

# Star Light, Star Bright...

Wishing Magic for Children

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## **Welcome to the magical world of wishes.**

Here all your dreams and desires for goodness may come true.

### **The Golden Rules of Wishing**

There are two rules to follow when you make a wish.

The first is the old saying, "Beware of what you wish for because it might come true."

Always think your wish through before you make it. How will your wish better you and your family? Are you sure that your wish will make you happy?

The second rule is to always keep your wish positive.

Never, ever wish harm on another person or animal. Never wish for harm to happen to our Mother Earth.

Wishing is magic, and magic is a wonderful gift given to us by the gods and goddesses of old. Treat this gift with respect, and you will be blessed.



## **Acorn #1**

If an acorn falls from an oak tree and bops you on the head, you may make a wish. Find the acorn that fell on you and keep it as a good luck charm.

## **Acorn #2**

Hold an acorn in your right hand and make a wish. Plant the acorn. If an oak tree begins to grow your wish will come true.

## **Apple**

Carve your wish into the skin of an apple. Sleep with the apple under your mattress for three nights. On the fourth day bury the apple outdoors. Your wish will come true within the year.

## **Apron #1**

Should you discover that you've accidentally put your apron on inside out, make a wish when you turn it right-side out.

## **Apron #2**

Upon seeing the new moon, turn your apron from front to back while making a wish.

## **Baby Teeth**

When you lose a baby tooth, take it outside and throw it back over your left shoulder as you make a wish.

## **Birthday Cake**

Blow out all the candles on your birthday cake with one breath and you will get your wish.

## **Black Cat**

Upon meeting a black cat that is not your own, stroke it three times from head to tail, and make a wish.

## **Blowing Bubbles**

Blow a soap bubble while making a wish. If the bubble lasts to the count of 5, five seconds, you'll have your wish.

## **Blue**

Touch blue and your wish will come true.

## **Bridge**

Make a wish before crossing a bridge. Then hold your breath and close your eyes. When you reach the other side your wish will come true.

## **Burning**

A common end of summer wishing custom in the United States is for the wisher to write her or his wish on a piece of paper, fold the paper in half and in half again, and then toss it into the campfire for it to come true.

## **Butterfly**

If a butterfly lands on the front of your shirt, make a wish before it flies off and your wish will be granted.

## **Button**

If you find a button lying on the ground, walk around it in a clockwise circle three times while saying your wish.

## **Caboose**

When you see the caboose at the end of a passing train, make a wish. This was a common practice during my childhood in Pennsylvania.

## **Campfire Ashes**

Using a stick, write your wish in the campfire ashes before going to sleep. If you can find no trace of your wish in the ashes the next morning, your wish will come true.

## **Candle Blowing**

Light a light blue candle and let it burn down halfway. Think of your wish and blow out the flame. The rising smoke will carry your wish to the spirits of the air. Do not use the candle again.

## **Cat Whisker**

Finding a cat whisker on your bed brings the best of luck. Hold the whisker in your left hand and make a wish. When you're finished, drop the whisker outside your bedroom window for your wish to come true.

## **Chalk**

Write your wish on the porch or sidewalk in chalk just before a rainfall. If the rain washes away your wish entirely, your wish will come true.

## **Coal #1**

Find a piece of coal on the road and pick it up. Spit on it, throw it over your left shoulder, and make a wish.

## **Coal #2**

Should you find a piece of coal lying beside the road, keep it in a safe place until the Winter Solstice. On this night, place the coal in the fireplace while making a wish.

## **Coal #3**

Another coal tradition is to give each family member a piece of coal on Yule. Each person then places the coal in the fireplace and makes a wish.

## **Crooked Pin**

If you find a crooked pin, take it to a well, make a wish, and drop the pin into the well. The well faery will find your gift so odd that she will grant you your wish.

## **Crossing Fingers**

When you cross your fingers after saying your wish, you are actually binding your wish so that it must come true. Some people will cross their fingers and spit on the ground to further seal a wish.

## **Crystal**

Hold a small, clean quartz crystal under your tongue while you say your wish out loud three times. Take care not to accidentally swallow the crystal. When I had learned this bit of wish magic, crystal necklaces were all the rage and the necklace chain was held while wishing to avoid accidental choking.

