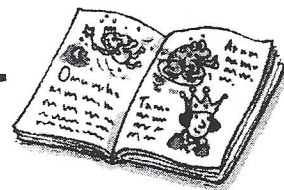




# -Teacher Page-



## History of the Tale

**T**he original story was “The Brementown Musicians,” told by the Brothers Grimm. It also features a donkey, dog, cat, and rooster. They are tired of life on the farm and feel underappreciated by their owners. The four set off to Brementown to make their fortunes as musicians. Along the way, they encounter a band of robbers. They scare them off with their singing.

The fractured version differs by having the animals become rappers. Another twist: they become famous recording artists, whereas the original Brementown musicians merely lived happily ever after.

## Vocabulary Boosters

This story contains several words that may be new to your class:

**feline (adj.):** 1) belonging to the broad cat family, which includes lions and tigers as well as house cats 2) catlike in style and behavior

**slink (verb):** to move in a careful, sneaky way

**loot (noun):** stuff of value, usually stolen

Discuss these words with your students and invite them to use each in a sentence.

## Discussion Starters

© Before they became rappers, the four animals were not respected on their farms. The farmers thought they were too old. Ask your students if they have encountered similar situations, in which other people did not believe in their abilities. What kinds of things can be done to shake things up? Is it good to try something new like the Brementown Rappers did?

© The four animals adopted nicknames when they became rappers. Inquire whether any of the students have nicknames. Do they like them? What’s the secret to coming up with a good nickname?

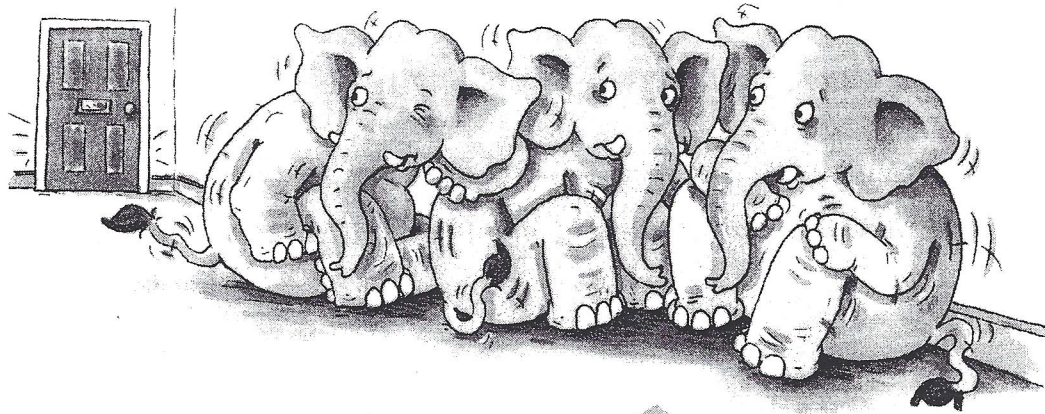
## Writing Prompts

© Think of some other rapper names for various animals. Write down rap songs these animals might sing.

© The story featured rapping farm animals. Imagine a different kind of animal adventure. Maybe a group of animals could form a football team or put on a play. Write about their adventure.

# -The Three Little Elephants-

(based on "The Three Little Pigs")



## Characters

Narrator  
Big Bad Mouse  
First Little Elephant

Second Little Elephant  
Third Little Elephant  
James the Butler

**Narrator:** Once upon a time, there were three little elephants who lived with their parents. When the elephants grew old enough, they went out into the world to live on their own.

The first little elephant built a small wooden shack. One day, there was a knock at the door.

**Big Bad Mouse:** Knock, knock, knock.

**First Elephant:** Who's there?

**Big Bad Mouse (in a tiny voice):** It's the Big Bad Mouse. Open up at once!

**First Elephant (can't hear the mouse):** Hello? Is anybody out there?



**Big Bad Mouse (in a tiny voice):** Let me in, let me in, let me in.

**First Elephant (muttering to self):** That's strange. Someone knocked on my door. But whoever it was, they seem to have gone away.

**Narrator:** The Big Bad Mouse was frustrated. So he wrote a note and slipped it under the elephant's door. It read:

Squeak, squeak, squeak. I'm the Big Bad Mouse.

I'll rip up your garden. I'll tear down your house.

I'll tug on your tail. I'll pull on your ears.

I'm mighty and mean. I'm the worst of your fears.

Later that day the elephant found the note.

**First Elephant (reading the note):** A Big Bad Mouse! Oh, no. I've never seen a mouse. But it sounds very scary. I imagine that it must be giant, much larger than an elephant. I'll bet it has big yellow eyes and long sharp teeth.

