

Dick Whittington

In a distant land, there lived a boy called Dick Whittington who had no parents to look after him. Whittington had dirty brown hair, wore a shabby coat and was always hungry. He often heard stories about a faraway place called London where everyone was rich and the streets were paved with gold. Whittington was determined to make his fortune. One day, he was offered a lift and off he went.

After many days, he arrived in London. His heart sank when he saw horses, carts and dirty tall buildings. There were no gold paved streets. What a disappointment that was! How was he going to make his fortune?

One hot afternoon, Whittington was so hungry he collapsed on the doorstep of a rich merchant's house. Luckily, the merchant gave him a job in the kitchens but everyone was mean and forced Whittington to live in a tiny rat-infested room. After some time, he had saved enough pennies to buy a cat. This cat was skilled at catching rodents so Whittington was able to sleep in peace.

Unexpectedly, the merchant announced that he was going on a long voyage. He asked everyone in the house if they had anything to sell. Poor Whittington only had his cat. Everyone laughed.

On the ship, the King and Queen hosted many feasts but each time, the ship's rats gobbled up all the food. The merchant had an idea and offered to sell the cat to kill the rats. When the feast arrived, the Royals danced with joy as the cat pounced on the rats. They gave the merchant a ship full of gold in return for the cat.

On his return, the merchant gave the gold to Whittington and he became very rich. He married the merchant's daughter and never went hungry again.