

## MACEDONIAN 1 -- SIDE A

## THE FISHERMAN AND THE FOX Traditional Story

Once a fisherman caught two baskets of fish, and went to the village to sell them. He cried out '*Fresh fish, fresh fish!*' and the fox heard, and wondered how she could get some.

So the fox laid on the road and pretended to be dead. The fisherman saw her and said, '*Ah, a very good coat for my wife!*' and put the fox on top of the basket.

As they went along, the fox threw out all the fish from the basket, then jumped out and took the fish to her den. Next she invited the wolf to visit her and told him how she had caught some very good fresh fish and offered to show the wolf how to catch them.

So the fox got a big can, and put stones inside, and tied it to the wolf's tail. Then she said '*Go to the river and the fish will come*'.

Now, on the other side of the river was a mill, and suddenly the water stopped running, so that the miller wondered what had happened to the water. So he went to look and saw the wolf. The miller picked up a big stick and taught the wolf a good lesson, and cut off his tail and ran away.

Half-way back to the forest the fox met the wolf, and the fox pretended to be hurt and cried '*Oh, my legs, my back, my head!*' '*What happened to you?*' asked the wolf. But the fox moaned and groaned and said '*I am lucky to be alive - I'm so weak I can't get home, you will have to carry me*'. So the wolf carried the fox who thought to herself '*The sick must carry the well!*' As the wolf came to the fox's home, she jumped off his back and locked herself inside. So the wolf was outside, with no fish, and no tail, and not feeling good.

DECHINA Traditional Song. One of the first songs sung to children.

We children play like little bears  
With hands curled, we clap and stamp our feet.

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## MACEDONIAN 1 -- SIDE A

## CLEVER PETER AND THE EGG Traditional Story

Clever Peter (Itr Peter) is a prominent folk-hero in Macedonian legend. He usually puts down Nasreddin Hodja, the Turkish folk character. Clearly these stories are like English nursery rhymes, often political in origin, as Macedonia was under Turkish rule for many generations. Today such stories can be enjoyed by children for their humour alone.

One day Itr Peter stayed away from school where Nasreddin Hodja was his teacher. That day, the Hodja said to the children, *'Tomorrow, you must all bring an egg to school, and when I ask you 'Chicken, chicken, did you lay an egg?', you must all answer 'Yes!'*

The next day, of course Itr Peter didn't have an egg at school. So when Nasreddin Hodja asked *'Chicken, chicken, did you lay an egg?'*, everyone got up and showed the egg, except Peter. When Nasreddin Hodja said *'Peter where is your egg?'*, Peter crowed *'Cock-or-rigo, can a chicken lay an egg without a rooster?'*

## MOUSTACHE Nonsense Rhyme

The cat is sitting on the chair with crossed paws, and crying *'Oh, my God why haven't I got butter to smoothe my moustache?'*





MACEDONIAN 1 -- SIDE B

THE BEAR, GRANDMOTHER AND KRUSHKA Story

An old woman was under a tree picking up pears, and a bear was under it. He said *'If you don't give me your niece I will eat you up'*. And she said, *"Alright, you go through this way, and I will go home and I will wait for you and then give you my niece, Krushka"*. The bear went to the house and found the house locked. The old woman had told the bear the long way round, and so had got home before him. The bear knocked on the door, and the old lady said, *'Go away, Bababeshka'* (that means Grandma Bear). *'Go away, I am sleeping very comfortably in bed, come tomorrow'*. So the bear came the next day and said, *'Grandma, give me your niece, Krushka'*, and she replied *'I can't come, it is very cold'*, more excuses! And on the third day the bear couldn't wait any longer, so she broke down the door. But the old woman had called the hunter and he was waiting inside for the bear, so he killed her, and took her skin and gave it to the old woman to make a good nice warm coat.

\* The old woman's flesh was too tough for the bear to eat, so she bribed the bear with the idea of a young niece to eat instead.

THE BEAR Riddle

When winter comes  
The old Grandma  
In her deep cave  
Goes and lies till the winter goes.

THE FOX Riddle

When winter comes the bear goes back to her house, and sleeps.  
The fox (a beast with a grey tail), goes around the village and grabs a rooster  
or a white chicken.

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MACEDONIAN 1 -- SIDE B

MACEDONIAN 1 -- SIDE B

THE FOX AND THE GRAPES Aesop

NASREDDIN HODJA AND THE OVEN Traditional Story

Nasreddin's wife asked him to make an oven to bake some bread. So he made it, but another man said *'Oh, Nasreddin, I think the mouth of the oven has to turn this way'*. So Nasreddin answered, *'Oh yes, you are right'*. He pulled the oven down and put the mouth of the oven the other way. Then another man came and said *'Oh, Nasreddin, you have made a big mistake, the oven should look that way'*, so he pulled it down again. And he started again, and tried every way. At last Nasreddin said *'What am I doing?'*, and he took a four wheel cart and he built an oven on it, so when someone came and said the oven should be the other way, he would turn it round and say *'All right, now I can satisfy you'*. So Nasreddin could turn the oven every way, and satisfy everyone.



## MACEDONIAN 2 -- SIDE A

### NASREDDIN HODJA AND THE TEN DONKEYS Traditional Story

Nasreddin Hodja brought ten donkeys. Nine had bags of sand on their backs, and Nasreddin rode the tenth. Whilst he was riding he counted the nine bags and said, *'How come I haven't got ten donkeys?'* You see, he forgot to count the one he was riding.

### THE ROOSTER Riddle

What is born from a white stone,  
Walks with a proud head,  
Wakes up before dawn  
And wakes up everybody in the village?

### THE EGG Riddle

What is all round and white  
And has no hole in it?