Oh, no! Help! There's a Big Bad Mouse on the loose! I must run away before it comes back to my house! I must run for my life!

**Narrator:** The elephant ran through the wooden shack, tripping over tables and bumping into chairs. The terrified elephant left through the back door and ran all the way to the second elephant's house.

The second elephant lived in a brick house. It was larger than the first elephant's wooden shack. It also had a doorbell, which the first elephant rang. Ring, ring!

**Second Elephant:** Hello? Who's there?

**First Elephant:** It's me. I am so scared. There's a mouse on the loose. Can I stay at your house? Please, please!

**Second Elephant:** A mouse! I've never seen a mouse. But it sounds very scary. I imagine that a mouse must be gigantic with a long tail and sharp claws. Come inside quickly and lock the door behind you.

**Narrator:** A few minutes passed. The two elephants sat in frightened silence. Suddenly, the doorbell rang.

The two elephants looked at each other and their terror grew. Who could it be?

**First Elephant:** I'm not answering it.

**Second Elephant:** Don't look at me. I'm not answering it either.

**Narrator:** The Big Bad Mouse kept ringing the bell, but no one answered. Finally, he grew frustrated and slipped a note under the door. It read:

Squeak, squeak, squeak. I'm the Big Bad Mouse.

I'll rip up your garden. I'll tear down your house.

I'll tug on your tail. I'll pull on your ears.

I'm mighty and mean. I'm the worst of your fears.

**Second Elephant (reading note):** Oh, no! This is terrifying! Now the Big Bad Mouse has come to my house.

**First Elephant:** Oh, no! What will we do? Where will we go?

**Second Elephant:** There's a gigantic, frightening, fierce mouse on the loose. Run! We must run for our lives!

**Narrator:** The two terrified elephants stumbled out of the house, tangling up their legs, and tripping over one another. They left through the back door of the house. They didn't stop running until they arrived at the third elephant's house.

The third elephant lived in an enormous mansion. It had a long driveway and a swimming pool.

The two elephants rang the doorbell and James the Butler answered. As soon as he opened the door, they ran past him, shouting and waving their arms wildly.

**First Elephant (out of breath):** Oh, my! Oh, no! It's horrible! It's terrifying!

**Second Elephant (out of breath):** Help us! Do something! Call for help! Call the police! Call the army!



**Third Elephant:** Get ahold of yourselves, both of you. Now slow down and tell me what you're so frightened of.

**First Elephant and Second Elephant:** A mouse!

**Third Elephant:** A mouse?! Why didn't you say so! I've never seen a mouse. But I imagine a mouse would be humongous, larger than this mansion. I think it might have scales and it might breathe fire.

**Narrator:** The three elephants huddled in fear. They remained very still, listening with extreme care.

After a few minutes, the doorbell rang.

**Third Elephant:** Don't answer it, James.

**James:** Why not, Master Elephant?

**Third Elephant:** It's a mouse, James! A humongous, terrifying, scaly, fire-breathing mouse!

**James:** Don't be ridiculous. Mice are tiny furry creatures that scurry about and eat seeds and berries.

**Narrator:** James went and opened the door. The three elephants were so frightened now that their eyes were popping out and their ears stood straight out from their heads.

**James:** Well, what have we here? A little tiny mouse.

**Big Bad Mouse (in a tiny voice):** Would you please deliver a message to the elephants? Please tell them:

Squeak, squeak, squeak. I'm the Big Bad Mouse.

I'll rip up your garden. I'll tear down your house.

I'll tug on your tails. I'll pull on your ears.

I'm mighty and mean. I'm the worst of your fears.

**James:** Elephants. Come here. You must face your foe. I must say, he is not especially scary.

**Narrator:** The three elephants walked very nervously toward the door. The first and second elephants were looking over the shoulder of the third elephant.

The three frightened elephants stared at the doorway, but no one appeared to be there besides James the Butler. They looked to the left. They looked to the right. They looked up. Then they looked down.

There, on the doorstep, stood a little tiny mouse.

**First Elephant:** But you're so small!

**Second Elephant:** We've never seen a mouse before.

**Third Elephant:** You're really not very frightening at all.

**Mouse (in a tiny Voice):** You're so huge. I did not know that this is the way you looked. You're very, very frightening. Eeeek, elephants!

**Narrator:** And with that, the mouse scampered into the woods. At last, the elephants had seen that a mouse was very small. They were never frightened of mice again. At last the mouse had learned that elephants are very large. The mouse never again threatened to rip up an elephant's garden or tear down an elephant's house. Everyone lived happily ever after.

