

The Pike with Horseradish

There once lived a gentleman. He went to the city, sat down to play cards, and lost everything: his carriage, his horses. He was left without a single kopeck. And so he and his valet set off for home on foot.

They walked along the road. They walked and walked, but it was still far to go. They grew hungry, but there was nothing to eat!

"Let's rest by the river," said the valet.

They sat down on the bank, and in the river, a pike splashed.

The gentleman said:

"Ah, if only this pike were with horseradish!"

And the valet replied:

"Ah, if only this water were with bread!"

"Yes, that wouldn't be bad..."