Storyland Classics

FREE STORY GUIDE

A fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm (1812)



- ✦ Meet the Author
- ✦ The Big Idea & Try It
- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
- ✦ Read It With Voices
- ✦ Standards
- ✦ Story Map
- ✦ Word Match & Sort
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Let's Talk
- ✦ Word Search
- ✦ Who Said It? & Feelings
- ✦ Answer Key

Ages 4–8 ✦ Pre-K to Grade 2 ✦ Aligned to Common Core

This cover is for your screen. Print from page 2 to save ink.

FOR GROWN-UPS

How to Use This Guide

This free guide goes with the Storyland Classics read-aloud of "The Elves and the Shoemaker." Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE STORY

A hard-working, honest shoemaker is so poor that he has only enough leather for one pair of shoes. He cuts it out and goes to bed, and in the morning he finds the shoes already made, perfectly. This happens night after night, and he grows well off. At Christmas time he and his wife hide and watch, and they see two little elves at work. To thank them, the wife sews tiny clothes and the shoemaker makes tiny shoes. The elves dress, dance away and never return, but all goes well for the couple ever after.

SKILL FOCUS

Cause and effect: what happens because of something else

WATCH AND READ ALONG

Scan the code to watch the read-aloud and read the full story, or visit storylandclassics.com/elves-guide. The Brothers Grimm (1812), in Edgar Taylor's classic English translation. Public domain.

A simple routine

1. **Day 1.** Watch the read-aloud together, then fill in the Story Map.
2. **Day 2.** Meet the author, then use Let's Talk and The Big Idea.
3. **Day 3.** Learn the words with the word match, word sort and word search.
4. **Day 4.** Put the story in order, then perform it with voices.

What's inside

Meet the Author 3
Story Map 4
Let's Talk 5
The Big Idea & Try It 6
Word Match & Sort 7
Word Search 8
Yes or No & ABC Order 9
Put It in Order 10
Who Said It? & Feelings 11
Read It With Voices 12
Handwriting 13
Answer Key 14
Standards 15

Standards

Every activity is aligned to the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten to grade 2. Codes appear at the bottom of each page, and the full table is on the last page.

Younger children

Children who aren't writing yet can answer out loud or tell a grown-up what to write.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE AUTHOR

The Brothers Grimm

Jacob 1785–1863 ✦ Wilhelm 1786–1859

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were brothers who grew up in Germany. They loved the old stories that ordinary people told, and they wrote them down so they would not be forgotten. In 1812 they published the first book of *Children's and Household Tales*, which includes *Rumpelstiltskin*, *The Elves and the Shoemaker*, *Snow White* and *Hansel and Gretel*. They were also librarians and language scholars, and they started a giant German dictionary.

