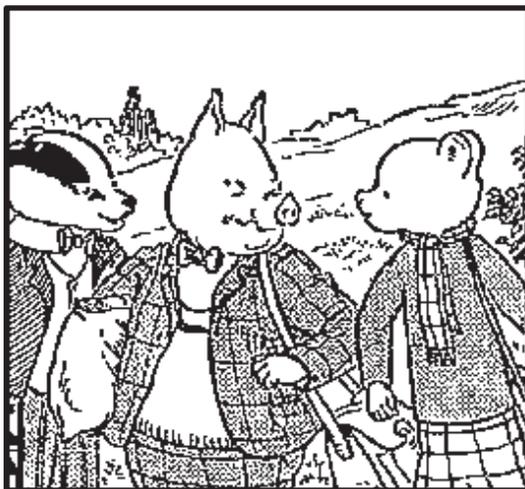
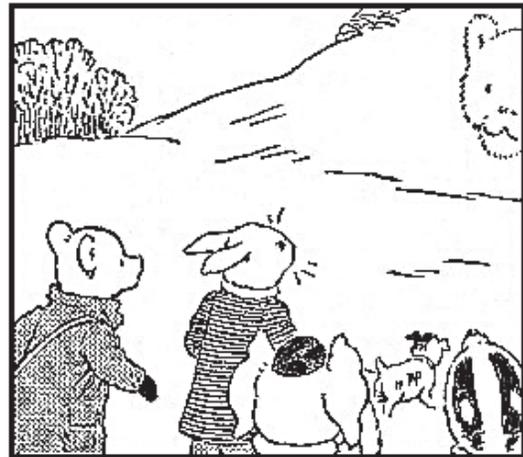


RUPERT

in the

Daily Express

Rupert and the Joke Icicles



Rupert and the Podgy Puzzle

Contents



Page 3 – Original Artwork by Mark Manley

Page 4 – **Rupert and the Joke Icicles (P92)**

This is a Freddie Chaplain scripted story illustrated by Jenny Kisler that appeared in the Daily Express from 4th January to 6th February 1978. It was never reprinted in the paper or elsewhere, until now.

Story: On walking to school one morning Rupert comes across a forest of upside-down icicles. He rescues Willie Mouse who has got lost in the icicle forest and then they encounter Jenny Frost who is responsible. She later provides a snow-free area so the chums can play football and then helps rescue Snuffy when he gets into trouble.

Page 12 – **Rupert and the Podgy Puzzle (P111)**

Published in the newspaper from 2nd June 1981 to 29th June 1981, the records are silent on the author and artist, and the story was never reprinted.

Story: The mystery of Podgy's improvement in his homework presentations is unravelled by Rupert and Bill who find he has been made ruler of the Underfolk and their wise men are doing his homework for him. Being entrapped with the Underfolk, they eventually all escape and life can then return to normal.

Page 18 – **Mary Tourtel's When Animals Work:**

image from the 1919 Daily Express.

Page 19 – **Follow Rupert in the Nutwood Newsletter:**

Original Artwork by Mark Manley.

*Story numbering relates to the listing of stories in The Rupert Index
Stories selected by John Beck and laid out by Pamela Stones
Story images cleaned by John Kobylecky*

Rupert and the Joke Icicles

RUPERT and the Joke Icicles

Episode 1

Wintry weather has hit Nutwood, and as Rupert walks to school the snowy common looks bleak and deserted.

The little bear is trudging along a track when something unusual makes him gasp, for beside the path stands a thicket of tall, icy spikes. "These weren't here yesterday." Rupert murmurs, going nearer. "What can they be?"



Rounding some bushes Rupert sees that the icy thicket extends quite a long way and he begins to walk among the outer spikes, trying to peer between them.

"I can't make this out at all," he says. "They look for all the world like upside down icicles, if there are such things! But why are they here, I wonder?"

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Take the family to the new Rupert stage musical . . . at the Westminster Theatre, London, until January 14

RUPERT and the Joke Icicles

Episode 2

At last Rupert remembers that he may be late for school.

"I wonder if Dr Chimp would come and look at these things," he muses, turning back towards the path. "He might bring us all out here."

He has almost reached the path when a faint cry from behind brings him to a halt. "Help! Help!" "That's coming



from somewhere among those icicles," thinks Rupert uneasily. He hesitates for a moment, not much liking the idea of searching between the icy spikes, but again comes the cry, "Help!"

"Oh well, here goes," says Rupert. And he plunges into the strange thicket.

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RUPERT and the Joke Icicles

Episode 3

In the blue iciness of the thicket Rupert notices a small figure which soon turns out to be his chum Willie Mouse. "Hi. Willie!" cries Rupert. "So that was you shouting."

Willie forgets his tears and runs to Rupert in relief. "Oh. Rupert, I'm so glad to see you!" he exclaims.

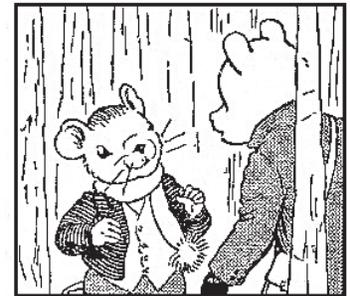
"Why ever did you stay here?" asks Rupert, "I was so



frightened," explains the little mouse. "These horrid icicles suddenly sprang up all round me as I was coming to school. I couldn't find the way out again."

Rupert sees that Willie has trampled down the snow so much in his panic that his footprints have become lost. "I hope that we can both get out of here again," he frowns.

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RUPERT and the Joke Icicles

Episode 4

Luckily Rupert's own footprints among the icicles are still clear and, taking Willie by the hand he soon leads him out of the icy thicket.

"Whew! Thank you Rupert," mutters Willie. "I couldn't have found my way alone." "That's all right," smiles the little bear. "And now we really must hurry. The school-bell will



soon stop ringing and Dr Chimp doesn't like us to be late."

"Ah, but we've a jolly good reason this time," pants Willie as they hurry over the snow. "When we tell him he'll probably be so interested that he won't notice we're late." "I hope so," replies Rupert doubtfully. "Let's try to run faster."

