a boy named Patrick who never did his homework. He find it boring. Instead, he played hockey, basketball and <sup>online games</sup> Nintendo. His teachers always advised him, "Patrick! You must do your homework else, you won't learn anything." And it's a fact, sometimes he did feel like a fool. But what could be done as he did not like to do his homework.



One day he saw his cat playing with a little doll and he snatched it away. But to his amazement it was not



a doll but an **elf**, a man of smallest size. He wore a little woolen shirt with old-fashioned pants and a high pointed hat as of a witch's. He **screached**, "Save me! Don't give me back to that cat. I promise to grant you a wish."

Patrick couldn't trust how **fortunate** he was! Here was the solution to all of his difficulties. He said, "If you do all my homework in the semester that will end in 35 days. And if your work will be good, I could even score A grade."

- elf : a supernatural creature
- fortunate : favoured by luck

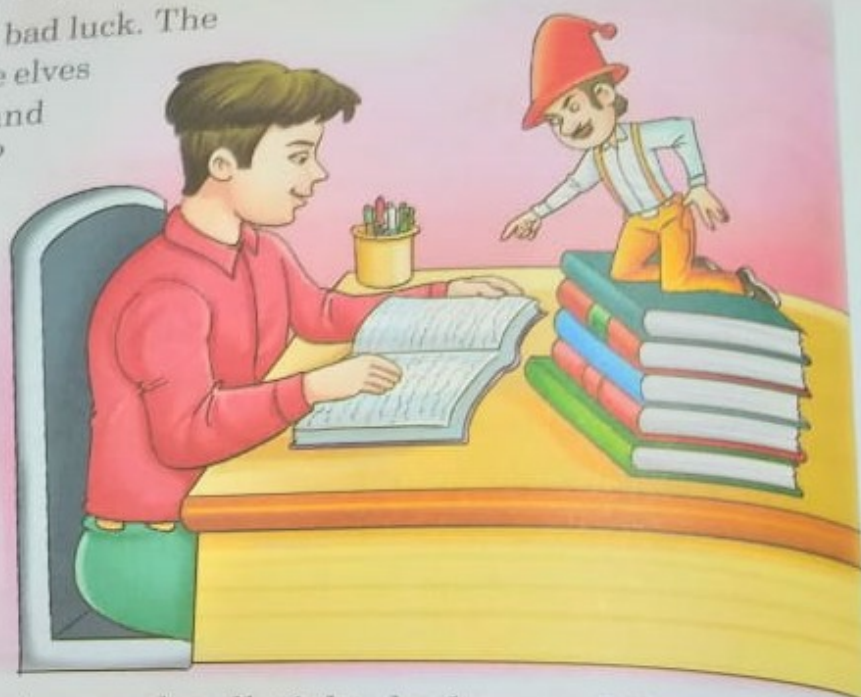
screached : give a loud, piercing cry

The little man's face wrinkled like a **crumpled** cloth thrown in a basket. He **plunged** his foot **clenched** his fists and pressed his lips in **grimace** and **scoil**. "Oh, am I cursed! But I'll do it," he said.

Keeping his word, the little elf started doing Patrick's homework. But there was one flaw, the elf didn't know what to do sometimes and need assistance. He would say, "Help me! Help me! And Patrick would have to help him in any way.

While reading Patrick's homework the elf would yell, "I don't know this word. Get me a dictionary. No, it's even better, search the word and spell it out letter by letter."

When it came to maths, Patrick was at bad luck. The elf screamed, "What are time tables? We elves never need that. And addition and subtraction and division and fractions? Sit down by my side and should help me." Elves didn't know anything about human history, for them it's a mystery. So, the elf already a screamer, would shout more louder. "Visit the library, I require more books. And help me in reading them too."



As a matter of fact, the little elf was a **badger** in every possible way every day. Patrick was working harder than ever before and was burdened. He used to stay awake all night, had never felt so exhausted and was going to school with puffed and bleary eyes.

Finally, it was the last day of school and the elf was free to leave. As there was no more homework, so he silently and cleverly moved out from the back door.

Patrick scored A grade; his classmates were surprised; his teachers smiled and praised him. And his parents **bewildered**, as what had happened to their son, Patrick. He was now an ideal child. Cleaned his room, did his routine tasks, was happy and never rude, as if he had developed a whole new outlook.

By the end, you see, Patrick still **speculate** that he had made that elf do all his homework. But let me share a secret which will be just between you and me that, it wasn't the elf who did homework but Patrick himself.

—CAROL MOO

- crumpled : crushed to form creases
- clenched : closed into a tight ball
- scoil : bad-tempered expression
- bewildered : confused and puzzled

- plunged : push or thrust quickly
- grimace : expression of disgust on a person's face
- badger : who repeatedly ask to do something
- speculate : to form a theory about something