



# The Elves & The Shoemaker



## PERFORMANCE PREPARATION SCRIPT AND PROPS

### Characters and Reading Levels

*The Elves & The Shoemaker* includes five characters and a group choral reading.

- ◆ Shoemaker ..... reading level 1.8
- ◆ Shoemaker’s Wife..... reading level 2.5
- ◆ Elf 1 ..... reading level 2.1
- ◆ Elf 2 ..... reading level 1.9
- ◆ Narrator ..... reading level 2.4
- ◆ Group Reading:..... reading level 2.2

The group choral reading can be read by a small or a large group—allowing the entire class to participate. You may also choose to eliminate the choral reading. Make a single copy of the script and “white-out” the lines of the group reading. Then, copy the edited script for the five performing story characters.

### Reproducible Script and Props

- ◆ Reproduce the script: *The Elves & The Shoemaker*, found on pages 70–75 for each student.
- ◆ Make the story props—patterns and directions are found on pages 75–77.

### Audio CD Sound Effects

- ◆ Sound effects for *The Elves & The Shoemaker*, are found on tracks 74–80. Directions for when to play each sound effect can be found in the script.

### Optional Costume & Set Suggestions

- ◆ Workshop and window: set up low tables where the elves and shoemaker can work. Create a window that the elves can climb in and out. Low bench and display real shoes.
- ◆ Shoemaker and his wife should wear aprons.
- ◆ Elves: tattered old clothes and stocking caps

## READING PREPARATION AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

### Review the Traditional Story

- ◆ *The Elves and the Shoemaker* by Jacob Grimm and Jim Lamarche. Chronicle Books (2003)
- ◆ *The Elves and the Shoemaker* (Classic Fairy Tale Collection) by John Cech and Kirill Chelushkin. Sterling (2007)
- ◆ *The Elves and the Shoemaker* (Ready to Read) by Nick Page, Claire Page, and Sara Baker. Make Believe Ideas (2006)
- ◆ *Elves and the Shoemaker* (Flip-Up Fairy Tales) by Alison Edgson. Childs Play Intl Ltd (2007)

### Teach New Vocabulary

Teach the following vocabulary (word recognition and meaning) prior to reading the script: *amazing, cottage, curtains, double, easy, elf, elves, fairies, handsome, human, kindness, leather, remember, rewarded, Shoemaker, Shorty, stitch, tonight, workshop.*

### Encourage Fluency

- ◆ First, read through the script without using any of the props.
- ◆ Model fluent reading for the children. This story may not be as familiar as most of the other included fairy tales, so hearing the story prior to reading it will be helpful for many of the children.
- ◆ There is a lot of quick and sometimes difficult dialogue in this story. Use peer reading techniques using Scene 2 on pages 70 and 71.

### Enrichment Activities

- ◆ Have the children pretend to be either the Shoemaker or the Shoemaker’s wife and write a thank-you note to the elves for all their help.
- ◆ Have the students design a shirt and a pair of shoes for the elves. What would they look like?

# Script: The Elves and The Shoemaker

## **SCENE 1:** *(In the Shoemaker's small cottage)*

CD TRACK 74:..... *(MUSIC TO BEGIN THE STORY)*

**Narrator:** .....This is the Shoemaker's small cottage. It's late at night. The Shoemaker has just cut the leather for a pair of shoes.

**Wife:**.....Good night, Tom. I'm going to bed.

**Shoemaker:** .....Good night, Molly. I'll see you soon.



**Wife:**.....Have you cut out the last pair of shoes?

**Shoemaker:** .....Yes, I have. We must sell these shoes. We have no more money.

**Wife:**.....What will we do?

**Shoemaker:** .....Try not to worry.

**Wife:**.....That's easy for you to say. How will we eat?

**Shoemaker:** .....Let's hope we sell the shoes. I will get up early to make them.

**Wife:**.....Tom, you do make fine shoes.

**Shoemaker:** .....Thank you. Let's hope you're not the only one who thinks so.

**Wife:**.....Yes, let's hope.

**Group Reading:** .....The poor Shoemaker and his wife! Who will help them?

## **SCENE 2:** *(Late that same night)*

CD TRACK 75:..... *(CREAKING WINDOW OPENS, THEN CLOSSES)*

**Narrator:** .....An Elf climbs in the open window. He leans back out and talks to someone else.

**Elf 1:**.....*(whispering)* He's gone to bed. Come on!

**Elf 2:**.....*(voice comes from outside window)* I can't help it if my legs are short. It's easy for you—your legs are so long! You don't look like an elf!

**Elf 1:**.....Hush! We've got work to do. Poor Tom, he needs our help. He has to sell these shoes.

Elf 2:..... He is the best shoemaker in the land. Why does he need our help?

Elf 1:.....He may be the best shoemaker. But, shoes made by elves are even better. You're an elf, you know that.

Elf 2:.....Yes, I do, but I like to hear you say it. It makes me feel good.

Elf 1:.....When a human sees a pair of shoes made by an elf, they have to buy them. It's as if the shoes have a spell on them.

Elf 2:.....Does that mean I'm kind of magic?

Elf 1:.....Yes, it does. Even if you have very short legs.

Elf 2:.....Will you stop talking about my legs?

Elf 1:.....Ok, Shorty, let's get to work. The Shoemaker needs our help. We've got a pair of shoes to make.

Elf 2:.....Can I make the right shoe?

Elf 1:.....Ok. I'll make the left shoe.

Elf 2:.....One more thing.

Elf 1:.....Yes?

Elf 2:.....Please, don't call me Shorty.

Elf 1:.....Ok. Now work!



CD TRACK 76:..... (HAMMERING SOUNDS)

**Group Reading:** .....Two little elves. Can they really help Tom and Molly?

### **SCENE 3:** (The next morning)

**Narrator:** .....The next morning Tom comes into the workshop. He sees a pair of shoes on the table.

**Shoemaker:** .....Molly! Come here!

**Wife:**.....I'm coming. What's all the fuss about?

**Shoemaker:** .....Look! Look at these. They're the best shoes I've ever seen.

**Wife:**.....(laughing) You are getting a big head!

**Shoemaker:** .....No, you don't get it. I didn't make them.

**Wife:**.....You must have.