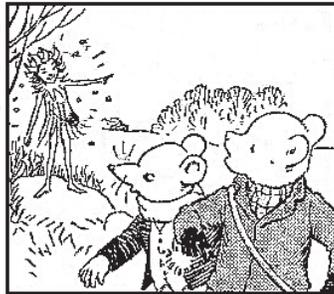
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Rupert and the Joke Icicles

RUPERT and the Joke Icicles

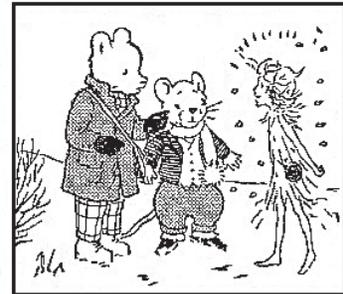
The chums are heading for the school gates when a shimmering little girl springs into view. "Hello!" she cries. "I'm back again. How did you like my joke icicles?" "Why, it's Jenny Frost!" exclaims Rupert. "I might have guessed that you had something to do with those strange things." "Of course," declares Jenny. "I thought that some upside-down



icicles would make a change." "I'm not so sure that it was a good idea to..." says Rupert, but Willie interrupts him. "It was a horrid idea," he says. "You caught me among those things. And anyway," he adds, "must we have all this snow? It spoils our games, especially football!"

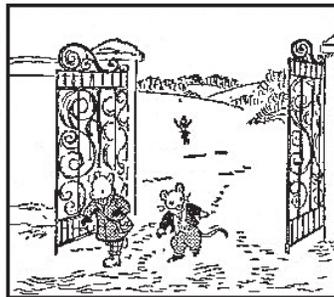
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Episode 5



RUPERT and the Joke Icicles

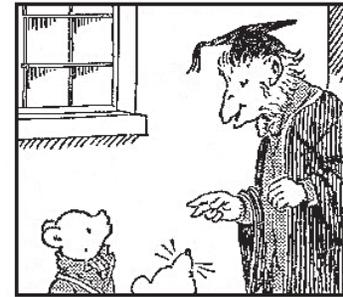
"You're a couple of goodie-goodies like my brother Jack," laughs Jenny. "I can't please everyone. And still laughing she flits away. "I don't like that Jenny Frost," Willie is saying, when Rupert stops him. "Oh, never mind Jenny," he urges, "she's always up to mischief. Now we really must get on to school." They run as hard as



they can, but by the time they reach the gates the bell has stopped ringing. "Oh dear," whispers Rupert, "there's Dr Chimp waiting for us." The schoolmaster frowns at the chums. "A dillar a dollar a ten o'clock scholar," he says. "And what, may I ask, is the reason for such slackness?"

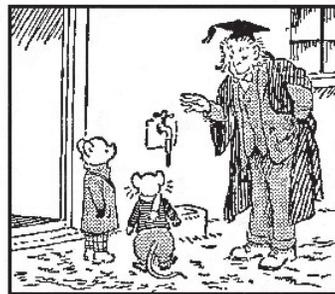
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Episode 6



RUPERT and the Joke Icicles

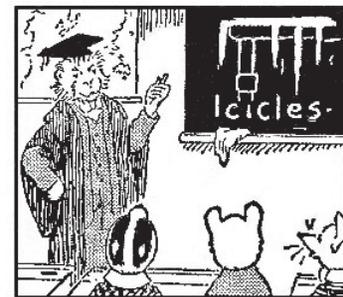
"Please sir, we're very sorry to be late," says Rupert, "but we found something very strange on the common." Dr Chimp raises his eyebrows. "Yes," continues the little bear, "there is a sort of forest of great big icicles standing upside-down. They sprang up and trapped Willie." To the chums' dismay Dr Chimp scoffs at their story. "Icicles never



grow upside-down," he frowns. "Observe the icicles on this tap." That morning Dr Chimp gives his class a lesson on the effects of snow and frost and explains exactly why icicles grow downwards. "Rupert and Willie claim they saw some upside-down icicles," he says.

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Episode 7



RUPERT and the Joke Icicles

After school Algy Pug and Edward Trunk corner Rupert and Willie in the play-ground. "I say," smiles Algy, "did you really find some upside-down icicles? Could we see them?" Rupert and Willie agree and tell the others their story as they walk up to the common. "Dr Chimp ought to be with us," puffs Edward. But a surprise awaits the



pals. The icicles have completely vanished and only the trampled snow shows where Willie was caught. "Why, you were joking all the time!" gasps Algy. Edward and Algy laugh loudly, but the other two look worried. "It was true," insists Rupert. "The icicles really were here."

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Episode 8

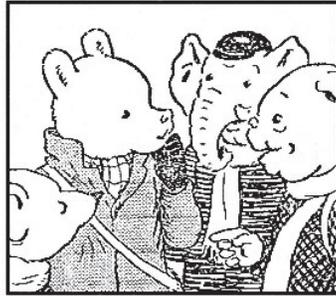


Rupert and the Joke Icicles

RUPERT and the Joke Icicles

"You don't really expect us to believe you, do you?" grins Edward. "It was a good tall story, but that is going too far." "And you heard Dr Chimp say this morning that icicles grow downwards," adds Algy.

Rupert looks unhappy. "I wouldn't say we had seen them if we hadn't," he says. "Of course it is



true!" snorts Willie. "I was in the middle of them." There seems no more to be said, and the little party is turning for home when Bill Badger appears at the top of the slope carrying his new football. "I say, how about a game?" he calls. "The snow is smooth just here. We could have a good kick-about."

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Episode 9

RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



Rupert and his pals find a fairly flat stretch of ground and their game begins. For a time all goes well, but soon they become tired.

"I can't keep this up," grunts Edward as he stops to rest. "My boots are as heavy as lead. Look at all the snow on them!" "And look at my football!" says Bill. "It isn't a football, it's turned into a snowball!"



