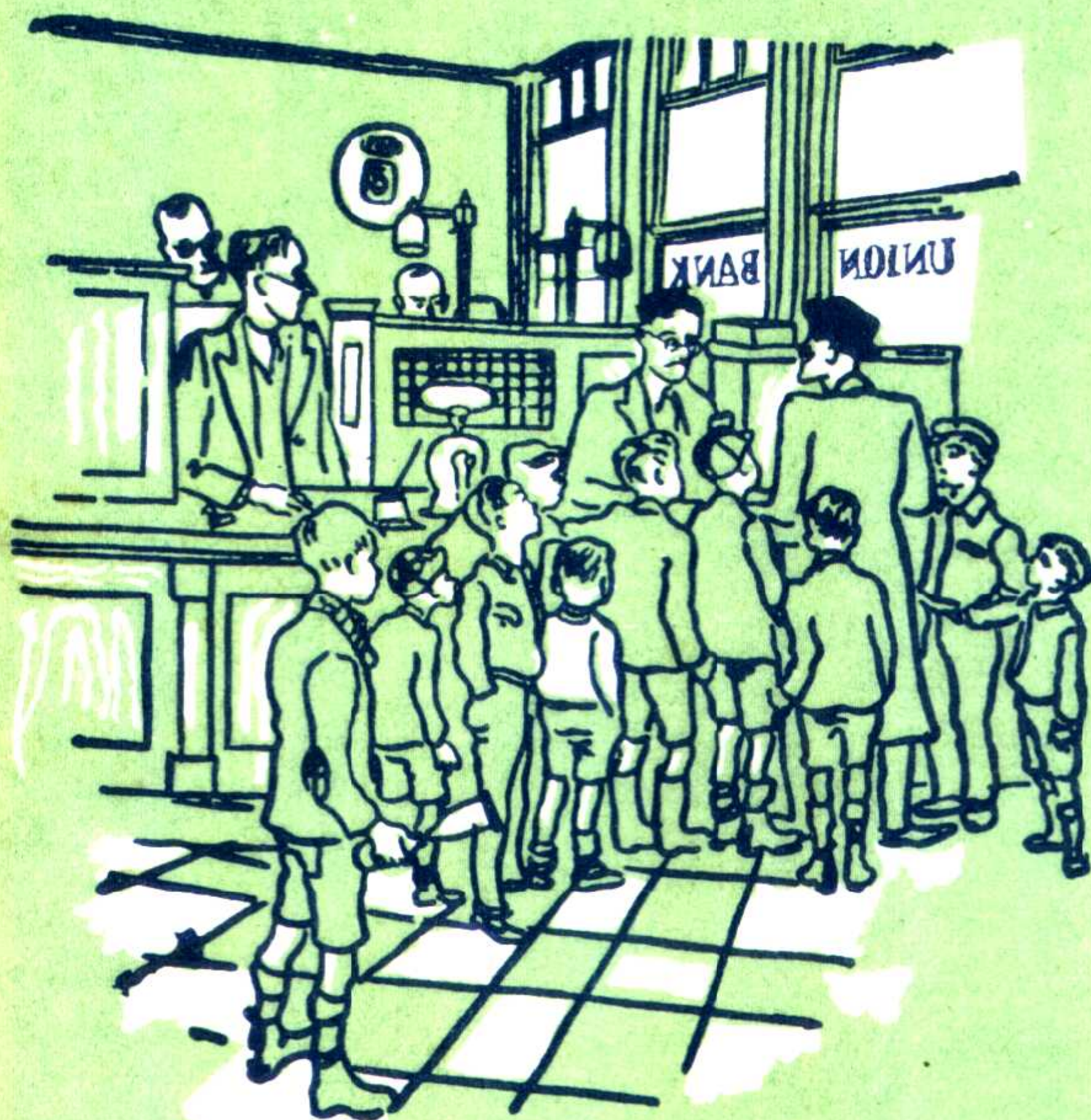


EMIL AND THE DETECTIVES

ERICH KÄSTNER



NEW METHOD
SUPPLEMENTARY READER

STAGE 3

9.5

EMIL AND THE DETECTIVES

by

ERICH KÄSTNER

*Simplified and brought within the
vocabulary of New Method Reader 3*

by

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A *detective* is a person who helps the police to find out and catch anyone who has done something against the law.

