

Readers Theater Fairy Tales

Puss in Boots

Adapted from The Blue Fairy Book by Andrew Lang

1 Puss in Boots Characters Narrator 1, 2, 3, 4 Miller Youngest Son Ogre Puss Mowers Reapers
20 21 Narrator 1

Narrator 1

There was a miller who died and left nothing to his sons except his to the three sons but his mill, his donkey, and his cat. They divided these up between the three of them. The eldest son got the mill, the middle son got the the donkey, and the youngest got nothing but the cat. The poor young fellow was quite sad about this.

Youngest Son

My brothers may live well by sharing what they inherited; but for my part, but I will probably die of hunger with my cat.

Narrator 2

The Cat, who heard all this, but acted like he hadn't, said to him with a grave and serious air.

Puss

Don't be so sad, my good master. Just give me a bag and get a pair of boots made for me. that I I will scamper through the dirt and the brambles. You shall see that you have not so bad a portion in me as you imagine.

Narrator 3

The Cat's master had seen him play tricks to catch rats and mice, like when he used to hang by the heels, or hide himself in the bushes to sneak up on people. He gave the cat what he asked for.

Narrator 4

When the Cat had the boots and the bag, he went into a forest where there was great abundance of rabbits. He put bran and sow-thistle into his bag and left it out in the open, and he hid, waiting for some young rabbits, to come and rummage through his bag.

Narrator 2

He didn't wait long before a foolish young rabbit jumped into his bag, and Puss, immediately drawing close the strings on the rabbit. Proud of his prey, he went with it to the palace and asked to speak with his majesty, the King.

Puss

I have brought you, sir, a rabbit, which my noble master has commanded me to present to your majesty.

King

Tell thy master, that I thank him and that he does me a great deal of pleasure.

Narrator 3

Another time he went and hid himself among some standing corn, holding still his bag open, and when a brace of partridges ran into it he drew the strings and so caught them both. He went and made a present of these to the king, too. The king accepted the partridges with great pleasure, and gave the cat some money.

Narrator 4

The Cat continued for, two or three months, bring his Majesty game of his master's taking. One day he met the King with his daughter, the princess.

Puss

If you will follow my advice you will be rich! Go and take a bath in the river, then leave the rest to me.

Narrator 1

His master did what the Cat advised him to, without knowing why. While he was washing, the King passed by, and the Cat began to cry out:

Puss

Help! help! My Lord Marquis of Carabas is going to be drowned. At this noise the King put his head out of the coach-window, and, finding it was the Cat who had so often brought him such good game, he commanded his guards to run immediately to help.

Narrator 3

While they were drawing the poor Marquis out of the river, the Cat came up to the coach and told the King that, while his master was washing, there came by some thieves, who went off with his clothes, though he had cried out:

Puss

Thieves! thieves!

Narrator 4

This cunning Cat had hidden them under a great stone. The King immediately commanded the officers of his wardrobe to run and fetch one of his best suits for the Lord Marquis of Carabas.

Narrator 1

The King gave the Cat's master these very fine clothes and they made him very handsome. Pretty soon, everyone who was travelling with the king fell in love with him.

Narrator 2

The King had him come into the coach and take part of the airing. The Cat, quite overjoyed to see his project begin to succeed, marched on before, and, meeting with some countrymen, who were mowing a meadow, he said to them:

Puss

Good people, you who are mowing, if you do not tell the King that the meadow you mow belongs to my Lord Marquis of Carabas, you will be fired!

King

Hey mowers! Who does this meadow belonged to?

Mowers

Rgw the Lord Marquis of Carabas -- the cat's master!

Youngest Son

You see, sir, this is a meadow which never fails to yield a plentiful harvest every year.

Puss

Good people, you who are reaping, if you do not tell the King that all this corn belongs to the Marquis of Carabas, you will be fired!

Narrator 1

The King, who passed by a moment after, asked to whom all that corn, which he then saw, did belong.

Reapers

The Meadow belongs to my Lord Marquis of Carabas -- the cat's master!

Narrator 2

The King was very well pleased with it, as well as the Marquis, whom he congratulated thereupon. The Cat, who went before, said the same words to all he met, and the King was astonished at all the land's owned by the cat's master.

Narrator 3

Puss came at last to a stately castle, the master of which was an ogre, the richest had ever been known. For all the lands which the King had then gone over belonged to this castle.

Narrator 4

The Cat, who had taken care to inform himself who this ogre was and what he could do, asked to speak with him, saying he could not pass so near his castle without having the honor of paying his respects to him.

Puss

I have been assured, that you have the gift of being able to change yourself into all sorts of creatures you have a mind to. You can, for example, transform yourself into a lion, or elephant, and the like.

Ogre

That is true, and to convince you, you shall see me now become a lion.

Narrator 1

Puss was so sadly terrified at the sight of a lion so near him that he immediately got into the gutter. A little while after, when Puss saw that the ogre had resumed his natural form, he came down and admitted that he had been scared.

Puss

I have been told that you have the power to take on the shape of the smallest animals. For example, to change yourself into a rat or a mouse, but I think that this is impossible.

Ogre

Impossible! I will show you my powers right now!

Narrator 2

The ogre turned himself into a mouse and began to run about the floor. Puss no sooner perceived this but he fell upon him and ate him up.

Narrator 3

Meanwhile the King, who saw, as he passed, this fine castle of the ogre's, had a mind to go into it. Puss ran out and said to the King:

Puss

Your Majesty is welcome to this castle of my Lord Marquis of Carabas.

King

What! My Lord Marquis, and does this castle also belong to you? There can be nothing finer than this court and all the stately buildings which surround it. Let us go into it, if you please.

Narrator 4

The Marquis invited everyone into his great castle. He followed the King, who went first. They passed into a spacious hall, where they found a magnificent feast, which the ogre had prepared for his friends, who were that very day to visit him, but dared not to enter, knowing the King was there.

Narrator 1

The King was perfectly charmed with the good qualities of my Lord Marquis of Carabas and said...

King

I am so glad that we met! I invite you, Marquis, master of this strange cat, to join my round table and become an aristocrat of this land.

Narrator 2

The Marquis, making several low bows, accepted the honor which his Majesty conferred upon him. Puss became a great lord, and never again ran after mice because he was starving -- he only did so for fun.