★the end★



**Townspeople:** The Emperor's hair is long and thick and golden and wavy.

**Little Boy:** He doesn't have any hair.

**Townspeople:** And shiny! The Emperor's hair is very shiny.

**Little Boy (slightly louder):** He doesn't have any hair!

**Townspeople (begin to chant):** The Emperor's hair is fabulous! The Emperor's hair is fabulous!  
The Emperor's hair is fabulous!

**Little Boy (loudly):** Can't you people see? The Emperor doesn't have a hair on his head!

**Townspeople (gasping):** The Emperor doesn't have any hair!

**Twiddle, Twee, Imperial Hairdresser:** The Emperor doesn't have any hair!

**Emperor:** I don't have any hair!

**Narrator:** At first, the Emperor was embarrassed. But he was also glad that someone was honest enough to tell him. He called for the little boy to come out of the crowd.

**Emperor:** Little boy, you were the only one who was brave enough to tell me the truth.

**Little Boy:** Well, you are still very handsome, Emperor. You look cool without any hair.

**Emperor:** Thank you. That's very kind.

**Narrator:** The Emperor asked the little boy to walk beside him in the parade. The little boy became a trusted advisor and true friend to the Emperor. The Emperor stopped using magic hair-growth potions. He gave away his wigs to a family of traveling circus clowns.

From that point forward, the Emperor worked to run his empire kindly and wisely. No one cared that he didn't have any hair. In fact, most people thought he looked quite handsome. Twiddle and Twee even shaved their heads to look just like the Emperor.

★the end★

**Narrator:** The imperial hairdresser set to work with scissors and a comb. The haircut required many hours of snipping and clipping and fussing and worrying and blow-drying. But at last, the imperial hairdresser was finished.

**Imperial Hairdresser:** Well, what do you think?

**Emperor:** Maybe just a little more off the back.

**Narrator:** The imperial hairdresser carefully clipped the scissors near the back of the Emperor's head.

**Imperial Hairdresser:** Now what do you think?

**Emperor:** Perfect!

**Twiddle:** What a great style!

**Twee:** Everyone in the kingdom will want to get the same haircut.

**Imperial Hairdresser:** You look fabulous, Emperor, absolutely fabulous!

**Twiddle:** We should have a parade to show off your new hairstyle.

**Twee:** Yes, it will be inspiring for the people to see an emperor with hair that's so long and thick and golden and wavy and shiny.

**Narrator:** And so Twiddle and Twee arranged an elaborate parade. There were jugglers and soldiers and horses. At the tail end of the parade, the Emperor marched proudly. He wasn't wearing his crown. He wanted everyone to gaze at his wonderful new hairstyle.

As he passed through his empire, Twiddle, Twee, and the imperial hairdresser called out to the townspeople.

**Twiddle:** Everyone, behold the Emperor's new hair.

**Twee:** Look at how golden it is! Look at how thick it is!

**Imperial Hairdresser:** The Emperor looks fabulous! Have you ever seen such fabulousness?



**Emperor:** Tell me, trusted advisors, how do I look today? Is the potion working yet?

**Twiddle:** Is it working? Are you kidding? You have grown a thick head of beautiful hair.

**Twee:** Yes, your hair is thick and straight and brown...

**Twiddle:** Well, I would say it's more wavy than straight. And it's more golden than brown.

**Twee:** But you have a lot of it. It's thick, no question.

**Twiddle:** Yes, you can throw away your wigs. You don't need them anymore.

**Twee:** In fact, if I do say so myself, Emperor, you need a haircut.

**Emperor:** A haircut! How wonderful. My hair is long and thick and black and curly.

**Twee:** Actually, it's golden and wavy.

**Emperor:** So it is. It's long and thick and golden and wavy.

**Twiddle:** And shiny.

**Emperor:** And shiny. It's long and thick and golden and wavy and shiny, and I need a haircut. Fetch me the imperial hairdresser at once.

**Narrator:** Twiddle and Twee ran off to find the imperial hairdresser. When they found the hairdresser, they described the Emperor's new hair in great detail.

By now, they were so caught up in their lie that they completely believed it themselves. And soon, they had the imperial hairdresser convinced that the Emperor had long thick golden wavy hair that needed to be cut.

**Imperial Hairdresser:** Oh, Emperor, what a fine head of hair you have.

**Emperor (blushing):** Thank you, thank you. Right now, there's a bit too much of it. It's just a little too long and thick and golden and wavy and shiny.

**Imperial Hairdresser:** It will be a pleasure to trim it. I will make you look fabulous!

I want to offer you the very first batch. It's called Hair Today Magic Potion. It's just \$19.99. And wait! That's not all! If you buy Hair Today Magic Potion, I will also throw in a free comb.