Questions About the Author

1. Where did the Brothers Grimm find their stories?

2. Why do you think they wanted to write the old stories down?

3. Which Grimm fairy tale do you know best?

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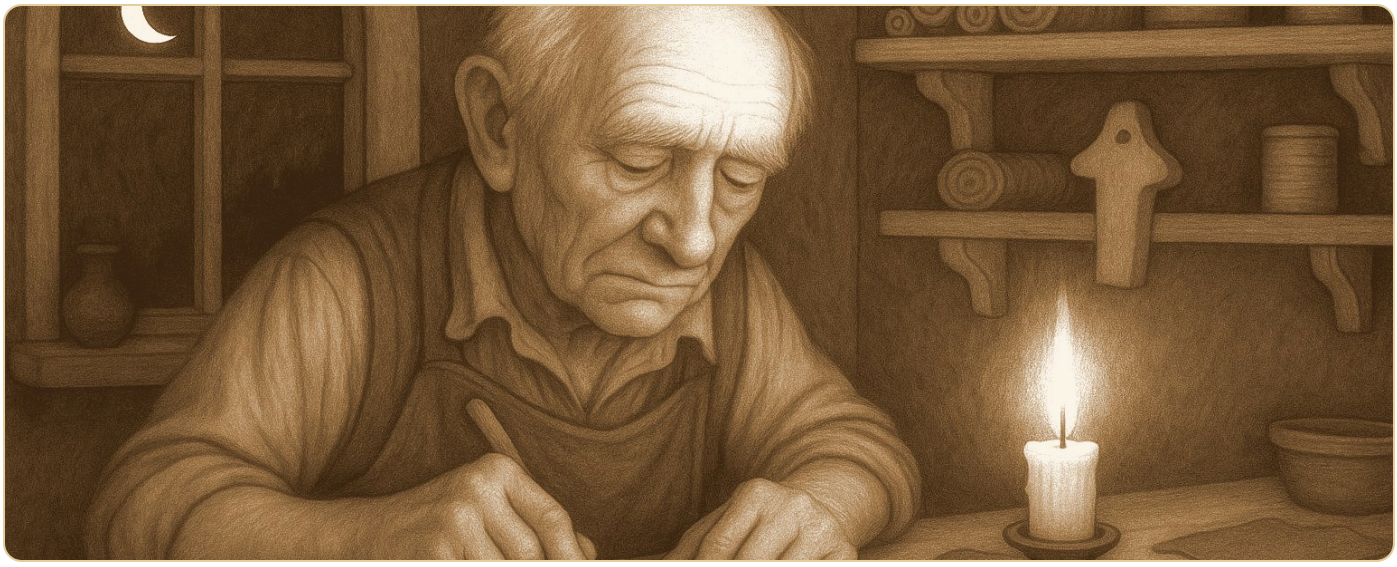
Name _____ Date _____

STORY MAP

The Elves and the Shoemaker



Look at the picture from the read-aloud. Who do you see? Then fill in the story map.

Characters

Who is in the story?

Setting

Where and when does it happen?

Problem

What goes wrong?

Solution

How is it fixed? How does it end?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Elves and the Shoemaker

Young children can answer out loud. Older children can write their answers.

REMEMBER

1. Why was the shoemaker so poor?

2. What did he find on his table in the morning?

3. What gifts did the shoemaker and his wife make for the elves?

THINK

4. Why did the shoemaker and his wife want to watch at night?

5. Why do you think the elves never came back?

CONNECT

6. How can you say thank you to someone who helps you?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the story back in your own words. Who made the shoes, and how did the shoemaker say thank you?

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Name _____ Date _____

THE BIG IDEA

What Does the Story Teach?

THE LESSON

Kindness and thank-yous go both ways. The elves helped the shoemaker, and the shoemaker and his wife thanked them with gifts made by hand.

What does this mean to you? Tell or write about a time it was true in your life.

Try It

SKILL FOCUS

Cause and effect: what happens because of something else

Draw a thank-you gift you could make for someone who helps you. Write who it is for.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

shoemaker	a person who buys things
leather	a vest
honest	a person who makes shoes
customer	sewing with a needle and thread
elves	always telling the truth
stitching	an old word for trousers
waistcoat	strong material made from animal skin
pantaloons	tiny magical helpers

Word Sort: Shoemaker's Tools or Elves' Clothes?

Write each word in the right box.

leather · shirt · needle · coat · hammer · waistcoat · thread · pantaloons

Shoemaker's tools	Elves' clothes

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Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Elves and the Shoemaker

Find the words from the story. Words go across (left to right) and down (top to bottom). Circle each word, then check it off.

D	B	S	N	J	R	N	N	W	J
E	I	M	N	A	T	T	I	D	U
U	F	F	W	P	A	K	G	D	C
P	G	C	K	B	B	E	H	J	G
C	K	L	I	M	L	V	T	U	J
O	W	I	F	E	E	G	H	O	G
A	G	H	P	R	B	G	V	S	I
T	W	C	Y	S	H	O	E	S	F
H	J	L	E	A	T	H	E	R	T
F	O	P	D	E	L	V	E	S	K

WORD BANK

- ☐ SHOES
- ☐ ELVES
- ☐ LEATHER
- ☐ WIFE
- ☐ COAT
- ☐ TABLE
- ☐ NIGHT
- ☐ GIFT

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CHECK YOUR READING

Yes or No?

