

TEN WORD TALES No. 3

The Long and the Short of it

by The Story Spinner

CHAPTER 2



Max had a good reason for his long and complicated words.

Max's dad's job was working on a new dictionary, which was going to be the biggest dictionary of English in the world.

Max's mum's job was translating German to English, and German was a language famous for long words, for example siebentausendzweihundertvierundfünfzig, which is 7,254. Long words

in German are not really complicated when you understand that they are often just small easy words joined together like a sandwich.

At home, Max's mum and dad used long and complicated words all the time. Max had been surrounded by them since he was a baby. He had picked them up like you might pick up the language of your parents if they spoke French to you or Javanese.

“Darling, do you want the last *mincedmammalmouthful*?” offered his mum, holding the last burger on the end of a fork.

“No thanks,” said Max.

“Coming for a walk later?” asked his dad. “I’m noticing *horripilation*, so bring a jumper.”

Max wished his father would use ordinary words, like *goosebumps* instead of *horripilation*; he knew the new dictionary had ordinary words in it as well as complicated ones, but he did not want to argue with his mum and dad as well as everyone at school. It was too lonely.

Watch out for Chapter 3 tomorrow!