**Emperor (touching his wig):** Why would I need it? As you can see, I have a full head of hair.

**Salesperson:** Yes, your hair is very nice indeed. But perhaps you have a friend who could use this potion. I used to be bald myself. And as you can see, I grew plenty of new hair thanks to Hair Today Magic Potion.

**Emperor:** I'll take a hundred bottles. It's for my bald friend, of course.

**Narrator:** The Emperor began using Hair Today Magic Potion. Each night before he went to bed, he'd take off his wig and put three drops on his very shiny head.

Each morning, he'd talk to his two advisors, Mr. Twiddle and Mr. Twee. They were the only people the Emperor trusted. He'd ask them if the Hair Today Magic Potion was working.

Mr. Twiddle and Mr. Twee wanted to make the Emperor happy. They wanted to keep their jobs. So they told the Emperor what they believed he wanted to hear.

**Emperor:** What do you think, my trusted advisors, Twiddle and Twee? Do you think the potion is working?

**Twiddle:** Oh, I do. I definitely notice a difference.

**Twee:** Yes, you are starting to grow just a few hairs.

**Emperor:** Only a few?

**Twee:** Well, when I say a few, I mean, like, maybe twenty.

**Twiddle:** Or maybe fifty. They're very nice-looking hairs, I might add.

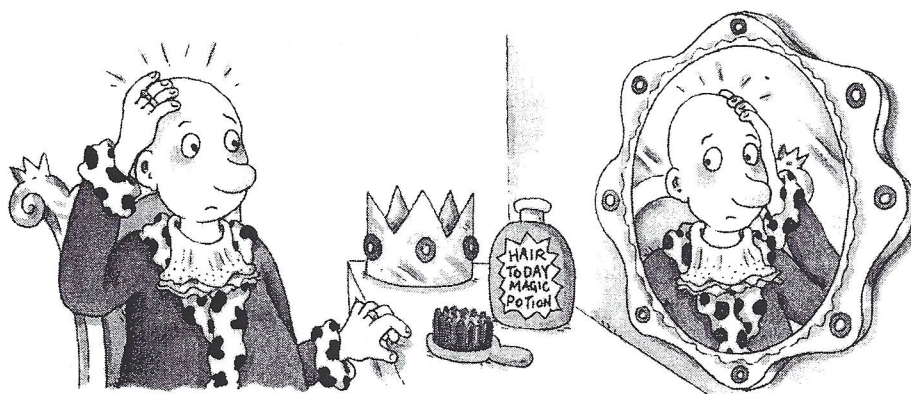
**Emperor:** Yes. I see them, too.

**Narrator:** The Emperor continued to use the potion. And his two trusted advisors continued to tell him that the potion was working. As the days went by, they began to tell more and more extravagant lies to the Emperor. Soon they even began to believe the lies themselves.



# -The Emperor's New Hair-

(based on "The Emperor's New Clothes")



## Characters

Narrator

Emperor

Traveling Salesperson

Mr. Twiddle

Mr. Twee

Imperial Hairdresser

Townspeople

Little Boy

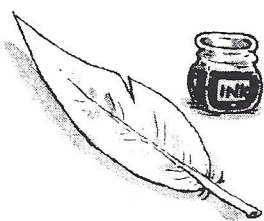
**Narrator:** Once there was a very powerful emperor. He ruled over a huge land. But there was something that he was secretly embarrassed about. He didn't have one single hair on his head.

The Emperor felt that he needed to wear wigs. He had more than a hundred of them in a special closet. They were the finest wigs and could easily be mistaken for real hair.

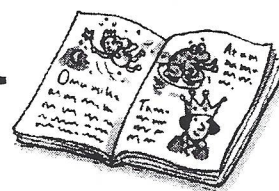
One day a traveling salesperson showed up at the Emperor's castle with a very unusual product.

**Emperor:** What are you selling today? Make it quick, because I have a huge empire to run.

**Salesperson:** Oh, great Emperor, I have traveled here today with an amazing new product.



# -Teacher Page-



## History of the Tale

**S**piderella is based on “Cinderella,” a fairy tale popularized by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, better known as the Brothers Grimm. They were German storytellers who lived during the 1800s. In the original, Cinderella is forced to do the bidding of two cruel stepsisters. They attend a ball thrown by a prince and Cinderella is left behind to do chores. Cinderella’s fairy godmother appears. She waves her wand, creating a pair of glass slippers for Cinderella and transforming a pumpkin into a carriage.

