

# Alex de Wolf The Story of Hans Brinker



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© Tekst: Mariska Hammerstein, based on an old Dutch legend

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Many years ago, there lived in Holland a fair-haired little boy named Hans Brinker. His father was a sluicer, whose job it was to open and close the sluices. These are large wooden gates, that are placed in rivers and canals to control the flow of water.





Hans' father opened the sluices according to the amount of water required. He closed them carefully at night, in order to prevent too much water running into the canal. The part of Holland where Hans lived is below sea level. The water was kept from flooding the land only by means of strong dikes and sluices.