Episode 10

The pals examine the snow-covered ball. "That won't do the leather any good," remarks Willie. "We'll ruin your ball if we carry on like this. I blame Jack and Jenny Frost, it's their fault for leaving all this snow about!"

"Yes, we ought to put off playing football until the thaw comes," says Algy.

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RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



The chums decide that they cannot play a good game of football on such a snowy pitch and, feeling rather dispirited they turn for home. All at once somebody hails them and they see Reggie Rabbit.

"Here," he shouts breathlessly. "I was taking Snuffy for a walk and I've just seen something rather odd." He leads the little party



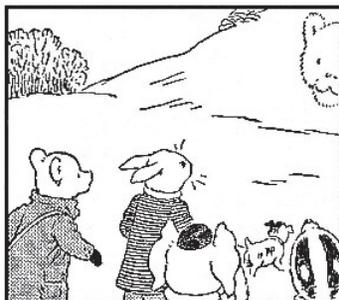
Episode 11

through the trees and points to a snowy hill. "Look, what do you make of that?" he cries. On the side of the hill someone has traced a picture in the snow.

"Why it's a picture of you, Rupert!" exclaims Bill. "Whoever could have done that?" "It wasn't there when I left school," declares Reggie.

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RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



The little pals look at each other completely mystified. "I wonder if the picture was drawn by someone we know," says Rupert slowly.

Reggie suggests they should go closer, and the party moves off towards the hill. Snuffy thinks this is a new game and becomes very excited, nearly pulling the lead from Reggie's hand. "Whoa there!"



Episode 12

cries Reggie. "Don't be so frisky."

At last the chums are standing at the edge of the huge snow drawing. "It's very puzzling," murmurs Rupert. "Have you noticed there are no footprints here but our own?"

"That's true," says Algy. "But how could anyone make the picture without leaving tracks?"

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Rupert and the Joke Icicles

RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



Suddenly Algy hears a silvery laugh. "Look Rupert!" he cries. "There's Jack Frost's sister. Perhaps she made this picture."

"Yes, that must be the answer," says Rupert. "She can float in the air, so she could have drawn it without walking on the snow." Jenny dances up to the pals. "Do you like my snow sketch?"



Episode 13

she asks. "Aren't I clever to make a picture of you, Rupert?" "It's very good, Jenny," replies Rupert. "But why did you draw it?" "Because I knew it would fetch you," smiles the little girl. "I wanted to see you and your chums, but Jack has forbidden me to go into the village in case I'm seen."

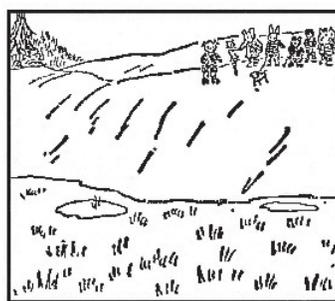
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RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



Jenny Frost wastes no time. "Come on," she cries, taking Rupert by the hand. "I've a lovely surprise for you all."

"What is it?" asks Willie, hanging back. "Tell us more about it, if it's like your other 'surprise', Jenny, I'd rather not come." But Jenny pretends not to hear and, leading the party over the hill, she shows them a broad,



Episode 14

flat stretch of green grass. "There," she laughs. "What do you think of that? Who said you couldn't play football when there's snow about?"

The pals stare blankly, lost for words. "But why is that the only patch of grass amongst so much snow?" says Rupert at last.

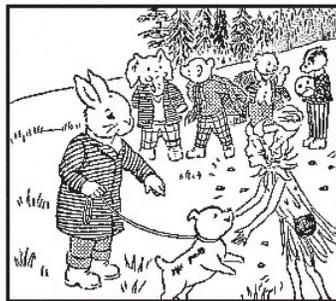
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RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



"Well," says Jenny slowly, "Willie Mouse said that I spoil all your games and I don't mean to, really. So I used my snow magic and cleared this nice football pitch for you. Will you try it?"

"I should just think we will!" exclaims Rupert in delight. "Come on, Willie, it's Jenny's way of saying sorry!" The pals



Episode 15

take off their coats and bundle them up to form a goal. After a while Reggie, who still holds the puppy, begins to look restive. "I say, can't I join in?" he says. "Won't anyone look after Snuffy?"

Jenny darts forward. "I will," she smiles. "I'll mind him while I'm watching you."

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RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



"This is fine," laughs Bill. "I've been longing for a chance to try out my new ball."

The stretch of grass is still firm with frost and soon a fast game is in progress, so that nobody notices how excited Snuffy is becoming. Jenny is hardly big enough to hold back the strong little pup as he yaps and lunges at the moving



Episode 16

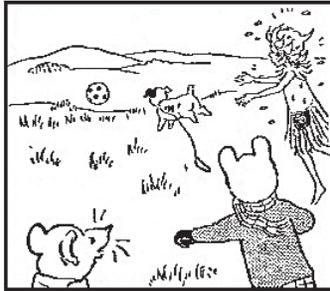
ball. "Reggie, Reggie, come and help me!" shouts Jenny Frost, but her voice is lost among the happy shouts.

Suddenly Rupert kicks the ball very hard. Up it soars away over the head of Bill Badger, who is in goal, and far beyond the end of their pitch. "I say, you scored that time, Rupert!" pants Algy.

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Rupert and the Joke Icicles

RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



The chums' shouts of delight are cut short by a cry from Jenny Frost: "Look out! Oh, Snuffy, come back!"

Wheeling round, Rupert sees that the puppy has wrenched the lead out of Jenny's hand and is scampering madly after the ball. "Oh, do catch him someone!" begs Jenny in distress. "He's making straight for that big drop at the



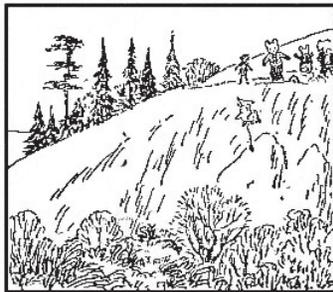
Episode 17

end of your pitch. I forgot to warn you about it." The pals rush forward waving and calling, but Snuffy thinks this is good fun.