All words outside the vocabulary of New Method Reader 3 are either explained or pictured in the book.

Chapter One

A. "Now, Emil," said his mother, "hurry up and get yourself ready. I've put your best clothes out on your bed. Dress yourself, and we'll have our dinner."

"Yes, Mother."

"Now, let me see. Is there anything else? Your other clothes are in your case. These flowers are for your aunt.¹ I'll give you the money for your grandmother when you've finished eating. Now, go and dress."

B. "Yes," said Mrs. Fisher to her neighbour, Mrs. Martin, when Emil had left the room, "my son is going up to the city for two or three weeks. At first he did not want to go, but what can he do here while his school is closed? My sister has asked us again and again to visit her. I can't go, because I've so much work to do. Emil has never been away before, but he's old enough to travel alone now. Besides, his grandmother is going to meet him at the station."

"He is sure to like it there," said Mrs. Martin. "All boys do. He'll have a good time seeing the sights. Good-bye, Mrs. Fisher. I must go now."

C. Emil came back with his hair brushed and his coat on. He was hungry, and ate a big meal. Sometimes he looked at his mother as if he thought that she might not like him to eat so much when he was going away from her for the first time.

¹ Your father's sisters and your mother's sisters are your aunts.

"Be sure and write to me as soon as you arrive," she said.

"All right, Mother."

"Give my love to your aunt and grandmother and cousin¹ Polly. And take care of yourself. Be good, so that they won't say that you have no manners."

"I promise that I will," replied Emil.

D. After dinner Emil's mother took a tin box from a shelf in the sitting-room, and counted out some money.

"Here is seven pounds; a five-pound note² and two pound notes. Give your grandmother six pounds, and tell her that I could not send it before because it took a long time to save. The other pound is for yourself, and it is to pay for your return journey. That will cost about ten shillings. With what is left you can pay for what you eat and drink when you go out. I'll put the money into this little bag. Don't lose it! Where will you put it?"

Emil thought for a minute, then he put the bag into the pocket inside his coat.

"It will be safe there," he said.

"Don't tell anyone on the train that you are carrying so much money."

"Of course not!"

E. Some people think that seven pounds is a very small amount of money, but to Emil and his mother it was a great deal.

Emil's father was dead, so his mother worked hard all day to pay for their food and clothes, and for her

¹ The children of your mother's sister or brother and your father's sister or brother are your cousins.

² A piece of paper money.



