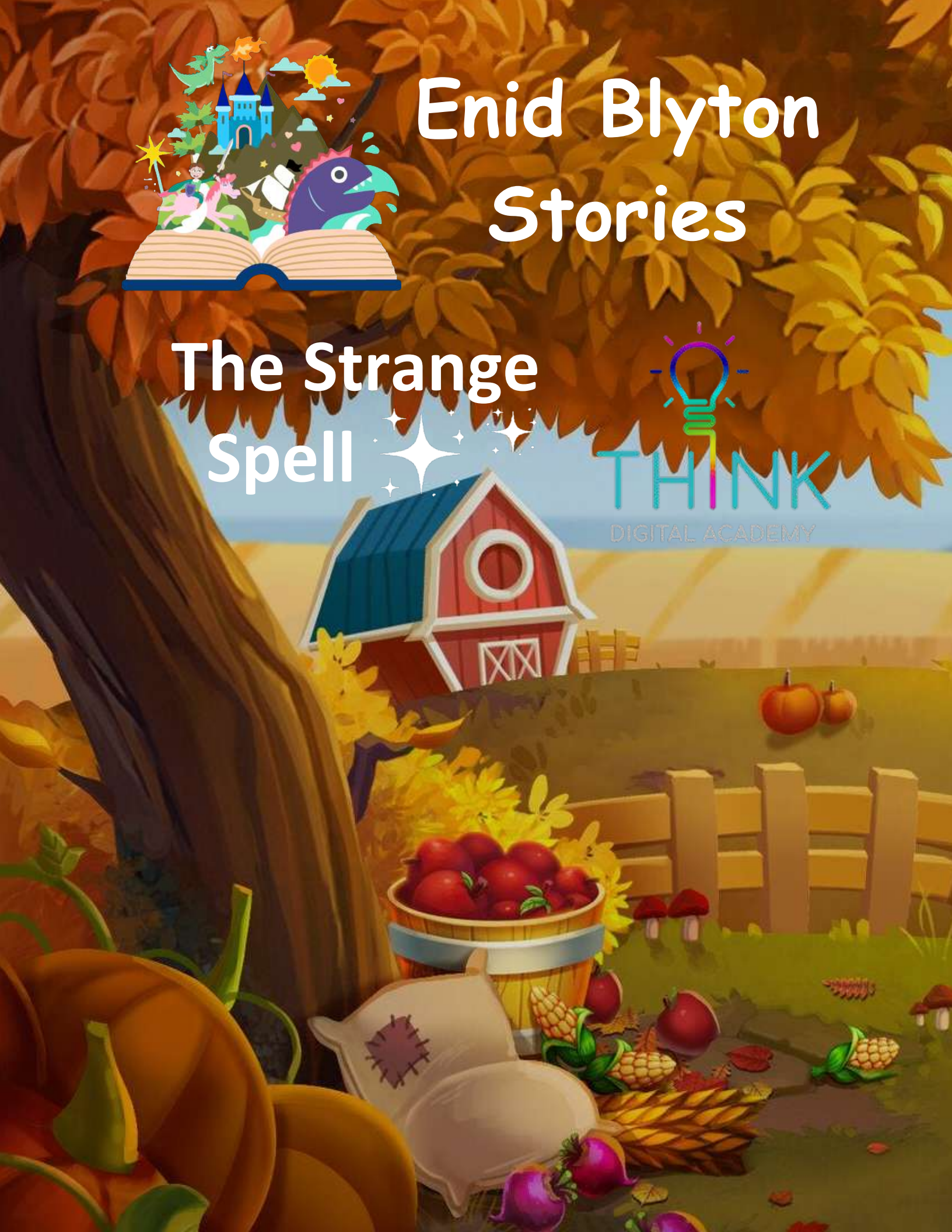




# Enid Blyton Stories

## The Strange Spell ✨ ✨ ✨



# Once Upon a Time

Mollie Brown had a strange adventure. She was coming home from school one autumn afternoon, her satchel in her hand, when she heard someone calling.



She looked all over the place, and at first she couldn't see anyone. Then, to her enormous surprise, she saw a little man waving to her from a patch of thistles nearby. He wasn't much bigger than a doll, and he was dressed in grey-green and purple, just like the thistles



'Are you calling me?' asked Mollie.

'Of course I am,' said the little man. 'You go to school, don't you? They teach you to be clever there, don't they? Well, I want you to help me. If you will, I'll give you a wish that will come true.'



Mollie felt so excited that she could hardly answer. The little man beckoned her nearer, and then showed her a piece of paper.

‘I’ve got to make this spell today,’ he said, ‘and I can’t make it out. Please tell me if you know what all this means.’



Mollie took the paper and read it. This is what it said:

Take the stone from half a donkey's bray, and the seed from the third of a cheer. Place both together in an empty acorn cup. Fill with water, and set it out in the moonlight, when it will gradually come to the boil if the maker has done no wrong for three days. Let it cool, and stand it on your windowsill. It will bring you a year of happy days.



■ 'How strange!' said Mollie, thinking she really must be in a dream. But she wasn't. It was all quite real.

■ 'Take the paper home with you, and try to make out what it means,' begged the little man. 'Please!'

■ 'All right,' said Mollie. 'But I'm not at all sure I'm clever enough to find out!'

■ 'Come back tonight,' called the little man, and disappeared into the thistles.