The football stops near the edge, but Snuffy skids past it and to their alarm the pals see the pet at the very brink. "Oh dear, he can't stop!" gasps Rupert.

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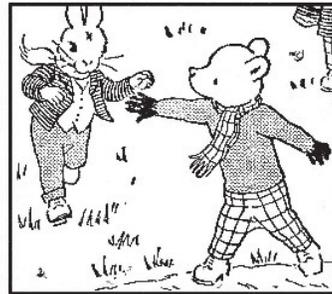
RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



For a moment the pals stand rooted to the ground as the puppy slithers over the edge.

"Oh, poor Snuffy!" gasps Willie. "We just didn't have a chance to stop him!"

"Wherever is he and what can I say to his mistress?" groans Reggie, starting forward. "I'd better go after him." Rupert waves the little rabbit back. "No,



Episode 18

wait," he says. "Don't be too hasty or you might slip over the edge as well. We must see if it's safe enough for one of us to get down."

The pals go carefully towards the snowy edge and then Rupert lies flat and wriggles forward to peer over the side. "Oh dear, is it very steep?" whispers Reggie.

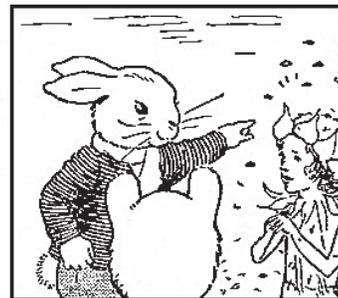
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RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



Rupert gazes down and then gives a cheer of relief. "There he is," he shouts. "What luck! Those bushes have stopped him."

Reggie drops quickly to Rupert's side and sees that Snuffy has not fallen very far. "Yes, you're right," he says. "His lead has caught in the branches." They are soon joined by the others, and Reggie



Episode 19

turns to Jenny. "I say," he cries. "You cleared the snow from our football pitch, do you think you could clear this slope? Then we could climb down and rescue Snuffy."

Jenny shakes her head. "It wouldn't be safe," she frowns. "I'll probably start a snow-slip that would carry Snuffy farther down."

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RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



A wait from Snuffy spurs Rupert on. "I'll see if I can reach him," he says. And the little bear cautiously lets himself down over the edge, testing the snow with his boots to find a foothold.

"My," thinks Rupert, "this is going to be more difficult than I thought. There's nothing to hold on to." After a time he has managed



Episode 20

to work his way down the slope and he can hear Snuffy yapping excitedly at the sight of a rescuer.

"It's all right," shouts Rupert to his pals. "I'm nearly there. I can just..." But he is cut short as suddenly the snow starts moving beneath his feet and he feels himself slipping downwards.

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Rupert and the Joke Icicles

RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



The snow slips away from under Rupert's feet and, losing his balance, he slithers and slides down the slope. "I'm as helpless as Snuffy now," he gasps. "When will I stop?"

At that moment he feels himself pulled up by the branches of a bush, and when he gets his breath back he finds that he is nose to nose with Snuffy. "What do



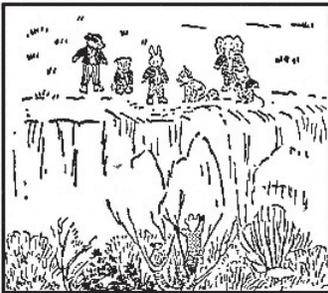
Episode 21

we do now?" says Rupert aloud as the puppy joyfully greets him. "I came to rescue you and now I'm in the same fix as you are!"

Rupert struggles to free himself from the branches and waves to reassure his friends. "What we really want is some rope," he thinks. "But it will take a long time to get it."

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RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



Steadying himself amongst the bushes, Rupert looks back up the slope where his chums are peering down at him with anxious faces.

"Hi, Rupert!" shouts Bill. "Are you hurt?" "No, not a bit," the little bear replies, "but I'll never be able to climb back without a rope or something, especially carrying



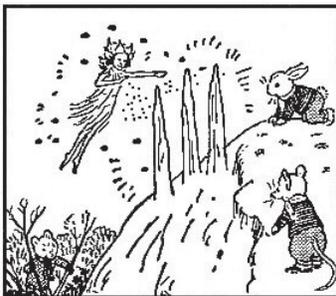
Episode 22

Snuffy." Rupert sees his pals talking together, then the sparkling form of Jenny Frost flits through the air towards him.

"Don't worry, Rupert," she calls. "I've thought of a way of helping you. Just you watch!" With that she glides back to the top, while Rupert, keeping a firm hold on the puppy, waits to see what will happen.

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RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



While Rupert waits below, Jenny sets to work at the top of the slope.

"What are you going to do?" asks Willie. "I hope this isn't another joke!" "Not this time," replies Jenny with a smile. She again hovers on the steep slope, every now and then touching the snow with the tip of her finger. The pals quickly



Episode 23

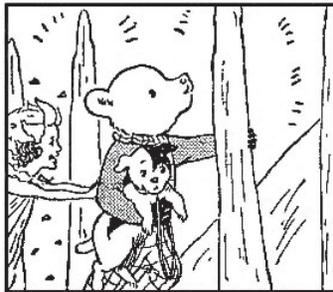
realise that Jenny is using her wonderful power, for at her every touch a glittering upside-down icicle pushes its way through the snow until finally a row of icy spikes stretches down to Rupert.

"There, how about that?" laughs Jenny when she reaches the little bear. "You will be able to get back now!"

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Rupert and the Joke Icicles

RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



Rupert looks doubtfully at the upside-down icicles. "Do you think that they are strong enough to hold me?" he asks. "Of course they are," declares Jenny. "They are as hard as frost. Don't worry, they won't snap!"

So, with the pup firmly tucked under one arm, Rupert begins to pull himself up the slope, hanging on to the icicles



Episode 24

with his free hand. It is hard work and the icicles are very cold, but just as Rupert feels that he cannot make the top without a rest, he finds that he is at the edge and is greeted by his anxious pals.