Cinderella attends the ball and she and the Prince fall in love. But as in *Spiderella*, Cinderella must be home by midnight. She races out of the ball, leaving a glass slipper behind. The next day, the Prince travels through the countryside searching for the owner of the glass slipper. He discovers that it fits Cinderella, and they live happily ever after.

## Vocabulary Boosters

This story contains several words that may be new to your class:

**dainty** (adj.): delicate and pretty

**pantry** (noun): a small room, used for storing food

**tiara** (noun): a crown worn on special occasions, such as balls

Discuss these words with your students and invite them to use each in a sentence.

## Discussion Starters

© Spiderella had a Fairy Godmoth. Ask students what they would do if they had a Fairy Godmother. What wish would they want granted?

© The two Ladybug Stepsisters were unfair toward Spiderella. Ask your students if they have encountered situations in which they were treated unfairly. What is the best way to respond in such situations?

## Writing Prompts

© The original fairy tale “Cinderella” features a ball. Spiderella features a Bug Ball. Dream up a strange party and write about it. It can be a zoo formal with all the penguins in tuxedos. Or it could be a dinosaur dance! Have fun and let your imagination run wild.

© Because spiders have eight legs, Spiderella had to wear eight tiny glass slippers. What are some other things fairy tale spiders might have to wear—pants with eight legs? How would a spider ride a bicycle? Would it catch a ball using its web? Write a fairy tale about a spider, and remember: everything that you do with two arms and two legs, a spider has to do with eight legs.



**Prince:** Well, nobody's perfect. Look at you, Rafunzel! You need a haircut! Your hair is all full of ribbons and bird's nests and climbers and old hound dogs and bumble bees!

**Rafunzel (Furious):** Well, I never!

**Prince (Furious):** I'm outta hair. I mean... I'm outta here.

**Narrator:** The Prince turned to leave. But suddenly he was struck by an idea.

**Prince:** Hey, we may not be perfect. I'm twisted in ribbon, pecked by birds, soaked in tea, covered in dog slobber, and my eye is swollen shut from a bee sting. And your hair is full of ribbons and bird's nests and climbers and hound dogs and bumble bees. Don't you see, Rafunzel? We're perfect for each other!

I love you. Please say you'll marry me.

**Rafunzel (sadly):** I would, my prince. But how can we both escape from this tower?

**Narrator:** The Prince realized it was true. He could climb back down Rafunzel's hair. But how could they both escape together? To comfort Rafunzel, the Prince began to stroke her long blond hair.

It was then that he found yet another thing tangled in her hair. It was a key!

**Prince:** What's this?

**Rafunzel:** The key! I've been looking for that for seven years! We're free! We're free!

**Narrator:** The Prince and Rafunzel unlocked the door and walked down the stairs of the tower.

And so our story ends. The ribbon-tied, bird-pecked, tea-soaked, dog-slobbered, bee-stung Prince and the very nice, very clever, very pretty, very funny, and very good at Ping-Pong Rafunzel with long blond hair full of ribbons and birds nests and climbers and old hound dogs and bumble bees got married and lived happily ever after.

★the end★

pretty. He climbed a little higher and met an old hound dog.

**Old Hound Dog:** Wag, wag, wag; lickety, lickety, lickety.

**Prince:** Good doggie. No. Good doggie. Uh... stop.

**Old Hound Dog (licking the Prince's face):** Slurp, slurp, slurp.

**Narrator:** The Prince got away from the old hound dog. He continued to climb up Rafunzel's long blond hair. But now the Prince was coated in dog slobber, soaked in tea, pecked by a bird, and twisted in pink ribbon. Still, the Prince had heard that Rafunzel was very nice and very clever and very pretty and very funny. He climbed a little higher and ran into a bumble bee, attracted by the scent of Rafunzel's luxuriant hair.

**Bumble Bee:** Buzz, buzz buzz. Sting! Sting! Sting!

**Prince (in pain):** Eek! Eyah! Argh!

**Narrator:** The Prince hurried away from the bumble bee. He continued to climb up Rafunzel's long blond hair. But now the Prince had one eye swollen shut from a bee sting, was coated in dog slobber, soaked in tea, pecked by a bird, and twisted in pink ribbon. Still, the Prince had heard that Rafunzel was very nice and very clever and very pretty and very funny and very good at Ping-Pong.

At last he got to the top of the tower.

**Prince:** Rafunzel, I am here to rescue you and take you away.

**Narrator:** The Prince ran to Rafunzel and bent down on one knee.

**Prince:** Oh, dearest Rafunzel, will you be my wife? I am a prince and we shall live in my castle and be happy together.

**Rafunzel:** A prince! You're a mess! You're twisted in pink ribbon. You have bird peck marks on your cheeks! There's tea all over your shirt! You have dog slobber dripping from your face! And your eye's swollen shut from a bumble bee sting!

