



The Tailor of Gloucester

Beatrix Potter

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The Tailor of Gloucester was first published in 1903 and tells the story of a poor tailor trying to survive in his freezing workshop over a hard winter. He has a terribly important commission to complete for the Mayor of Gloucester's wedding on Christmas Day but is ill and tired, and before long is running out of food and thread, as well as time! How will he possibly complete the beautiful coat and embroidered waistcoat? Luckily, there lives in the dresser, some very kind and very resourceful mice who set about helping the poor tailor with his work. Not only are they exceedingly helpful, but they are also, luckily, far far too clever for the tailor's sly cat, Simpkin.

The Tailor of Gloucester is number three in Beatrix Potter's series of 23 little books, the titles of which are as follows:

- 1 The Tale of Peter Rabbit
- 2 The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin
- 3 The Tailor of Gloucester
- 4 The Tale of Benjamin Bunny
- 5 The Tale of Two Bad Mice
- 6 The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle
- 7 The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher
- 8 The Tale of Tom Kitten
- 9 The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck
- 10 The Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies
- 11 The Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse
- 12 The Tale of Timmy Tiptoes
- 13 The Tale of Johnny Town-Mouse
- 14 The Tale of Mr. Tod
- 15 The Tale of Pigling Bland
- 16 The Tale of Samuel Whiskers
- 17 The Tale of The Pie and the Patty-Pan
- 18 The Tale of Ginger and Pickles
- 19 The Tale of Little Pig Robinson
- 20 The Story of a Fierce Bad Rabbit
- 21 The Story of Miss Moppet
- 22 Appley Dapply's Nursery Rhymes
- 23 Cecily Parsley's Nursery Rhymes

The Tailor of Gloucester Details

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From Reader Review The Tailor of Gloucester for online ebook

Christy says

I'm laughing as I think about the line "no more twist!" Oh that cat and the poor sick tailor. The mice were great at working their magic and in the end the stitching was a fabulous sight, particularly around the buttons, wink wink ;) Poetic, sweet, and fun!

Neville Ridley-smith says

My kids (14, 11, 9) & I are reading through the Complete Tales of Beatrix Potter. On to book 3.

This was a departure from the previous two. Within just the first sentence we had to look up several words. No simple sentences for you! Periwigs, lappets, paduasoy and taffeta. Alack, I am undone!

There are some very strange things in this story. The character of Simpkin the cat is given money by the tailor to go and buy things - in some pictures he's wearing clothes, in others he appears as a normal cat.

Again, I can't see myself reading this again. I give it 3.

But my kids enjoyed it - the 11 and 9 year old both gave it a 4. The 14 year old had to go and do homework... She may read it later and I'll update this.

Binibining `E (of The Ugly Writers) says

This story reminds me about the story of the elves and the shoemaker.

Tom Stickings says

The Tailor of Gloucester is a sweet tale about an old man's struggle to sew a beautiful coat in time for the Mayor of Gloucester's wedding. The man is very poor and has a great deal invested in the coat, but being so frail, he is forced to send his cat, Simpkin, to buy the materials he needs. Whilst Simpkin is away, the tailor finds and frees some mice the cat has trapped, ready to eat upon his return. Simpkin is so furious, he hides the twist of silk he was sent to buy.

As the wedding approaches, the Tailor of Gloucester is struck down by illness and confined to his bed. For several days he fears for his future, knowing he cannot afford to let the coat go unfinished. When he is finally well enough to get up, however, he returns to his workshop to find the coat immaculately completed courtesy of the grateful mice. The coat is perfect but for a single button whole, next to which the tailor finds a tiny note that reads "No more twist". Simpkin, ashamed of what he has done, produces the final twist of silk and the old man is able to finish the coat in time.

I read this story over a number of days to my year 1 class as part of an introduction to a weaving activity. The book contains quite a few technical terms related to fabric and tailoring which the children needed to be familiarised with beforehand, but the story was a success. In hindsight, however, The Tailor of Gloucester

would perhaps be better suited to use in key stage 2, especially if children are reading individually.

Prashant says

This is a story of a tailor from the town Gloucester who got the assignment to make some beautiful coats for the mayor. The tailor is impoverished and has a cat and very little money to buy anything. Finally some mice in his shop came to his rescue.

The story is filled with nice language and colorful words but it's wanting in something. Just can't see the magic.

NO MORE TWIST !

ThePinkCarrot says

One of my favorite Beatrix Potter books. Really love the mice doing a good deed. And "no more cherry-colored twist."

Jonathan says

Good story of mice coming to the rescue at the eleventh hour of a foolish tailor who has agreed, probably without due consideration, to provide the Mayor of Gloucester with a coat for his wedding on Christmas day of all days. Thankfully the mice are handy with a needle and thread. The tailor has a morally questionable cat called Simpkin who is sent out to do the shopping when the tailor falls ill. Simpkin also has a penchant for storing well-dressed mice under teacups for treats later on, but the tailor spoils his fun and sets them free, though it appears that Simpkin forgives him, and generally has a change of character for the better. All ends well for tailor, mice and cat. We are not told if the mayor liked his coat, but presume that he did.

momma.hailey says

My favorite of all the Potter books! I love to read this aloud to my babies.