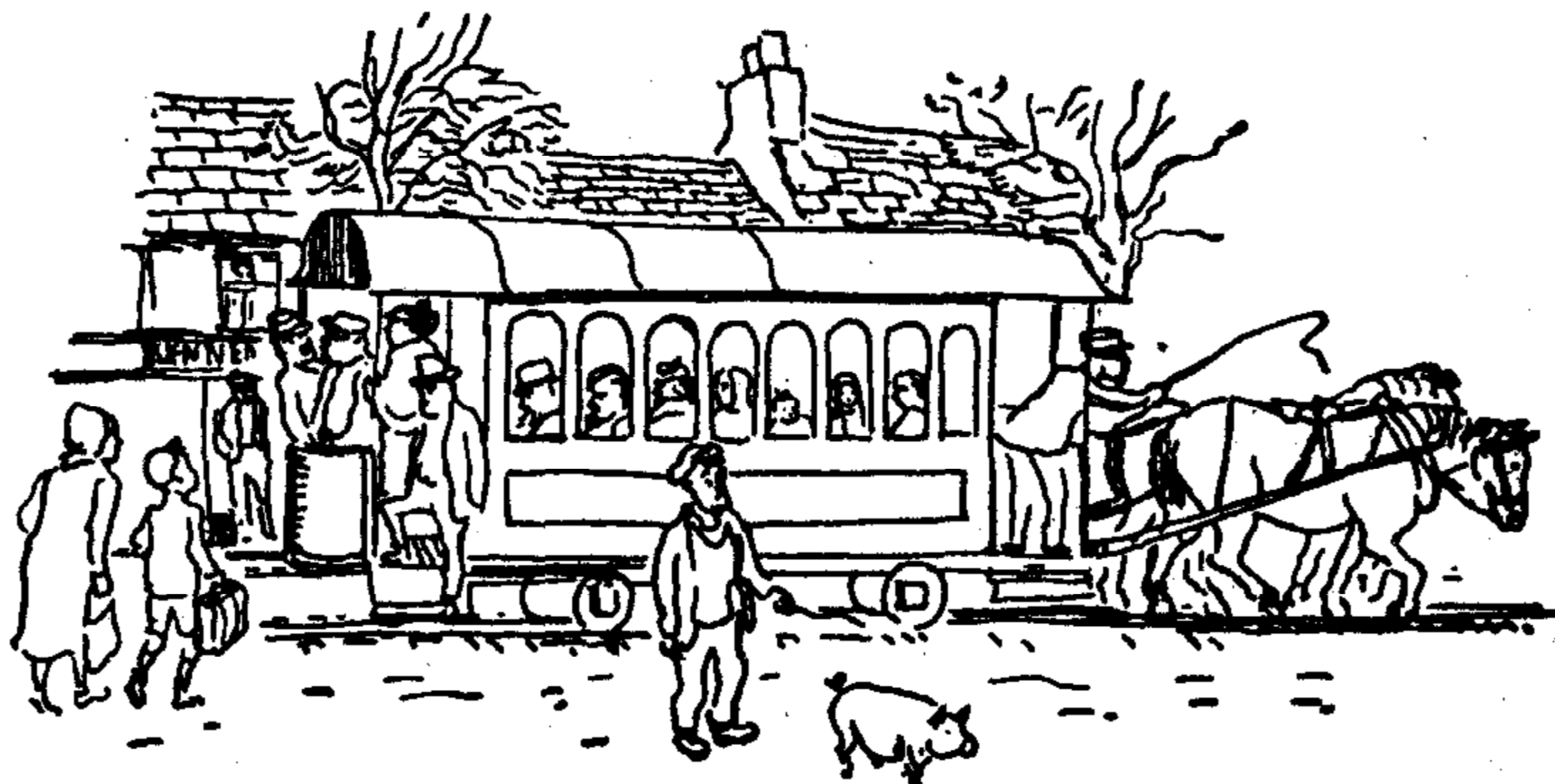
He put the bag into the pocket inside his coat.

son's books and his school. Emil did his best in class, not because he liked his lessons, but because his mother was pleased when he got a good report from his teacher at the end of the year.

Chapter Two

A. "It's time to go to the station," said Mrs. Fisher. "You mustn't miss your train. If a horse-tram comes along, we'll take it."

Do you know what a horse-tram looks like? It is a very strange-looking thing. It runs along on metal lines like a real tram, and the cars are like real tram-cars, but there are two old horses at the front pulling it.



A horse-tram.

Emil and his boy friends wanted proper electric trams, but the people in Newton, the little country place where he lived, were quite pleased with their horse-trams. When the driver came to the house of anyone who was in the tram, that person called out and the driver stopped the horses. If anyone was in a great hurry, he walked!

B. The tram came, and Emil and his mother got in.

They had just reached the station square, and were getting out of the tram, when a deep voice behind them said:

“Where are *you* going?”

