1. **Who did Patrick’s Homework?**

Patrick never did homework. “Too boring,” he said. He played football, basketball and videogames instead. His teachers told him, “Patrick! Do your homework or you won’t learn a thing.” And it was true, sometimes he didn’t feel quite smart.

But what could he do? He hated homework.

Then one day he saw his cat playing with a little doll. To his surprise, it wasn’t a doll at all, but a man of the tiniest size. He had a little woolen shirt with old-fashioned trousers and a tall hat much like a witch’s. He yelled, “Save me! Don’t give me back to that cat. I’ll grant you a wish, I promise you that.”

Patrick couldn’t believe how lucky he was! Here was the answer to all of his problems. So he said, “Only if you do all my homework throughout the year.”

The little man frowned and looked angrily at Patrick, “Oh, am I cursed? But I’ll do it.”

And true to his word, that little elf began to do Patrick’s homework. Except, there was one problem. The elf didn’t always know what to do and he needed help. “Help me! Help me!” he would say. And Patrick would have to help – in whatever way.

“I don’t know this word,” the elf squeaked while reading Patrick’s homework. “Get me a dictionary. No, what’s even better? Look up the word and spell it, too.”

When it came to math, Patrick was out of luck. “What are multiplication tables?” the elf asked. “We elves never need addition, subtraction, division or fractions. Here, sit down beside me, you simply must guide me.”

Elves know nothing of human history. To them it’s a mystery. So the little elf kept shouting, “Go to the library, I need books. More and more books. And you can help me read them, too.”

Patrick was working harder than ever and it was tough! He was staying up nights and had never felt so tired. He was going to school with his eyes puffed.

Finally, the last day of school arrived and the elf was free to go. As for homework, there was no more. So the elf quietly slipped out the back door.

Patrick got good grades. His classmates were amazed and his teachers smiled with full of praise. And his parents wondered what had happened to Patrick. He was now a good boy.

You see, in the end, Patrick still thought he had made that tiny man do all his homework. But I’ll share a secret, just between you and me. It wasn’t the elf; Patrick had done it himself!

1. **Why the Sun and the Moon Live in the Sky**

Long ago, the Sun and the Water lived together on Earth. They were great friends. Every day they danced and played together on the beach.

The Sun lived together with the Moon in a warm, cheery house. The house was painted yellow, pink and gold. Light danced all around it.

The Water’s house was much larger than the Sun’s. It was painted blue, green and violet. A gentle wind blew all around the house and it was very peaceful.

The Sun often went to the Water’s house, but the Water never visited the Sun. One day the Sun asked the Water why he never visited. The Water said, “I would like to visit you, but your house is not big enough for me and all my family. If you built a very large new house, my family and I will be very happy to visit you.”

The Sun thought this was a wonderful idea. He and the Moon immediately began to build a new house. After a week, the house was finally finished. It was so big that it stretched as far as the eyes could see. The next day, the Sun and the Moon invited the Water and his family to come for a party.

“May I come in?” the Water asked when he arrived.

“Of course, my dear friend,” answered the Sun and the Moon.

So the Water and all the members of his family began to come through the door. Tiny fish, crabs, snails and huge whales poured into the Sun’s house.

Soon, the water was knee-deep. “Shall we keep coming in?” the Water asked the Sun. “Of course!” the Sun answered. “The party is just beginning!” So more water entered the house. Now it poured through the windows as well as the doors.

Soon, the water was high enough to cover a person’s head. Again the Water asked the Sun if he and his family could keep coming in. “Of course!” the Sun said again.

Finally, there was so much water in the house that the Sun and the Moon had to sit on the roof. “Should we keep coming in?” the Water asked. The Sun and the Moon were having too much fun to say no. More water and more sea creatures poured into the house until it was completely full. The Sun and the Moon had to go up in the sky and that is where they have lived ever since.

1. **Big Black Bear**

A big black bear came out from the woods, stuck his nose in the air, and sniffed something good! He followed that scent from tree to tree, into the city, where he shouldn’t be. Shuffling along on four furry feet to a brown brick house on Cinnamon Street.

The big Black Bear knocked upon the door. A little girl asked, “How can I help you?” “I’m tired and hungry,” whined the big Black Bear. “Give me some food and a big soft chair!”

“Come in, please. Wipe your paws on the mat.” Said the little girl. “I’m a big Black Bear-I don’t have to do that!” He plopped in a chair, put his paws on the wall. He leaned too far and began to fall, the big Black Bear fell flat on his back.

“You’re a BAD BIG BLACK BEAR with no manners at all!” said the little girl. The big Black Bear skipped down the hall. He went into the kitchen to eat homemade bread. “Please use a dish!” said the little girl. “I’m a big Black Bear-I don’t have to do that!”

He went into the pantry, and came out with his snout in a jellybean jar. The big Black Bear began to sneeze and cough. He sneezed that jar right off his snout. Jellybeans flew all over the place.

“Cover your mouth when you cough and sneeze!”.

“I’m a big Black Bear, and I do as I please! I’m still hungry and want You! So, little girl, don’t try to run away. I’ve eaten other little girls before, and now I’ll EAT you!”

Suddenly, a voice yelled: “NOT a nice thing to do!” The little girl turned and to her surprise, in came a bear that was TWICE as big. Mama, the real big Black Bear said, “little Black Bear shouldn’t tell lies. Come over here and apologize to the little girl.”

“I’m very sorry, I just wanted food.” said the little black bear. Little Black Bear cleaned up his mess. Then he walked over to say: “I’m still hungry, may I PLEASE have some pie?”

“Of course you can, and I’ll tell you why. I think you learned your lesson always mind your manners.” smiled the real big black bear.