

THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER

The Elves and the Shoemaker

Retold from the Brothers Grimm,

ill. by Jim LaMarche

Ages: 4-8

Themes: Fairy Tales, Generosity

Running time: 10 minutes

SUMMARY

Retold from the Brothers Grimm, this classic fairy tale is brought to life with detailed and colorful artwork. Children will be entranced by the mystery of the elves and the good fortune of the shoemaker and his wife. Through this video, children will appreciate the merits of generosity and the timeless magic of fairy tales.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about the fairy tale genre.
- Students will compare and contrast fairy tales to fiction.
- Students will learn about generosity and helping others.

BEFORE-VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Discuss magic in fairy tales (pre-K to grade 1). Guiding questions:

- How do you know when something is magic? (Spells, fantastic creatures, phenomenal events)
- Can magic occur in real life? How do you know? (If students do believe in magic, do not try to debunk these beliefs. Rather, help students compare their experiences with “magic” to events from fairy tales that they know.)

- How does magic usually work in fairy tales?

Make a list or chart that identifies the magical components of well-known fairy tales.

Discuss the components of a fairy tale (grades 2-3):

- Magic
- Problem and Resolution
- Lesson

List fairy tales that the students are familiar with and identify these components in each one. Read several fiction stories to the students. Help students to compare and contrast how fiction is similar to and different from fairy tales. Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast these two genres.

AFTER-VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Read other fairy tales aloud to the students. Revisit the Before-Viewing Activities by identifying the common components between those fairy tales and *The Elves and the Shoemaker*. Guide students through a discussion of the lesson of the fairy tale: the importance of generosity. Guiding questions:

- Define generosity.
- Which characters in the video display generosity? How?
- How did the characters benefit from being generous?
- How is the lesson in this fairy tale different from the lessons in other fairy tales? How is it similar?

Create a dramatic production of this, or another, fairy tale. Assist students with creating a script, props, and costumes. Practice and perform for parents or other classes.

Using the components of a fairy tale, have children write and illustrate their own fairy tales. Help them by reading them both modern and classic fairy tales to give them ideas. Younger children may need to tell their story aloud, if they are not yet writing. Students can choose between creating a completely new fairy tale or changing some of the aspects of a fairy tale that they know.

Other videos of fairy tales from Weston Woods are:

- Chicken Little**, retold by Steven Kellogg
- The Emperor’s New Clothes**, by Hans Christian Andersen, retold by Nadine Westcott
- The Fisherman and His Wife**, translated by Wanda Gág
- Goldilocks and the Three Bears**, by James Marshall
- Princess Furball**, retold by Charlotte Huck, ill. by Anita Lobel
- Rapunzel**, by Paul O. Zelinsky
- Red Riding Hood**, by James Marshall
- The Three Billy Goats Gruff**, by P.C. Asbjornsen and J.E. Moe, ill. by Marcia Brown
- The Three Little Pigs**, by James Marshall
- The Ugly Duckling**, by Hans Christian Andersen, adapted and ill. by Jerry Pinkney