"Here," puffs the little bear as Reggie runs forward, "take Snuffy, do. He's getting heavier and heavier."

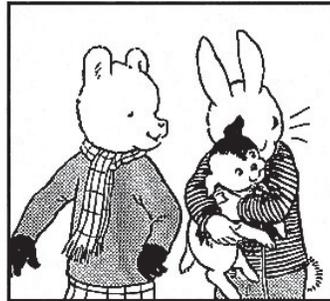
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RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



Rupert flops down on to the grass. "Whew!" he gasps. "Thank goodness Snuffy isn't any bigger or I would have never managed that climb."

"It's a pity he's not more obedient," observes Bill. "He needs some training, Reggie." But Reggie is so thankful to see the puppy again that he only hugs him in silence. Presently



Episode 25

Rupert jumps up. "Come on," he says. "Let's put our coats on, it's getting cold. And I shall be glad when Snuffy is safely back at Myrtle Cottage!"

"Yes, I'll take him straight there," says the little rabbit. "I'm sorry he stopped the game." "Never mind," laughs Rupert. "It will be dusk soon, anyway."

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RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



When Rupert and his friends have put on their coats they all thank Jenny for giving them such a fine football pitch.

"We will play here every day until the snow has gone," declares Edward Trunk. "But we'll be careful of the edge from now on!" The others are moving off when Rupert suddenly remembers Dr.



Episode 26

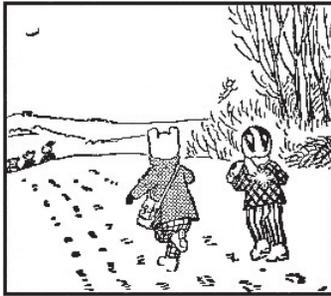
Chimp's lesson that morning. "I say, Jenny," he says, "I wish our schoolmaster was here." "Why?" asks Jenny, looking surprised. "Well," replies Rupert, "he says that icicles only grow downwards."

"What does he know about it?" demands Jenny. "I could make them grow any way I like. Sideways, if need be!"

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Rupert and the Joke Icicles

RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



Jenny Frost flits away and Rupert and Bill run to join the others. They all walk back over the common chattering about the day's adventure.

"I vote we meet at our football pitch tomorrow," says Bill, "and have a really good game — without Snuffy!" The little pals agree and then they separate to go to their own homes. When



Episode 27

Rupert reaches his cottage he finds Mr Bear in the lane, gazing at the distant hillside. "Rupert," says Daddy, "am I imagining it or has someone drawn a picture of you in the snow?"

"Yes, it's really there, Daddy," laughs Rupert. "It all began with Willie and the upside-down icicles!"

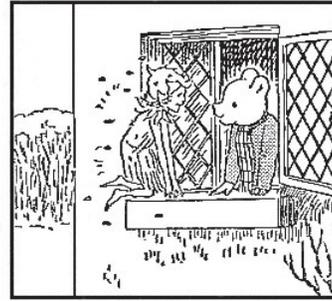
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RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



The next morning Rupert is in his bedroom getting ready for school when he hears a sound outside.

"I do believe someone is tapping at my window," he murmurs. "Who can it be? None of my chums could reach so high!" He soon discovers a visitor perched on his window-sill, none other than Jenny Frost. "Good morning, Rupert," she



Episode 28

whispers, "Jack said I must not come to the village, but I wanted to see you particularly." "Why?" asks Rupert.

Jenny giggles mischievously. "Do hurry to school," she smiles. "I've been there and left a lovely surprise for you all!" With that she dances away, leaving Rupert completely mystified.

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RUPERT and the Joke Icicles



On the way to school Rupert tells his pals of Jenny's message.

A surprise certainly awaits them in the playground, for Dr Chimp is staring at a fine cluster of upside-down icicles. "Please sir, what are those things?" asks Willie, hiding a smile. "Ahem, they are undoubtedly icicles," replies the teacher, "but how they



Episode 29

came to be the wrong way up is beyond me!"

As he turns to go into the school the pals exchange glances. "Shall we tell him that it's another of Jenny Frost's jokes?" whispers Rupert. "No, we'd better not. Let's keep our secret!"

THE END
(Another Adventure Tomorrow)

Rupert and the Podgy Puzzle

RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



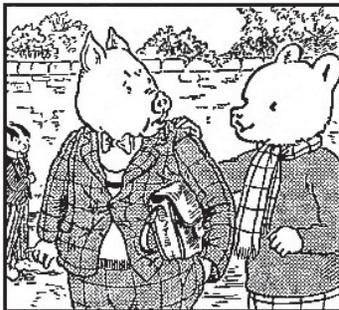
EPISODE 1

It is Rupert's first day back at school after two weeks off with a bad cold. Bill Badger, Pong Ping, Gregory Guinea-pig and Algy Pug, all his close pals, gather round him. Well, not all of them. For Podgy Pig seems to be keeping to himself and that's unlike him. "Is he in trouble for not doing his homework again?" Rupert asks. "Just wait and see," says Bill mysteriously. And a few minutes later Rupert can't believe his ears when Mr Chimp calls Podgy out and says, "Well done! Once more your homework is the best in class! All correct!"

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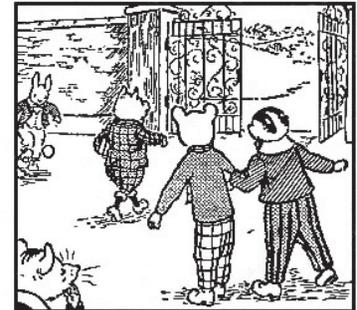
RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 2

Rupert wonders if he is hearing correctly. That Podgy of all people should be top of the class for homework is like being told that night is really day. For almost as long as Rupert can remember Podgy has been in trouble over homework. Either he hasn't done it or the little he has done has been wrong. But after school the little bear goes up to Podgy. "Well done about your homework," he smiles. "Aren't you coming to play with the rest of us?" "I have other things to do," Podgy sniffs and marches off. "He's been like this for days," sighs Bill.

