

Example Text: Traditional fairytales

The Elves and the Shoemaker

Once upon a time, a little, old shoemaker lived with his wife in a quiet, little village.

One day, the shoemaker said, "Tomorrow I will make my last pair of shoes. There is no money left to buy more leather."

That night, as the shoemaker and his wife slept, three little elves quietly crept into the house. They saw the leather on the shoemaker's bench and they started to stitch a wonderful, new pair of shoes.

In the morning, the shoemaker gasped when he saw the shoes. "Such tiny, neat stitches! Who could do such work?" A man came in and bought the shoes. With the money, the shoemaker went out and bought more leather.

Once again, before he went to bed, the shoemaker cut out the leather and left it on his bench. Once again, the elves crept in and made more beautiful shoes.

Night after night this continued and the shoemaker and his wife soon became rich.

Finally, the shoemaker said, "Tonight we will not go to bed. We will find out who is making these lovely shoes." So that night the shoemaker hid behind the curtains. As the moonlight shone through the window, he saw the little elves come in and make the shoes with the tiny, neat stitches.

The shoemaker's wife wanted to do something for the elves. She got out her own needle and thread and started to sew.

That night, instead of putting out leather for shoes, the shoemaker and his wife put out three sets of tiny clothes. Again, they hid behind the curtains to watch the surprise on the elves' faces when they saw the special present.

The elves put on the clothes and danced out of the house and into the moonlight. The shoemaker and his wife never saw them again. But that didn't matter, for they were happy.