

Readers Theatre

Go to <http://www.aaronshp.com/rt/Tips2.html> for tips on staging and Tips3 on reading.

Read *St. Patrick and the Three Brave Mice*

Discuss the story and pictures

Do Readers Theatre—

Readers' Theatre Treatment
for
St. Patrick and the Three Brave Mice
by
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Adapted for readers theatre by the author, from her picture book published by Pelican Publishing Company, Inc., Gretna, Louisiana 2009

Preview: When St. Patrick has driven all but one crafty snake out of Ireland, the mice—Ryan, Brian, and Tulla—devise a risky plan of their own to outwit the wily reptile.

Genre: Fiction.

Readers: 7

Culture: Ireland—Legend.

Ages: 4-10

Theme: Courage

Roles:

Characters:

Narrator One,

Tulla

Narrator Two

Ryan

Narrator Three

Brian

Snake – holding toy snake

St. Patrick – makes snoring sounds
and rings bell

Narrator One: Many years ago, St. Patrick traveled the roads and byways of Ireland driving out the snakes with a bell.

Narrator Two: But one crafty, clever snake escaped.

Narrator Three: This snake slithered through meadow and forest.

Narrator One: He hunted for tasty mouse meals.

Narrator Two: One night, three little mice, Ryan, Brian, and Tulla, cuddled in their nest.

Narrator Three: Ryan and Brian soon fell asleep.

Narrator One: But Tulla was restless.

Narrator Two: When the moon rose high, Tulla scrambled from the nest.

Narrator Three: Light as a whisper, she skittered up her favorite hill.

Narrator One: She snuggled into a leaf and gazed up at the stars and the moon.

Narrator Two: Then she heard a loud snore.

St. Patrick: Zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz. (a bell by his side)

Narrator Three: She looked down the hill.

Narrator One: A man slept under a tree.

Narrator Two: A bell glowed at his side.

Narrator Three: Tulla's whiskers twitched.

Tulla: "Could that be St. Patrick and his miraculous bell?" (wonderment in her voice)

Narrator One: Snake slithered from the forest.

Narrator Two: He looked around and hissed,

Snake: "Hsssss. I'm hungry. Where's a little mouse?" (scary sounding)

Narrator Three: Tulla hid behind a mushroom and peeked out.

Narrator One: When Snake saw St. Patrick, he cried,

Snake: "Oh no! There's St. Patrick with his wicked bell. But I know how to escape him."

Narrator Two: Snake took a mouthful of grass.

Narrator Three: He slithered to the bell and poked the grass around the clapper.

Narrator One: When he finished, Snake slid his tail through the bell's handle and stole it away.

Snake: "Heh, heh. I've outsmarted St. Patrick again."

Narrator Two: Tulla had to save the bell!

Narrator Three: She followed Snake to his den.

Narrator One: Snake coiled around the bell and sleepily closed his eyes.

Snake: "I'll take a nap. Then I'll catch a mouse."

Narrator Two: Snake's tongue darted in and out.

Tulla: "Is he dreaming of mouse meat?" (sounding scared)

Narrator Three: Tulla darted back to her brothers.

Tulla: "Wake up! Snake stole St. Patrick's bell."

Ryan: "You had a nightmare."

Brian: "'Tis your imagination."

Ryan & Brian: "You're daft."

Tulla: "No! Get up. I have a plan."

Narrator One: Ryan and Brian followed Tulla to the hill.

Narrator Two: They looked down.

Narrator Three: St. Patrick snored under the tree. But no bell.

St. Patrick: “Zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz.”

Narrator One: Tulla led them to Snake's den and whispered her plan.

Narrator Two: The three mice scattered and gathered strong grasses.

Narrator Three: They braided a rope.

Tulla: “Now one of us must tie this rope to the bell's handle.”

Ryan: “You are the smallest.”

Brian: “And the lightest.”

Ryan & Brian: “And the quietest.”

Narrator One: Trembling, Tulla grabbed the rope with her teeth.

Narrator Two: She dragged it towards the bell.

Narrator Three: She started to loop the end of the rope through the bell's handle.

Narrator One: Snake's tongue darted out.

Snake: (darts tongue out)

Narrator Two: Tulla didn't move.

Narrator Three: Not a whisker.

Narrator One: Snake settled back to sleep.

Narrator Two: Tulla tied the rope.

Narrator Three: The three mice tugged the bell back to St. Patrick.

Narrator One: Blade by blade they removed the grass.

Narrator Two: Tulla was about to snatch the very last blade when Brian squeaked,

Brian: “Snake is coming!” (in a squeaky scared voice)

Narrator Three: Quick as a wink, Tulla clutched the bell's clapper and shouted,

Tulla: “Stand the bell up!”

Snake: “I've got to stop them!”

Narrator One: Snake slithered closer.

Narrator Two: Ryan and Brian pushed the bell upright.

Snake: “Hsssssss. You can't outsmart me.”

Narrator Three: Tulla swung on the clapper.

Narrators One, Two and Three: “BONG!”

Narrator One: St. Patrick sprang to his feet.

Narrator Two: Tulla scampered out as he snatched up the bell.

Narrator Three: Then St. Patrick rang his bell.

St. Patrick: “BONG! BONG! BONG!”

Narrator One: And drove that crafty, clever Snake to the sea.

Narrator Two: Ryan, Brian, and Tulla cheered as Snake slithered into the water and disappeared from Ireland forever.

Ryan, Brian, and Tulla: “Hip, hip, hurray!”

Narrator Three: And that is the tale of the three brave mice who helped St. Patrick drive the last snake from Ireland.

All Performers except Snake: “Hip! Hip! Hurray!”