Read each sentence about the story. Circle **Yes** if it is true. Circle **No** if it is not.

1. The shoemaker was poor but honest. Yes No
2. He had leather for ten pairs of shoes at first. Yes No
3. The shoes were made while he slept. Yes No
4. Two little elves made the shoes. Yes No
5. The wife sewed tiny clothes for the elves. Yes No
6. The elves came back every night after that. Yes No

ABC Order

Write these words from the story in ABC order.

shoes · elves · leather · coat · night

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

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Name _____ Date _____

PUT IT IN ORDER

What Happens First?

Read each sentence. Write 1 in the circle next to what happens first, 2 next to what happens next, and so on up to 6.

- ◯ The shoemaker and his wife hide and watch.
- ◯ The shoemaker has leather for one pair of shoes.
- ◯ The elves dance away in their new clothes.
- ◯ He finds the shoes made in the morning.
- ◯ The wife sews tiny clothes for the elves.
- ◯ Two elves come at midnight to make shoes.

Retell the Story

Use the order words to tell the story in your own words. Say it out loud, or write it.

First, _____

Next, _____

Then, _____

Last, _____

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Name _____ Date _____

CHARACTERS

Who Said It?

Read each line from the story. Write who said it. Use the name bank to help.

the shoemaker | the wife

"I should like to sit up and watch tonight." _____

"These little wights have made us rich." _____

"We ought to be thankful to them." _____

"I will make each of them a shirt, coat, waistcoat, and a pair of pantaloons." _____

How Did the shoemaker Feel?

Write a feeling word for each part of the story. Use the word bank, or choose your own.

worried | surprised | amazed | curious | thankful | happy | hopeful

When...	the shoemaker felt...
he had only enough leather for one pair	
he found the shoes made	
he became well off	
he hid to watch	
he saw the elves at work	
the elves danced away	

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Name _____ Date _____

PERFORM IT

Read It With Voices

Four readers take the parts. Two readers can be the elves and act out stitching and dancing!

SHOEMAKER	"I should like to sit up and watch tonight, so that we may see who it is that comes and does my work for me."
NARRATOR	As soon as it was midnight, there came two little elves. They stitched and rapped and tapped away.
WIFE	"These little wights have made us rich, and we ought to be thankful to them."
WIFE	"I will make each of them a shirt and a coat, and you will make each of them a little pair of shoes."
NARRATOR	When the elves saw the clothes, they laughed and chuckled, dressed themselves, and danced out the door.

My Favorite Part

My favorite part is _____

_____

because _____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The Elves and the Shoemaker

Trace the gray words, then write them on your own on the empty lines. Tall letters touch the top line; small letters reach the dotted line.

Thank you for your help.

Thank you for your help.

Thank you for your help.

The elves made the shoes.

The elves made the shoes.

The elves made the shoes.

☐ I started with a capital letter. ☐ I left spaces between words. ☐ I copied the end mark.

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FOR GROWN-UPS

Answer Key & Ideas

Story Map

Characters: the shoemaker, his wife, the customers, two little elves. Setting: the shoemaker's shop, long ago, around Christmas time. Problem: the shoemaker is so poor he can make only one pair of shoes. Solution: the elves make shoes each night, and the couple thanks them with tiny clothes.

Let's Talk

1. He worked hard but could not earn enough; he had leather for only one pair. 2. A finished pair of shoes, perfectly made. 3. A shirt, coat, waistcoat and pantaloons, and tiny shoes. 4–6. Answers will vary.