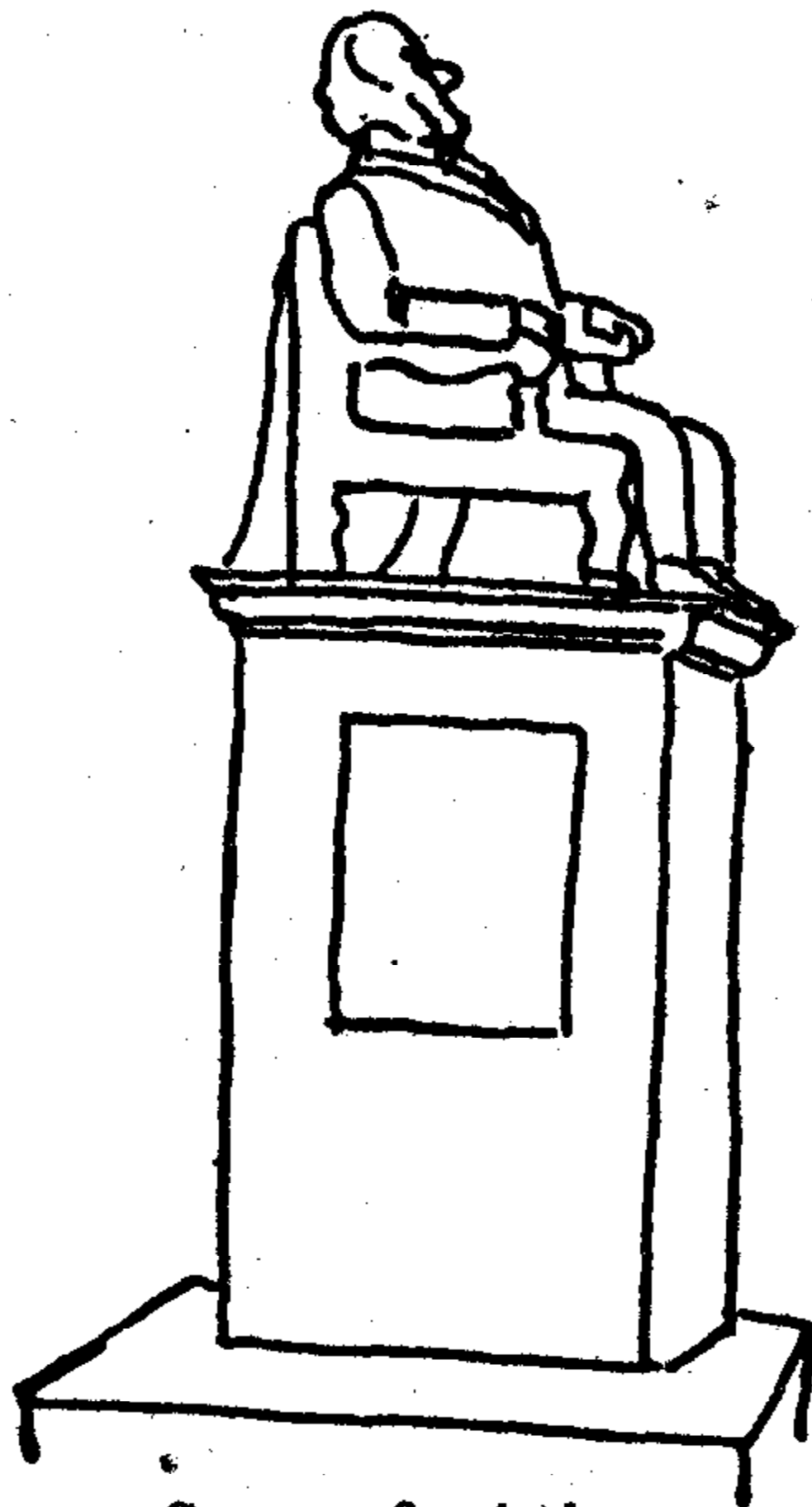
It was the chief policeman of the little town.

Emil's mother said: “My son is going to visit his grandmother for two or three weeks.”

Emil felt very foolish. He was remembering something.

C. In the centre of the station square there stood the stone statue of a very famous judge.

The week before, when the boys came out of class, they climbed up and put an old cap on the judge's



Statue of a judge.

head, and Emil painted the nose red. But while he was painting it, the chief policeman appeared on the other side of the square.

The boys all ran away, but they were afraid that he had seen who they were.

"Now," thought Emil, "the policeman will say: 'Emil Fisher, you must come to prison'."

The policeman said nothing, but Emil was not very happy as he carried his case inside the station.