**Narrator:** The Prince continued to climb up Rafunzel's long blond hair. But now the Prince was twisted in pink ribbon. Still, the Prince had heard that Rafunzel was very nice. He climbed a little higher and found that a mother bird had built a nest in Rafunzel's hair. The mother bird was tending three tiny chicks.

**Mother Bird (angry):** Peck, peck, peck.

**Three Chicks (hungry):** Chirp, chirp, chirp; chirp, chirp, chirp.

**Prince (getting pecked):** Ouch! Ouch! Ouch!

**Narrator:** The Prince escaped from the angry mother bird. He continued to climb up Rafunzel's long blond hair. But now the Prince had been pecked by a bird and was twisted in pink ribbon. Still, the Prince had heard Rafunzel was very nice and very clever. He climbed a little higher and ran into another climber, hanging on to Rafunzel's hair for dear life.

**Climber:** Hello, there.

**Prince (surprised):** Who are you?

**Climber:** I am a fellow climber. It is a long way to the top, I'm afraid. I have grown weary. I've stopped for a snack. Say, can I offer you a cup of tea?

**Prince:** Yes. That would be nice.

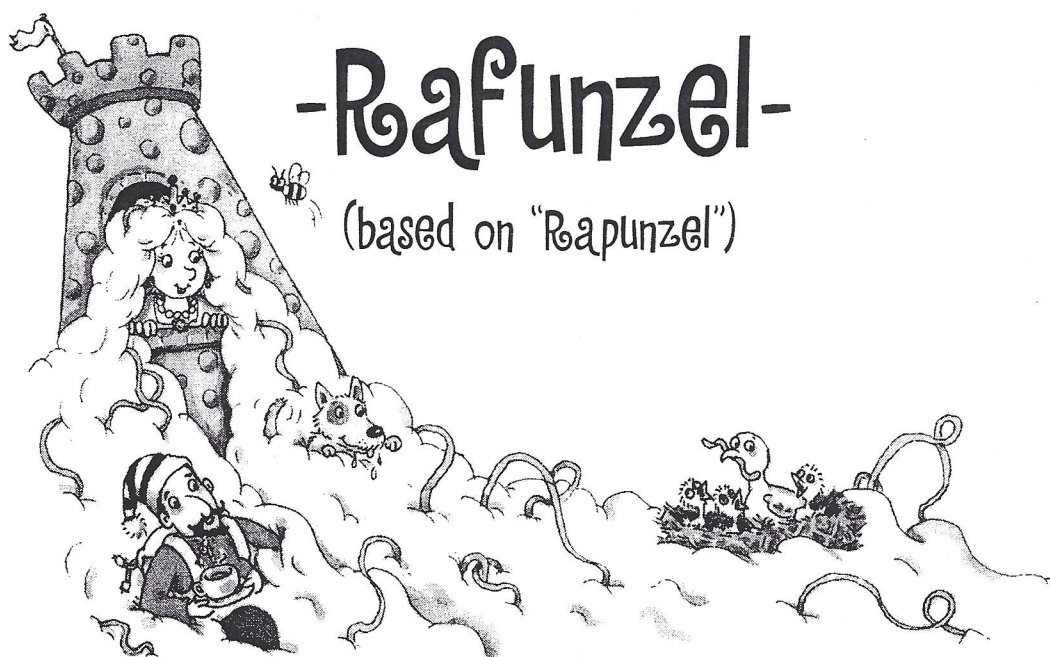
**Climber:** Jolly good. Here you are, then.

**Prince (spilling the tea on his shirt):** Oops! It's hard to drink tea and hang on to Rafunzel's hair at the same time.

**Climber:** Indeed it is, old chap, indeed it is. Well, best of luck to you.

**Narrator:** The Prince bid farewell to the other climber. He continued to scale Rafunzel's long blond hair. But now the Prince was soaked in tea, pecked by a bird, and twisted in pink ribbon. Still, the Prince had heard Rafunzel was very nice and very clever and very





# -Rafunzel-

(based on "Rapunzel")

## Characters

Narrator  
Prince  
Mother Bird  
Three Chicks

Climber  
Old Hound Dog  
Bumble Bee  
Rafunzel

**Narrator:** There once was a woman named Rafunzel. She was the nicest person in all the land. A wicked witch locked her away in a room at the top of a tall tower. Year after year, Rafunzel grew her blond hair until it was as long as the tower was high.

A brave prince had heard that Rafunzel was trapped in the tower. One day, the Prince rode his horse to the tower and called up to Rafunzel.