Word Search

D	B	S	N	J	R	N	N	W	J
E	I	M	N	A	T	T	I	D	U
U	F	F	W	P	A	K	G	D	C
P	G	C	K	B	B	E	H	J	G
C	K	L	I	M	L	V	T	U	J
O	W	I	F	E	E	G	H	O	G
A	G	H	P	R	B	G	V	S	I
T	W	C	Y	S	H	O	E	S	F
H	J	L	E	A	T	H	E	R	T
F	O	P	D	E	L	V	E	S	K

Word Match & Sort

shoemaker: a person who makes shoes · leather: strong material made from animal skin · honest: always telling the truth · customer: a person who buys things · elves: tiny magical helpers · stitching: sewing with a needle and thread · waistcoat: a vest · pantaloons: an old word for trousers. Sort: Shoemaker's tools: leather, needle, hammer, thread. Elves' clothes: shirt, coat, waistcoat, pantaloons.

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. Yes · 5. Yes · 6. No. ABC order: coat, elves, leather, night, shoes.

Put It in Order

leather for one pair → shoes made in the morning → they hide and watch → two elves come at midnight → the wife sews tiny clothes → the elves dance away.

Who Said It?

1. the shoemaker · 2. the wife · 3. the wife · 4. the wife

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Make tiny paper clothes for a pair of "elves" (clothespins or toy figures).
- Write thank-you notes to helpers at school or at home.
- Read it with Rumpelstiltskin, another Grimm tale about a little magical helper.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

The Elves and the Shoemaker ✦ Common Core State Standards, kindergarten to grade 2

STANDARDS	WHAT CHILDREN PRACTICE	WHERE IN THIS GUIDE
RL.K.1 RL.1.1 RL.2.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	Let's Talk and Yes or No?; Let's Talk
RL.K.2 RL.1.2 RL.2.2	Retell stories and poems, including key details, and show understanding of their message.	Put It in Order and Retell; Put It in Order and Retell; The Big Idea; The Big Idea
RL.K.3 RL.1.3 RL.2.3	Identify and describe characters, settings and major events.	Story Map and Character Feelings; Character Feelings
RL.K.4	Understand words and phrases, including rhyme, rhythm and words that appeal to the senses.	Word Match
RL.K.6 RL.1.6 RL.2.6	Identify who is speaking and use a different voice for each character when reading aloud.	Meet the Author; Who Said It?; Read It With Voices
RL.K.7 RL.1.7	Use illustrations and words together to describe characters, setting and events.	Story Map picture
RL.K.10 RL.1.10	Engage in group reading of poems and stories with purpose and understanding.	Reading the story together
RF.K.1b RF.K.1d	Understand the organization of print (left to right, top to bottom).	Word Search; ABC Order
RF.K.3c RF.1.3	Read common high-frequency words by sight.	Word Search
RF.1.4b RF.2.4b	Read aloud with accuracy, appropriate rate and expression.	Read It With Voices
SL.K.1 SL.1.1	Take part in conversations about the text with classmates and adults.	Let's Talk (discussion)
SL.K.2	Ask and answer questions about a text read aloud or presented through media.	Read-aloud video (QR code)
SL.K.5	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.	Try It (drawing to add detail)
SL.K.6	Speak audibly and express ideas clearly.	Read It With Voices
L.K.1a L.1.1 L.1.1a	Print upper- and lowercase letters and use common position words.	Handwriting Practice; ABC Order
L.K.2a	Use capital letters and end punctuation.	Handwriting checklist
L.K.4 L.1.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words and phrases.	Word Match
L.K.5a	Sort words into categories, connect words to real life and act out shades of meaning.	Word Sort
W.K.1 W.1.1	Use drawing and writing to share an opinion and give a reason.	My Favorite Part
W.K.2	Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose informative texts.	Try It
W.1.8	With guidance and support, recall information from experiences or gather information to answer a question.	Try It

Codes are Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. Find free read-alouds and guides at storylandclassics.com.

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