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RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 3

All the way home Rupert wonders about the way Podgy has changed. "Two weeks ago," he thinks, "he was his old self, lazy but friendly. Now he's good at school but stuck-up." As he gets near his cottage he thinks, "I'll tell Mummy about it. Perhaps she's heard something." But he doesn't get a chance to ask her, for when he arrives home he finds that Mrs Pig, Podgy's Mummy, is having tea with Mrs Bear. But the change in Podgy becomes all the more puzzling when he hears Mrs Pig say, "I'm worried about Podgy. He gets home late and does no homework."

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RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 4

Next day at school Podgy is once more called out to be told that his homework is by far the best and that he is a good example to the rest of the class. "But how can this be?" Rupert puzzles. "I distinctly heard Podgy's Mummy say he does no homework." He makes up his mind to ask his old chum about it. But when he tackles Podgy about it after school he is told angrily to mind his own business. "There's something badly wrong here," he murmurs as Podgy makes off, "I know how easily he gets into trouble. I must follow him." And he sets off after Podgy.

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Rupert and the Podgy Puzzle

RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE

EPISODE 5



Rupert doesn't like the idea of trailing a pal secretly. But something very strange is going on. Plainly Podgy is up to something and when that happens, Rupert knows, he usually manages to get into trouble. As he follows Podgy into the hills near the village he has to dodge from bush to bush for his chum keeps glancing round as if to make sure no one is watching. At last Podgy stops at the foot of a slope. As Rupert watches, he steps into a circle of stones and opens his satchel. From it he takes something small and shiny.

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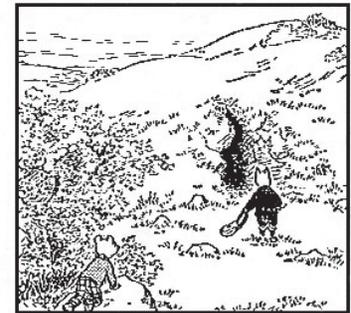
RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE

EPISODE 6



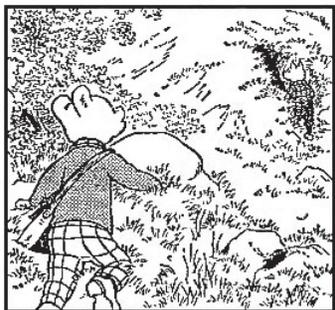
Rupert crouches behind a boulder watching the strange behaviour of his pal Podgy. He stands in the middle of a circle of stones holding an object he has taken from his school satchel. He raises it to his mouth and as he does so the evening sunlight glints off it. "Why, it's a sort of small trumpet or horn," breathes the little bear. He sees Podgy blow hard into the tiny instrument but he hears no sound. Podgy replaces the horn in his satchel and walks towards the small hill in front of him. As he does so, the hillside opens.

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RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE

EPISODE 7



Rupert gasps in amazement. He has seen a whole hillside open. Just before it happened his pal Podgy blew into a tiny horn while he stood in the middle of a circle of stones. Rupert could hear nothing when Podgy blew the horn. But it is plain that his plump friend expected the hillside to open. For he now walks towards the opening and before Rupert's wide-eyed gaze disappears into the hill. The little bear jumps to his feet and rushes forward, hoping to stop his chum. But the hillside shuts again before he can reach it. "I'll wait," he decides.

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RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE

EPISODE 8



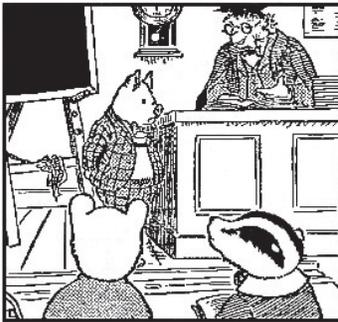
Rupert settles down to wait for Podgy. Now the hillside looks so ordinary that it is hard to believe that it opened up and Podgy walked into it. "He must have been in there before," thinks Rupert. "He knew just what to do . . . what can he be up to?" After a while it starts to get dark and Rupert is just about to give up and go back when he hears a rumbling, the hillside opens and Podgy appears. He is gazing at a large slice of cream cake as if not sure that he can eat it. But he bites into it and stumps off towards Nutwood. Quietly Rupert hurries after him.

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Rupert and the Podgy Puzzle

RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 9

Next morning at school Rupert watches Podgy as he takes his place. He looks rather unhappy, like someone who has eaten too much and not had enough sleep. But once more he is called to the front of the class and praised by the teacher for his homework. "I have never known anyone improve so much," the teacher beams. Later while they are getting ready for games, Rupert tells Bill what he saw when he followed Podgy. "I'm afraid he will get into trouble," he says "I wish I knew what was happening." "Then let's follow him tonight and find out," declares Bill.

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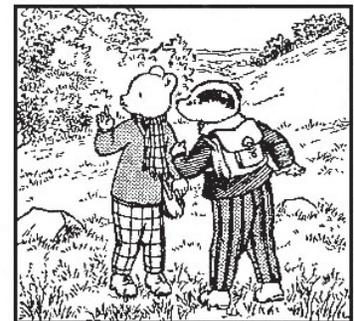
RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 10

Instead of going straight off home after school Rupert and Bill linger behind to see what Podgy is going to do. He stops for a moment outside the school gate, as if to make sure he is not being followed, then he hurries away in the direction he took the night before. By the time the pals get to the strange hill it has already opened and Podgy is striding out of the circle of stones into the opening. As the hill closes again the pals enter the circle to examine the hill more closely. Suddenly Rupert whispers, "Bill, there's someone in those bushes!"

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RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 11

"I didn't hear anything," says Bill. But Rupert is sure he heard something in the bushes. He starts to say, "I'm still certain . . ." but he stops with a cry of dismay. For at that moment out from the bushes leap three figures and the pals are grabbed by two fierce-looking little men armed with long battle-axes. The third man glares at them angrily. "Oh, dear," quavers Rupert, "I'm sure you have made a mistake . . ." "Oh, no!" growls the man. "We've been watching you." He gives a sort of whistle, the hill opens up and the pals are marched into it.