Orinoco Womble (tidy bag and all) says

One of my favourites as a small child. I loved the detailed illustrations of the mice's elegant clothing more than the story itself. Apparently the tale is not original to Potter but based on a local folktale of the poor tailor helped out by magic mice. Methinks it must have been inspiration for some of the earlier Disney fairytale cartoons. Potter wrote this story for a young friend who had been ill; I'm sure the child felt honoured. I know I would.

Hilary says

A tailor falls ill before Christmas and cannot finish an important coat for the mayor. Luckily some mice with super sewing skills help in this Christmas version of the elves and the shoemaker. The illustrations are lovely and we really enjoyed the part where it mentions the legend that animals can talk on Christmas Eve after midnight and before dawn.

We found it interesting that the only other illustration we can think of depicting a tailor at work also shows the tailor sitting cross legged on the table. We enjoyed the sewing details and after a trip to buy some sewing supplies yesterday, we are confident there will not be the cries of 'No more twist' from our house this Christmas!

Clara Ellen says

My personal favorite of the Beatrix Potter books. Heartwarming!

? Ruqs ? says

Lovely story!

Una Kilcoyne says

This is a really lovely book by Beatrix Potter. It tells the tale of an old Tailor who is to make a waistcoat for the Town Mayor for his wedding day. When the Tailor falls ill, he becomes under-pressure to get the waistcoat made in time. With the help of some friendly mice who work together to get the job done, the suit is made for the Mayor and in turn, the Tailor becomes successful for his good work. We are also introduced to Simpkin the mischievous cat who tries to capture the mice until the Tailor sets them free. The language is quite old-fashioned and difficult to understand in this book but from reading it to my class I found they enjoyed listening to a different type of spoken English. There are some very detailed illustrations in this book which can be displayed on an over-head projector. I used this book in conjunction with a D&T lesson where the children studied various types of materials they could use to create weave boards. There are many types of materials referred to in this book which acts as a stimulus. I recommend this book for as young as Year 1 children, right the way up to Year 6.

Farhin says

The Tailor that is referred to in Potter's tale is a hardworking tailor who provides the richest in his town with silks and other beautiful garments but he himself is very poor. One day, the Tailor gets his big break as the Mayor of Gloucester asks the Tailor to provide him with a coat for his wedding on Christmas Day. The Tailor of Gloucester gets to it right away as he knows this will lead him to gaining a fortune. He gives money

to his cat, *Simpkin*, (magical realism?) to buy milk and the final piece of the coat - **the twist**. (Psssst if you're reading this and like me know next to nothing about sewing then this is what a twist looks like- courtesy of Google:)

As *Simpkin* leaves, the Tailor hears noises from the dresser and as he lifts the tea-cups out pop little mice (that *Simpkin* kept for snacks). *Simpkin* returns with the twist but upon seeing the Tailor having released all his mice hides the twist in a tea-pot and pretty much induces a fever into the Tailor. The poor (and foolish) Tailor remains ill for three days and three nights all the while tossing and turning and mumbling about his twist. Meanwhile, the mice he set free earlier save the day by sewing the pieces of the Mayor's coat together. *Simpkin* eventually feels bad for his owner and gives him the twist that he so *naughtily* (as Beatrix Potter might say so herself) hid in the teapot.

The Tailor rushes to his shop only to find the coat finely sown together- all but one little buttonhole where the mice attach a note saying in tiny handwriting:

No more twist!

And the Tailor lives happily *and richly* ever after.

Phew! This was one of the longer ones but I enjoyed it all the more. I quite liked that this story was dedicated to (I'm assuming) a friend of Potter's that was quite poorly.

I need not mention the beauty and intricacy of the watercolour drawings. I've raved about it before. It's unfortunate that I only have a kindle copy and must stare at the screen to appreciate Miss Potter's work.

Janelle says

I thought I hadn't read any Beatrix Potter until today, but this seems very familiar so I must have encountered it in my childhood.

Lauren says

Another Beatrix Potter tale that i loved as a child. Reread it for #readkidslit.

Tracey says

Love this book to read to children at Christmas.

Annet says

Lovely story. My fourth Potter. Funny to see how people appreciate the different stories. I particularly loved

this a bit more elaborate story and the little drawings of the finely dressed mice and the Christmas town images.... I'm a fan.

Manny says

- Miss Potter, may I ask what your new book will be about?
 - Some mice help a tailor make a waistcoat. But the ending is flat.
 - No twist?
 - Ah... of course! A wonderful suggestion!
-

Leah says

I found this book at a book sale and snapped it up, for it is a smart looking hard back. I enjoyed reading this to my son, who sat contentedly on my lap through the entire thing. I enjoyed the colorful descriptions of the tailor's work and his little quirks. What made me really like it was how the mice returned kindness for kindness to the old tailor, which in turn convicted the selfish cat who was repentant of his own wickedness and made the situation right. The illustrations were sweet and elegant.
