

STORY GUIDE

The Elves and the Shoemaker

Original story by: The Brothers Grimm

Read by: Anthony Rapp



morals and themes

Hard Work, Caring and Sharing

general comprehension questions

- Where does the story take place?
- Who are the characters?
- Who is your favorite character and why?
- Which character don't you like and why?
- What are the problems the characters face?
- How do they solve these problems?
- How does the story end?
- What lesson does this story teach you?

discussion questions

- What was so special about the pair of shoes made from the shoemaker's last piece of leather?
- What did the customers do when they found that the shoes fit so well?
- What did the shoemaker buy with the money that he made from the shoes?
- What did the shoemaker's wife do for the elves? Why?
- Why do you think the author decided to use elves in the story?
- Describe a person who has helped you a lot in your life. What have you done or can you do for this person?

extension questions

- What other stories does this remind you of?
- How does this story relate to your own life?
- Write an alternate ending for the story.
- Write your own version of what happens next.

research activity

- Use the internet or library to research shoemaking
- How are shoes made?
 - What materials can be used?
 - What are some different types of shoes?

notes on this adaptation

First titled simply "The Elves," this story was one of 200 published in the Grimms' 1812 collection of German and French folk tales, *Children's and Household Tales* (later titled simply *Grimms' Fairy Tales*). Though many of the Grimms' stories have a dark nature, this story is presented here as a simple lesson in helping others. The elves display an interesting combination of magical ability and helplessness (represented by nakedness, being in hiding).