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RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 12

Rupert and Bill are roughly prodded and pushed into the opening in the hillside. Their hearts sink as they hear the opening rumble shut behind them. "Oh, Bill," Rupert whispers, "what is going to happen . . ." "Quiet!" barks the little man who seems to be in charge. "You'll get a chance to talk later when you are questioned." And so in glum silence the two chums are marched along passages lit by hanging lamps past little people who stare at them sternly. At last they are jerked to a halt beside a stout door. It is unlocked and they are bundled inside.

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Rupert and the Podgy Puzzle

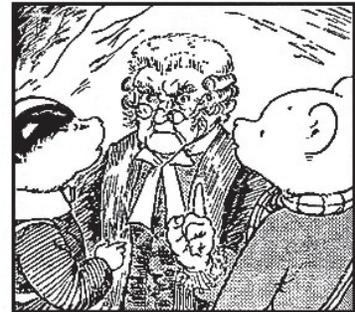
RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



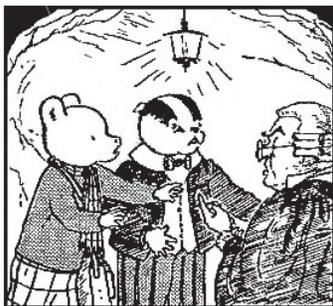
EPISODE 13

Rupert and Bill pick themselves up. They are in a rough cell cut out of the rock. There is no window and the heavy door is locked. "Oh, dear," Bill sniffs, "What on earth is all this about." "I wish I knew," says the little bear unhappily. Then they start up as the door is unlocked and stare at the figure who stumps into the cell. In wig and gown he looks like a judge. "Oh, please," Rupert begins. "Quiet!" booms the newcomer. "I am the Proctor. I see that people who break the law of the Underfolk—that's us—are punished. And you have broken the law!"

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RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 14

Bill and Rupert gasp. "Break your law?" cries Rupert. "What law?" "Yes, what law?" repeats Bill. "You stepped inside the Stone Circle of the Underfolk," the Proctor declares. "And you needn't try to deny it for you were seen!" The pals stare at each other. "B-but we didn't know there was anything special about the stones," exclaims Rupert. "Enough of this!" the Proctor cries. "Take them away!" "Oh, where are you taking us?" quavers Bill as the guards grab them. "To the Horner to hear your punishment," they are told.

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RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 15

Once again Rupert and Bill are hustled along passages by guards. The Proctor hurries ahead, muttering crossly. At last they are halted by a guard in front of a curtain. "Prisoners to hear their punishment from the Horner!" the Proctor announces. But the little guard holds up his hand. "The Horner can see no one else tonight," he declares. "When he has finished consulting his wise men he will retire. Return tomorrow!" "We-we can't stay here all night!" cries Rupert. "You're likely to stay a jolly sight longer than that," growls the Proctor.

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RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 16

Rupert and Bill stare at each other in dismay. "B-but we just can't stay here all night!" Bill cries. "No, we can't!" adds Rupert. "No one knows we're here and our families will be very worried!" But the Proctor just does not seem to care. "You should have thought of that before you trespassed on the land of the Underfolk!" he shouts angrily. "But we didn't know . . ." Bill and Rupert exclaim in despair. "Well, you know now!" bellows the Proctor. Then from behind the curtain comes a cross voice. "Do be quiet out there!" And a shadow looms on the curtain.

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Rupert and the Podgy Puzzle

RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 17

Rupert, Bill and the Proctor fall silent. Whoever has told them to be quiet is about to appear. Then the curtains are pulled aside . . . Podgy! the pals cry. Standing in the opening is their portly chum. But what a sight he is! Perched on his head is a small crown, a little cloak rests on his shoulders and round his neck hangs a tiny golden horn. At the sight of his pals Podgy snatches the curtain shut. "Podgy!" the pals hoot. "You do look such a . . ." "Be quiet!" yells the Proctor. "How dare you speak so to the Horner of the Underfolk!"

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RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



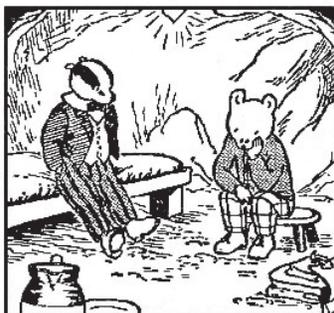
EPISODE 18

"What a way to speak to the Horner!" splutters the Proctor. "Back to the dungeon!" And the amazed pals find themselves again being hustled back to their cell. "You'll be brought before the Horner tomorrow," the guard says as he is about to lock them in. "But when?" Rupert asks anxiously. "Evening," the guard replies. "The new Horner only comes evenings—has a meal then goes as soon as the wise men have done his work." "Done his . . . ?" repeats Rupert and turns to Bill. "His homework!" they cry "So that's why Podgy's homework has been so good!"

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RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 19

Now Rupert and Bill know how Podgy has become so good at homework. "The Underfolk treat him as a sort of king—their Horner, they call it," says Rupert, "and he gets their wise men to do his homework for him!" During the long night and all next day the pals have nothing to do except worry about their parents and wonder how Podgy got to be the Horner. Then at last they are once more marched off to a brightly-lit hall where Podgy is seated before plates of cakes while wise men scribble away at his homework. The Proctor glares at them as they enter.

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RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 20

The Proctor starts to read out: "The strangers have broken our law. They trespassed into the Circle of Stones. They must be . . ." Podgy looks up. He winks at the chums and says, "Ah, very serious, I agree. But I'm sure they meant no harm. We'll let them off if they promise not to tell what they have seen here." But the chums' sigh of relief is cut short when the Proctor booms, "Impossible! As Horner you must protect the Circle of Stones. You must order these two to be kept here for ever!" "Oh, no! Please, no!" cry Rupert and Bill.