## **Cuckoo Bird**

If you hear the call of a cuckoo bird on your right-hand side, not only will you have good luck but you may also make a wish.

## **Daisy**

Make a wish while holding a daisy flower. To find out when or if the wish will come true, say, while pulling out the petals, "This year, next year, sometime, never." The last petal will give you your answer.

## **Dandelion**

Pick a dandelion flower that has turned to seed and make a wish. If all the down comes off in one blow, your wish will come true within the year.

## **Dove**

When you hear the first dove cooing in spring, make three wishes and they'll surely come true.

## **Dress Hem**

If the hem on the front of your skirt or dress accidentally turns up, kiss the turned up part and make a wish before fixing it.

## **Driftwood**

When visiting the seashore, carve your wish onto a piece of driftwood. Throw the driftwood into the water when the tide is going out.

## **Egg**

If you drop an uncooked egg on the shell doesn't break, make a wish and plant the egg in the garden.

## **Eyelash #1**

When an eyelash falls out on its own, place it on the palm of your right hand. Make a wish and blow on the eyelash. If the eyelash blows off your hand with just one puff your wish will come true.

## **Eyelash #2**

Another way to wish on an eyelash is to place the eyelash on the back of your left hand. Make a wish. Place the palm of your right hand over your left and press down. If the eyelash sticks to your right hand when you lift it, your wish will come true.

## **Faery Ring**

A faery ring is a circle of mushrooms that appears wherever the faeries have danced. Should you be fortunate to find a faery ring, hop one time around it on your right foot, anti-clockwise, while saying your wish. If you can do this without falling over or putting down your left foot your wish will be granted.



## **Feather**

If you catch a falling feather before it touches the ground, make a wish and stick the feather point down into the earth.

## **Five Candles**

Stand before five unlit white candles and make a wish. If you can light all five candles with a single match from a matchbook, your wish will come true.

## **Flock of Birds**

When you see a flock of birds, quickly cross your legs and make a wish.

## **Fountain**

Always keep a coin in your left shoe. When you come across a wishing fountain, use the coin in your shoe to make a wish. After you have tossed the coin into the fountain, leave the area without looking back.

## **Getting Up**

On getting up out of bed in the morning, if you  
Stub your toe, wish for Joe [a boyfriend];  
Bump your head, go back to bed.

## **Hay**

If you see a load of hay coming towards you, make  
a wish. For the wish to come true, you cannot look at  
the load of hay again.

Load of hay, load of hay,  
Make a wish and turn away.

## **Hazel**

In Wales hazel twigs were woven into a wishing cap  
that would grant the wishes of the wearer.

## **Headlights**

While in a car, if you see a passing car with only  
one headlight on, be the first to say "padoodle" and  
you get to make a wish.

## **Hill**

Make a wish while standing at the bottom of a  
steep hill. Then climb up the hill without speaking or  
looking behind you. When you reach the top, plant a  
coin and your wish will come true.

## **Horseshoe**

Should you ever find a horseshoe lying on the ground, pick it up in your right hand, throw it over your left shoulder (make sure no one is behind you), put your hands on your ears, and make a wish.

## **Jinx**

Should you and a friend say the same word or phrase at the same time, link pinky fingers together and take turns saying a line:

Needles,  
Pins,  
Triplets,  
Twins,  
If we marry  
Our trouble begins.  
What goes up the chimney?  
Smoke.  
May your wish and my wish  
Never be broke.

## **Knot**

If a piece of cotton string is found to have a knot in it, two people, each holding an end of the string, must pull the string apart while making a wish. The person who holds the piece of string with the knot in it will get his wish.

## **Ladder**

We all know that walking under a ladder can bring bad luck, but if you make a wish and cross your fingers while walking under a ladder, and if you keep your fingers crossed until you have spotted a total of three dogs, your wish will come true.

## **Ladybug**

If a ladybug with three black spots lands on you it has granted you a wish. Say your wish quickly before the ladybug flies off.

## **Leaf**

If you catch a leaf as it falls from a tree, make a wish.

## **Leaf Wish**

Write your wish on a green leaf and bury it under the tree it came from along with a coin.