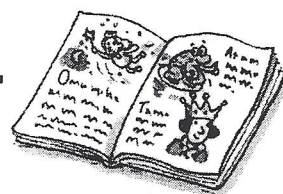
**Prince:** Rafunzel! Rafunzel! Throw down your hair, so I may climb your golden stair!

**Narrator:** Rafunzel threw down her hair. The Prince began to climb. But very soon he got tangled in a long pink ribbon.

**Prince (trying to tear off the ribbon):** Oh, drat!



# -Teacher Page-



## History of the Tale

**T**he original tale is “The Little Red Hen.” The Little Red Hen tries to persuade her lazy friends—Dog, Cat, and Duck—to help make some bread. She can’t convince them to help with the planting or gathering of wheat or with the baking. But when it comes time to eat the bread, they are ready to help. Because she had to do all the work by herself, the Little Red Hen decides she will also eat the bread by herself. In this fractured version, the Little Red Robin tries to convince Dog, Cat, and Duck to help her prepare a banana split. In contrast to the original tale, she shares her dessert with the other animals, but also teaches them a valuable lesson.

## Vocabulary Boosters

This story contains several words that may be new to your class:

**ingredient (noun):** one of the items that goes into a mixture

**whip up (verb, slang):** to make or create something

**proceeded (verb):** moved forward with an action or activity

Discuss these words with your students and invite them to use each in a sentence.

## Discussion Starters

© The Little Red Robin tries to convince Dog, Cat, and Duck to help her make a banana split. But they don’t want to help. Is it hard to convince people to do things they don’t want to do?

© The Little Red Robin teaches Dog, Cat, and Duck a valuable lesson. It’s important to share work, so that nobody has to do all of it. What would the world be like if some people did all the work and some people did absolutely nothing?

## Writing Prompts

© Is there something that’s a special favorite of yours? It can be anything—a song or a movie or a type of food. Write about why you like this particular thing. Make your description interesting so that others will want to give it a try.

© Dream up a daffy dish such as gumball soup or pizza with absolutely everything. Think of as many strange ingredients as you can and write down a recipe.



**Dog:** Pant, pant, pant. Pant, pant, pant.

**Popsicle Boy:** You can slobber and howl till you're 103.  
I'm the Popsicle Boy and you'll never catch me.

**Narrator:** Popsicle Boy had outrun everyone in the playground: the little baby, the jump-rope girl, the boy on the bike, and the dog. He was free at last.

He walked through the city for a while. Then he got on a bus. He rode out to the beach, where he lay down in the sand.

**Popsicle Boy:** I will lie on this beach till I'm 103.  
I'm the Popsicle Boy. No one will ever catch me.

**Narrator:** Popsicle Boy lay on the beach. The hot sun beat down on him. For a while, he enjoyed it. He thought perhaps he'd get a good tan. But then he began to notice that something very strange was happening to him.

**Popsicle Boy:** Please, oh, please. Somebody help me!  
I'm the Popsicle Boy and I'm melting quickly.  
Oh, me, oh, my. Won't someone save me!  
I'm a Popsicle Boy. I'll be wasted, you see!

**Narrator:** All afternoon, the sun kept shining brightly. All afternoon, Popsicle Boy melted away. By the end of the day, all that was left of him was his stick, which was stuck in the middle of a bright orange pool.

★the end★



**Narrator:** The Popsicle Boy began to run through the playground. A girl who was jumping rope saw him and licked her lips hungrily.

**Jump-Rope Girl:** It's my lucky day! I'm tired from jumping rope. But here comes an orange Popsicle running right toward me.

**Narrator:** Popsicle Boy was running very fast now and he ran right past the jump-rope girl.

**Jump-Rope Girl:** Wait! Stop! It's so hot, and you look so cool and tasty.

**Popsicle Boy:** You can jump double Dutch till you're 103.  
I'm the Popsicle Boy and you'll never catch me.

**Narrator:** There was a boy riding his bike around the playground. He was hot and tired, too. When he saw Popsicle Boy he was sure he could catch him on his bike.

**Boy on Bike:** That has to be the fastest-moving Popsicle I have ever seen. But it's also my favorite flavor—orange. There's no way he can outrun my bike.

**Narrator:** By now, Popsicle Boy was streaking through the playground at tremendous speed. The boy on the bike could not keep up.