### YANA AND THE BABY Traditional Song - Lullaby

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## MACEDONIAN 2 -- SIDE A

## TENTALINA AND THE WOLVES Traditional Story

I remember, that in a small village once lived a mother who had one son. Every day the woman used to go to the well for a pail of water, but one day she was met by a wolf who said to her *'Lady, you must give me that which you carry - promise me that'*. The woman went home, and the next day went to the well again. Again she met the wolf, who said *'Lady, you must promise me to give me that which you carry'*. The lady went home very worried, but forgot about it after a while.

A year went by, and the lady had another child, a beautiful baby girl called Tentalina. Tentalina grew up, and soon was playing with the other children in the village. One day Tentalina went further away from the house, and found herself deep in the forest. There the wolf met her, and said, *'Tentalina, go and tell your mother that she must give me that which she promised'*.

Tentalina hurried home, but forgot before she got there. The next day she was playing with the children, and the wolf met her again. He said, *'Tentalina, go and tell your mother that she must give me that which she promised'*.

This time Tentalina went straight home and told her mother what befell her. Her mother began to worry, but said *'Yes, tell the wolf that he may have what I promised'*.

Tentalina went back into the woods and was met by the wolf for the third time. *'Did you ask your mother what I told you?'* asked the wolf. *'Yes'*, said Tentalina, and the wolf took her away before she could realise what was happening.

Deep into the forest he took her, deeper and deeper, until they reached a tall tree, where Tentalina was to stay.

After a while Tentalina's brother became very worried, and asked his mother, *'Where is my sister?'* But his mother did not know how to reply. However, after many questions from her son, she resolved to tell him. The brother was very angry, and said, *'I am going out to find my sister'*.

He walked for days and days, until he reached a spring. Near the spring was a little cottage where an old woman lived. She came out and said *'I know what you are looking for - you are looking for that little girl who lives in the very tall tree, the wolf keeps her there. When he wants to go up the tree, he calls out 'Tentalina, let down your long hair, so that I may climb up'*,



## MACEDONIAN 2 -- SIDE A

*and that's how the wolf climbs up - she has been there for a while'. The brother thanked the little old woman, and set out for the tall tree.*

When he came there, he called out '*Tentalina, let down your long hair*', and Tentalina, without realising that it was her brother, let down her long hair and her brother climbed up. When Tentalina saw him, she was so excited and happy to see him that they kissed and hugged each other. But Tentalina was very worried, because she knew that the wolf would come back. The brother said '*Don't worry, Tentalina, we'll escape*', and they climbed down the long tree.

Just as they were about to set off for home, the old lady came out of her cottage, and gave them some soap and a comb. '*When the wolf comes close, throw the comb and a thick forest will appear. If he comes closer again, throw the soap and a big river will appear, full of soap. Then it will be very hard for him to catch up*'.

Tentalina and her brother thanked the old lady, and began to hurry. But meanwhile, the wolf came back to the tree and cried, '*Tentalina, let down your long hair*', but no Tentalina was there. The old lady came out of her cottage and said '*Ha, ha, you will never find Tentalina again, for her brother came and took her away*'.

The wolf was so angry, and began to run after Tentalina and her brother. He came very close, so the brother threw the comb and a thick forest appeared. While the wolf was trying to get through the forest, Tentalina and her brother had run much further away. But the wolf came closer again, so the brother threw behind him the soap, and before you could think twice, a big river appeared, full of soap, very thick, and the wolves had such a hard time to swim through the river, it was so slippery they couldn't get out.

This time, Tentalina and her brother arrived safely into their mother's arms. Their mother was so happy to see her children that she gave a big feast and invited all the villagers. They had wonderful food - cakes, lemonade - I got a piece of cake too. Oh, I had such a wonderful time, that I forgot to tell you what had happened to the big bad wolf. Well, the other wolves got so angry with him that they thought he had tricked them, and they all got together around him and tore him to pieces. And had their own feast!

I know because I was there.





MACEDONIAN 2 -- SIDE B

**THE CARROT Traditional Story**

This is a version of the familiar 'Tale of the Turnip'

**THE LITTLE BIRDS Story**

Made up by Margarita's father for her when she was tiny. It's about a little girl who played the piano and a bird who came to visit - eventually the bird brought all his family - and everyone was happy.

**MACEDONIAN GIRL Traditional Song**

'The Macedonian girl is a flower in the garden.  
When she sings she is better than the nightingale  
And when she dances your heart is dancing too.  
She is all good things  
There is no prettier girl in the world  
Than this Macedonian girl'.

**CLEVER PETER AND VIOLIN Traditional Story**

Peter's friends caught a lamb, and took it inside the house and barbequed it. Peter took his violin and sat at the front door. He began playing the violin which hadn't any strings. A friend came by and said 'What are you doing Peter?' and he replied 'I am playing'. but the friend said 'There is no music!' Peter said 'Tomorrow you will hear the music, when it is heard that someone took a lamb'.

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## MACEDONIAN 2 -- SIDE B

## MARA AND THE CHICKS Traditional Story

Once upon a time a young girl's mother died, and her father married again to a woman who had a daughter also. But the new wife hated the girl and told her husband to take her into the woods and leave her there to get rid of her.

So the husband left Mara in the woods, but she found a house where lived an old lady who looked after chickens. And Mara got up very early and cleaned up the house, and watered the garden and fed the chickens so that when the old lady woke up she found everything done for her. So she helped Mara go back to her home and her father.

When the stepmother saw this happening she wanted to try the same thing with her own daughter, so she took her to the woods. But her daughter was very naughty, and made the chickens' feed very hot, and burned their mouths, and did all sorts of bad things. So the old lady wasn't very satisfied, and didn't show the naughty girl the right way to go home, so she got lost in the dark forest.