## **Lightning**

Touch a tree that has been struck down by lightning and make a wish. Keep a piece of the wood for good luck and for courage.

## **Lock**

If you say a wish while closing a lock, the wish will be bound to come true. However, should the lock ever be opened, the wish will come undone.

## **Milkweed**

When you see a milkweed seed floating through the air, cup it in your hands, whisper your wish to it, and let the seed continue on its journey. Your wish will come true if the seed finds a place to sprout.

## **Moon Beam**

When walking through a moonbeam, make a wish.

## **Necklace Clasp**

If the clasp of your necklace moves to the front on its own, grab hold of it, make a wish, and return the clasp to the back of your neck.

## **New Moon**

Make a wish upon seeing the new moon and then kiss the person nearest you to make it come true.

## **Palm Itch**

If your palm itches, make a wish and rub your palm on a brass object while saying:

Rub it on brass,  
It's sure to come to pass.



## **Peas**

Should you open a pea pod and find ten peas in it, eat one of the peas, and, with the other nine peas still in the pod, toss the pod over your right shoulder while making a wish.

## **Piebald Horse**

When you see a piebald horse, quickly spit over your right shoulder, close your eyes, and make a wish. Make sure you do not look at the horse's tail or your wish will not come true.

## **Rainbow**

Make a wish when you see a rainbow gracing the sky.

## **Robin Redbreast**

When you see the first robin redbreast in spring, make a wish.

## **Rusty Nail**

Should you find a rusty nail lying on the ground, pick it up, make a wish, and hammer it into the ground with a stone.

## **Salt Packet**

When you see a small packet of salt lying on the ground, put your right foot on it and make a wish.

## **Same Outfit**

If, by chance, you meet someone wearing the same outfit as you are, be the first to yell "strike" and make a wish.

## **Sand Wish**

When visiting the seashore write your wish in the sand as the tide is coming in. Use your middle finger on your left hand to do the writing. As the tide washes away your wish, it carries it to the ocean spirits who will answer your wish in a dream.

## **Shooting Star**

When you see a shooting star, make a wish and stomp your left foot three times.

## **Skipping Stones**

Make a wish while skipping stones. If the stone skips an odd number of times your wish will come true.

## **Sneeze**

If you sneeze one time after saying a wish out loud, your wish will definitely come true.



## **Star Light**

Upon seeing the first star at night, say:  
Star light, star bright,  
First star I see tonight,  
I wish I may, I wish I might  
Have the wish I wish tonight.

After you have made your wish, do not look at the star again for the rest of the night. If you do your wish will not come true.

## **Thumbs**

If you find one white spot on each of your thumbnails, make a wish.

## **Ticket Numbers: Adding**

Whenever you get a ticket, such as for a movie or an amusement ride, look at the serial number and add the numbers together. For example, if the serial number is 1751 you add  $1 + 7 + 5 + 1 = 14$ . If the numbers add up to 7 you get a wish, 14 means a kiss, and 21 means a letter.

## **Ticket Numbers: Same Numbers**

Look at the serial number on your ticket. If two of the numbers are the same and are next to each other, make a wish.

## **Well**

Hold a penny in your left hand and think of your wish. Then kiss the penny and toss it in the well. The spirit of the well will grant you your wish.

## **White Horse**

If you spot a riderless white horse, spit on the ground and make a wish.

## **White Thread**

While away from home, if you spot a length of white thread, pick it up and make a wish while tying a knot in it. Take the thread home with you and bury it in the dirt of a houseplant or outside your front door.

## **Willow**

Make a simple wreath out of twigs from a willow tree. Place the willow wreath on your head and make a wish. When you are finished, throw the willow wreath into a pond, lake, or stream, and your wish will come true.

## **Winter Solstice**

On the night of the winter solstice, go outdoors and pluck a hair from your head. Make a wish for the coming year and tuck the hair into the bark of a living evergreen tree.

## **Wishbone**

After a dinner of chicken, remove the wishbone from the carcass. You and another must each hold an end of the bone and pull while making a wish. The person with the larger piece will get his or her wish.

## **Wishing Rod**

Divining rods or dowsing sticks are also called wishing rods because they help a person find what she or he or wishing for.

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