**Boy on Bike (pedaling hard):** Wait! Hold on! No fair! It's so hot, and you look delicious!

**Popsicle Boy:** You can pedal around till you're 103.  
I'm the Popsicle Boy and you'll never catch me.

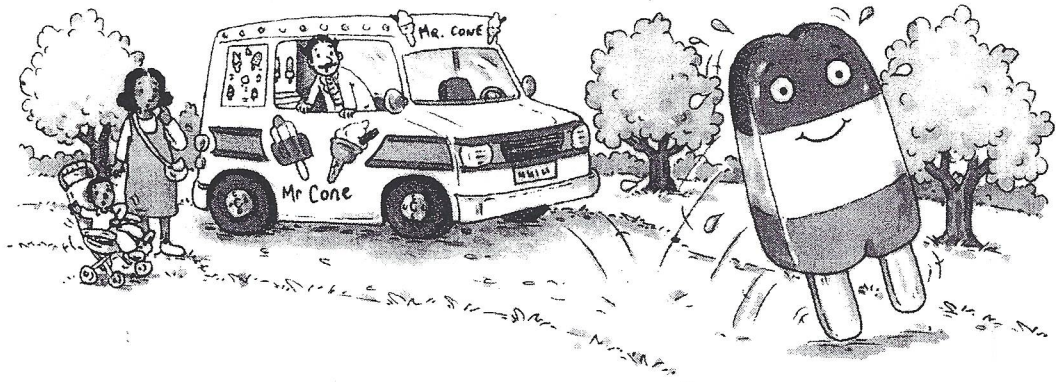
**Narrator:** Popsicle Boy had run almost to the end of the playground. Suddenly, he was spotted by a dog. The dog began to chase after Popsicle Boy.

**Dog:** Woof, woof, woof! Woof, woof, woof!

**Narrator:** The dog got the closest to Popsicle Boy of anyone. In fact, the dog got close enough to take one big slurp. But then even the dog could not keep up. It stopped running and started to pant underneath the hot sun.

# -The Popsicle Boy-

(based on "The Gingerbread Man")



## Characters

Narrator  
Little Baby  
Popsicle Boy

Jump-Rope Girl  
Boy on Bike  
Dog

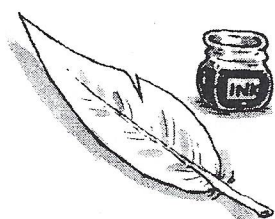
**Narrator:** It was the middle of a very hot summer. Each day, Mr. Cone parked his ice cream truck near a busy playground. Kids were everywhere. They loved to buy ice cream and other treats from Mr. Cone's truck.

One day, a woman asked for an orange Popsicle for her little baby. Mr. Cone reached into his freezer and pulled one out. To everyone's surprise, just as Mr. Cone was handing the Popsicle to the lady, it started to move. It was Popsicle Boy! Popsicle Boy wriggled free, jumped down from the truck, and started to run away.

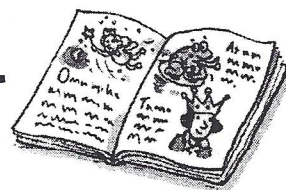
**Little Baby (crying and reaching out):** Wah, wah, mine. My pasittle. My pasittle. Wah, wah.

**Popsicle Boy:** You can whimper and whine till you're 103.  
I'm the Popsicle Boy and you'll never catch me.





# -Teacher Page-



## History of the Tale

**T**he Three Little Pigs” is a traditional folktale. The tale was passed along for many years by oral tradition before anyone bothered to write it down. Even so, there is no definitive telling, credited to an author such as Hans Christian Andersen. Instead, a huge variety of versions are to be found in various collections of children’s stories. But most versions agree on the major points. Three little pigs are harassed by a big bad wolf. The wolf blows down a straw house and a house of sticks before the pigs are able to find safety in a brick house. By contrast, this fractured version presents three elephants harassed by one very small mouse. They move to larger and larger houses until they are forced to confront the object of their terror.

## Vocabulary Boosters

This story contains several words that may be new to your class:

**fierce (adj.):** very tough and very mean

**humongous (adj.):** very, very large

**foe (noun):** an enemy

Discuss these words with your students and invite them to use each in a sentence.

## Discussion Starters

© Elephants are rumored to be afraid of mice. Do you think this is true? Do you have any ideas or theories about why an elephant would be afraid of such a small creature?

© In the story, three huge elephants are afraid of one tiny mouse. But once they actually see the mouse, they aren’t scared anymore. Do you think that people often behave in a similar fashion? Are people often scared of things that they don’t understand?

## Writing Prompts

© In the story, the three elephants lived in three different types of houses – a small wooden shack, a large brick house, and a mansion. What types of things do you think would be inside an elephant’s home? Choose one of the three houses from the story and describe it in detail.

© Everything is the opposite in this fractured fairy tale. The elephants are big and frightened. The mouse is small and brave. Write a story full of opposites: tiny mountains, huge raindrops, friendly wolves, or mean bunnies.