'Mollie ran home to tea.





After tea she sat down and puzzled over the spell. Take the stone from half a donkey's bray.

Whatever could that mean? It sounded like nonsense. And the seed from the third of a cheer. That didn't make any sense either. The rest seemed easy.

Mollie thought and thought.

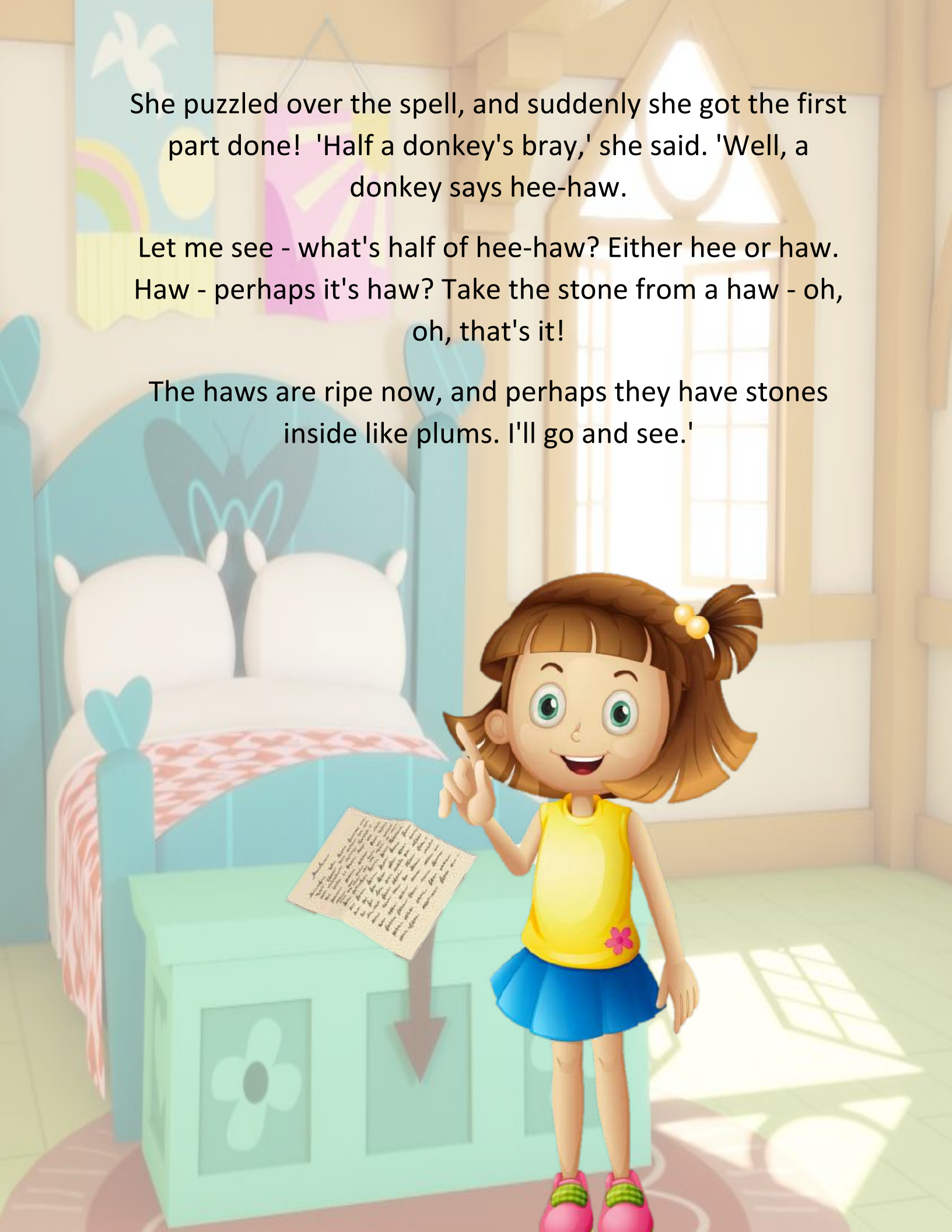
Are you thinking too?



She puzzled over the spell, and suddenly she got the first part done! 'Half a donkey's bray,' she said. 'Well, a donkey says hee-haw.

Let me see - what's half of hee-haw? Either hee or haw. Haw - perhaps it's haw? Take the stone from a haw - oh, oh, that's it!

The haws are ripe now, and perhaps they have stones inside like plums. I'll go and see.'



She went - and what did she find? Who knows Yes, each  
haw had a small stone in the middle. Good, that was part  
of the spell done.



Mollie puzzled over the next bit. 'Take the seed from the third of a cheer,' she read. 'A cheer? I wonder if that means hip-hip hurrah! That's three words. Each word is a third of the cheer – so perhaps hip is the word that is meant.'



Now the seed of a hip. Yes, that makes sense!



The hips are ripe too, and they have hairy seeds inside them. Good! I've done it. The spell should read, "Take the stone from a haw and the seed from a hip."



I'll go and find that little man!

Off she ran.



He was waiting for her in the thistles, and you should have seen his face when Mollie told him what the spell meant! He was simply delighted!

‘A thousand thanks!’ he said. ‘Wait for the next full moon night and wish your wish. It will come true.’





So Mollie has a wish, and she is waiting for the full moon.

Could you have helped that little man if he had called to you? I wonder!

*The End*





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