Perhaps the policeman was waiting till he returned?

D. Mrs. Fisher bought a ticket¹ for Emil. They had only a few minutes to wait.

"Don't leave anything behind in the train, my boy. And don't sit on the flowers. Ask someone to lift your case on to the shelf for you, but when you ask, say 'Please'."

"I can lift the case myself. I'm not a baby."

"All right. Be sure to get out at the right station in the city. It's the East Station, not the West Station. Your grandmother will be waiting for you by the ticket office."

"I'll find her, Mother."

"Don't throw the paper on the floor of the carriage after you've eaten your food. And—don't lose the money."

Emil opened his coat and felt in his pocket.

He said: "It's safe."

E. At last the slow train came into the station. Emil kissed his mother and climbed into a carriage

¹ A small piece of thick paper which gives you the right to travel in a tram, train, etc.

with his case. His mother gave him the flowers and the food and asked if he had found a seat. He had.

"Be good, and write to me."

"And *you* write to *me*."

"And be nice to Polly. Perhaps you won't know each other."

The carriage doors were shut, and the train moved slowly out of the station.

Mrs. Fisher waved her hand for a long time. Then she turned round and went home. She wept a little.

But she did not weep for long, for she had her work to do.

Chapter Three

A. Emil took off his school cap and said, "Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen."

A fat lady, who had taken off her left shoe because it hurt her, said to her neighbour, a man with a big nose: "Boys do not usually have such good manners as this one."

As she talked, she moved her painful foot up and down.

Emil put his hand in his pocket and was not happy until he felt the little bag. He looked at the other people in the carriage. They did not look like thieves. A woman who was making a baby's cap sat next to the man with the big nose. At the window, next to Emil, sat a gentleman with a black hat reading a newspaper.



B. Suddenly the gentleman put down his paper, took some sweets from his pocket, held them out

to Emil, and said: "Would you like some of these?"

"Thank you very much," said Emil, taking one of the sweets. Then he remembered his manners, so he took off his cap again and said: "My name is Emil Fisher."

The other people in the carriage looked as if they wanted to laugh. The man raised his black hat and said: "My name is Green."

Then the fat lady who had taken off her shoe said to Emil: "Does Mr. Smith, the cloth merchant, still live at Newton?"

"Yes, indeed," Emil answered. "Do you know him? He has bought the land on which his house stands."

"Well, then, will you tell him that Mrs. James from Greenfield hopes that he is well?"

"But I'm going to the city."

"You can do it when you return," said Mrs. James.

C. "Well, well, so you are going to the city?" Mr. Green asked.

"Yes, my grandmother is meeting me at the ticket office at the East Station," Emil answered, feeling in his pocket. The money made a little sound: it was still there.

"Do you know the city?"

"No."

"Well, you will be surprised! Some of the houses there are six hundred yards high. They tie the roofs to the sky so that they will not blow away. If anyone is in a hurry and wants to get to another part of the city, they put him in a box at the post office and send

him by post. And there are banks in the city. A bank is a place which takes care of your money, and gives it back to you when you want it. But if you have no money you can go to a bank and get fifty pounds if you leave your head there. No man can live more than two days without a head, and he can't get it back from the bank unless he pays sixty pounds. And you will see some wonderful machines. . . ."

"Your head must be at the bank just now," the man with the big nose said to the man in the black hat. "Stop telling the boy such foolish stories!"

D. Fat Mrs. James stopped moving her foot and the lady who was making the baby's cap put down her work. The two gentlemen began to shout at each other.

Emil did not care. He got out his food, although he had only just had his dinner. As he was eating his third piece of bread and butter the train stopped at a big station. Emil could not see the name of the station, nor could he hear what was called out. Most of the travellers left the carriage: the big-nosed man and the two ladies got out. Mrs. James was almost too late because she couldn't get her shoe on.

"Tell Mr. Smith what I said," she called back at Emil.

E. And now Emil and the man in the black hat were left alone. Emil was not very pleased about this. A strange man who gives away sweets and tells foolish stories is not very good company.