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Rupert and the Podgy Puzzle

RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 21

"B-but I can't order them to be kept here for ever!" wails Podgy. "They're my chums." The Proctor shakes his head. "As Horner you have no choice," he says almost kindly. "Oh, why are you the Horner, anyway?" demands Bill. Podgy holds up the horn hung round his neck. "Because I have this," he replies. "Wait!" Rupert cries. "If you weren't Horner you couldn't punish us. . . ." The Proctor nods and says, "True. And you could all be far away before we chose a new Horner. . . ." He nearly smiles. But Podgy says nothing.

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RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 22

"Come on, Podgy!" urges Bill. "Hand over the horn and we'll be off!" "Yes, do hurry!" cries Rupert. But their chum only frowns. "What's up?" Rupert asks. "You heard what the Proctor said." But Podgy just helps himself to a big slice of chocolate cake. He munches a mouthful and mumbles through the crumbs, "I'll have to think about this." "W-what?" exclaim the pals, hardly able to believe their ears. Podgy turns to the guard: "Yes, take them back to the dungeon while I think about this!" And yet again Rupert and Bill are locked up.

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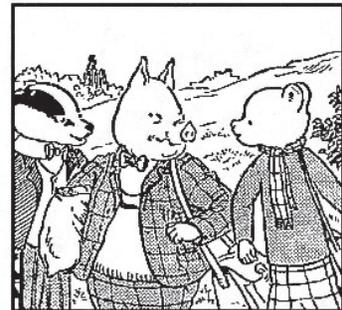
RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



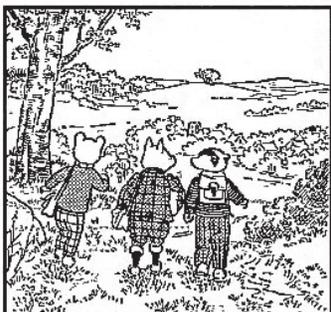
EPISODE 23

Rupert and Bill are too dismayed for words. Then suddenly the cell door opens and there is Podgy! Crown, robe and horn have gone. He has only his satchel and a bag of cakes. "Come on!" he urges. "They're choosing a new Horner now. We must run. I opened the entrance in the hillside before I gave up the horn!" Breathless moments later the pals are safe in the open. "Now," pants Rupert, "why did you have to think about us all getting out of there?" "I didn't," Podgy replies. "But I had to give the wise men time to finish my homework once more!"

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RUPERT AND THE PODGY PUZZLE



EPISODE 24

"The Underfolk horn had been lost for years," Podgy explains as they walk home. "I found it when I was out walking. I blew it. Next thing I knew I was surrounded by Underfolk hailing me as their ruler. At first I wasn't keen then I found I could order all I wanted to eat and get them to do my homework!" Rupert and Bill sigh. "And what about keeping us all night and worrying our parents?" demands Bill. Podgy blushes: "I told yours you were spending the night with Rupert and Rupert's parents that he was with you . . . well, it was sort of true!"

Another Adventure tomorrow.

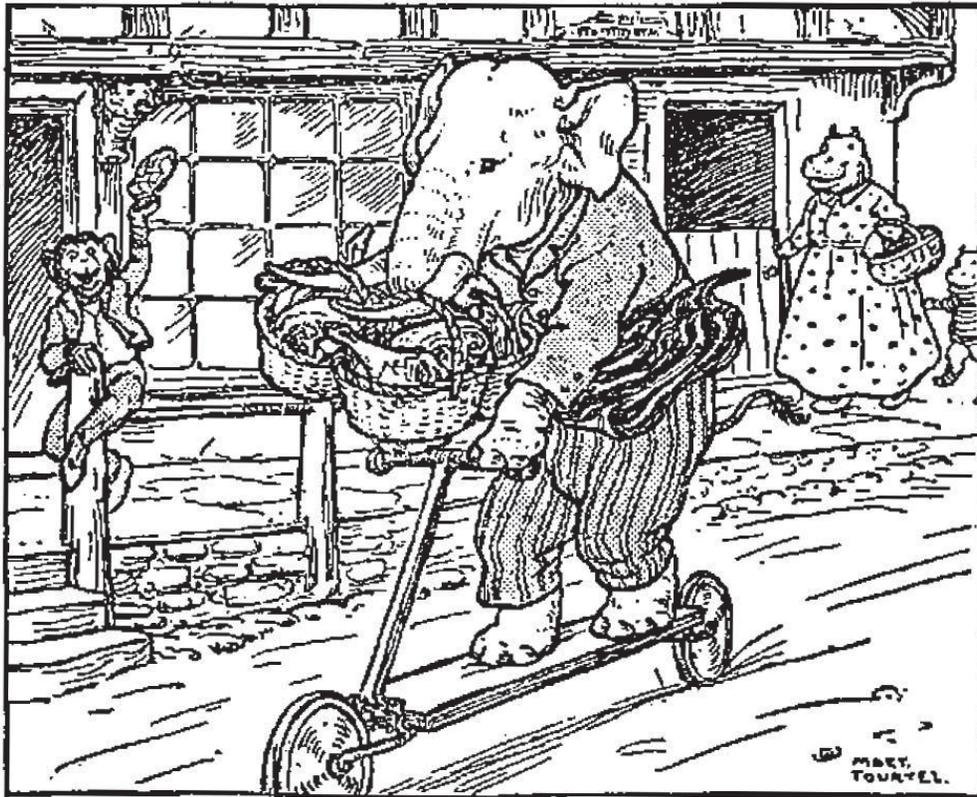
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When Animals Work

When Animals Work.

No. 6.—The Butcher Boy.



Here's Ally, the butcher boy, off on his scooter,
Delivering meat to the tune of his hooter.
He has beef in his baskets, veal cutlets and ham,
Kidneys, mutton, some pork, and a best neck of lamb.
If he happens to side-slip there'll be some to-do,
All the stuff will mix up in a real Irish stew. [All Rights Reserved.]

The next drawing in this series will appear in Monday's "Daily Express."
[An animal picture by the same artist appears every week in the
"Sunday Express."]

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MANLEY
2025



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