

Why Pigs have Curly Tails

Long ago, when the world was young, all the animals lived together on a large farm in the country. And lots of these animals were very proud of their tails. Kangaroo was proud of her big strong tail, because it helped her to balance. Horse was proud of his swishy-swooshy tail, which flicked beautifully and scared the flies away. Whale was proud of his tail fin, which steered him smoothly through deep waters. Cat was proud of her tall, majestic tail, which she held high to show that she was Queen. And Peacock's jewelled fan of a tail feathers.....well, who wouldn't be proud of a tail like that?

But Piglet WAS NOT proud of her tail. It was small and thin and dangled from her bottom like a sad little string of pink spaghetti.

"I HATE it!" sobbed Piglet, "It looks silly and it doesn't DO anything! I want a strong tail, or a swishy-swooshy tail or a pretty tail or.....or.....or a CURLY TAIL! Yes, I'd love a beautiful CURLY tail."

And so Piglet tried to *make* her tail curly.

She wound it tightly round one of her trotters and sprayed it with mousse.....

But her tail remained straight.

She tried sitting on it and spinning round and round on her bottom.....

But her tail remained straight.

She went to the hairdresser's and had it permed.....

But STILL, her tail remained straight!

"I give up!" Piglet whimpered sadly, "I suppose I'll always have a straight, dangly tail."

But, that very night, something strange happened in the big barn where all the animals slept.

Piglet was in the middle of a beautiful dream, in which her tail was as pink and sweet as candyfloss and as curly as a corkscrew, when something woke her up! For a few seconds, she lay there in the dark. What could have disturbed her lovely dream? Then her sensitive piglet snout smelled something strange. What could it be?.....smoke?.....SMOKE!!

"FIRE!!!" squealed Piglet, and all the animals woke up.

Piglet reached the barn door first, but it was locked!

"What can we do?" screamed the animals, "We'll all be barbecued!!"

"We need something thin and straight to pick the lock," said Owl, thoughtfully.

"I've got something thin and straight!" squeaked Piglet. (Her tail was still thin and straight, but it was quite stiff now, because of all the mousse and perming lotion!)

With amazing dexterity, Piglet poked her skinny little tail into the keyhole. She twisted it and jiggled it carefully until.....CLICK! The lock sprang open! All the animals pushed against the great barn door until it burst open and they all escaped into the fresh night air. Seconds later the whole barn went up in flames!

"Piglet! You are our hero!" shouted the animals. Piglet blushed a deeper shade of pink.

"But what's happened to your tail?" yapped Dog, "It looks different!"

Piglet turned her head slowly and gazed past the mountain of pink pork, which was her bottom.

"Wow!!!" breathed Piglet softly, "My tail.....it's curly!!"

And so it was. All that jiggling and twisting in the keyhole had twisted her tail into a perfect, curly spiral. And all pigs' tails have been curly ever since.....to this very day!

Annie Fisher

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LO: Comprehension

Retrieval

1. Why didn't piglet like her tail? **It was small and thin and dangled from her bottom like a sad little string of pink spaghetti. Also accept It looks silly and it doesn't DO anything**
2. What woke piglet from her dream?
The smoke

Vocabulary

3. Find 2 examples of similes from the text.
e.g. bottom like a sad little string of pink spaghetti.
her tail was as pink and sweet as candyfloss and
as curly as a corkscrew
4. Which word is similar to *agility* and means *skill in performing a task*? **dexterity**
5. What impression does the metaphor, 'Mountain of pink pork' give the reader? **A mountain is very large so it gives the impression that her bottom is very big too**

Inference

6. How do we know that Piglet is embarrassed / pleased? **She blushed a deeper shade of pink**
7. What type of text/story is this? Circle the correct answer

Science fiction

Creation/myth

Report

Diary