



Stage 4

Tom, Dad and Colin

Storyteller Notes

Originally a very simple fable, this story is full of potential for humour. The challenge for storytellers, though, is that the humour is extremely visual, as Tom, Dad and Colin travel in increasingly odd and funny combinations. How can we create the instant impact of a picture without a page to put it on?

My refrains for this story support the visualization of each new combination: the sounds of the feet walking make it clear whose feet are on the ground. To ensure your children understand this each time, the refrain always has an introduction while we work out together which feet we are going to hear, and then the children are invited to join in with, “Ready?”

As in *The King and His Wish*, the participation is set up before getting into the swing of the story, this time through the use of the Cat as narrator (for more on crafting a character for the storyteller, see *East of the Sun, West of the Moon – Part One*). This allows the dynamic refrain to run smoothly in the main body of the telling, keeping the children involved and engaged.

Interrupting the refrain is a great way to achieve the surprise of something sudden, as with the “Splash!” when the trio fall into the pond. For an even bigger surprise, try making the final refrain longer: get the class all joining in with the sounds of the feet and make sure that there is a strong rhythm going before breaking it loudly in the middle of a pair (“plod, plod, thump thump, plod SPLASH!”).

Written by Amy Robinson

Amy is a professional storyteller. Previously a primary school teacher, Amy now tours schools and theatres in the UK with her storytelling colleague, Chip Colquhoun. Find out more at www.snailtales.org