

## Fairy Tale Reader's Theater: **The Elves and the Shoemaker**



**Reader Roles:** Narrator, Shoemaker, Shoemaker's wife, Customer 1, Customer 2, Elf 1, Elf 2

### Scene 1 (at the shoemaker's home)

**Narrator:** Once there lived a poor shoemaker. The shoemaker was so poor that he could only buy leather for one pair of shoes at a time to make shoes for his shop.

**Shoemaker's wife:** It's very late, darling. Are you going to finish those shoes tonight?

**Shoemaker:** (*sadly*) No, I don't have enough time. And I was so hoping to have a pair to sell when we opened in the morning. Oh, well. I will finish the shoes tomorrow morning as quickly as I can.

**Shoemaker's wife:** You may be able to finish them in time to sell tomorrow. Have hope, and let's go to bed, dear.

### Scene 2 (at the shoemaker's shop)

**Narrator:** The next morning, when the shoemaker and his wife came downstairs, a wonderful surprise waited for them.

**Shoemaker:** Wow! It's a miracle! The shoes — they're finished!

**Shoemaker's wife:** (*surprised*) I can't believe this!

**Narrator:** That day, a customer came into the shoemaker's shop.

**Customer 1:** Those shoes are beautiful. I'll take them.

**Shoemaker:** Thank you, madam. Please come back again.

**Narrator:** The shoemaker sold the beautiful shoes and bought more leather with the money: enough for two pairs of shoes!

**Shoemaker:** I'll only have time to finish one pair today.

**Shoemaker's wife:** That's all right. We can open with one pair of shoes, and you may finish the second before the end of the day.

**Narrator:** The next morning when they came downstairs, another wonderful surprise waited for them.

**Shoemaker's wife:** Did you work in the middle of the night to finish the second pair of shoes?

**Shoemaker:** No, I didn't! It's another miracle. We have TWO pairs of shoes to sell in the shop today!

**Shoemaker's wife:** Imagine if we could sell two pairs in one day! Where are they coming from?

**Shoemaker:** I don't know, but I'm grateful.

**Narrator:** A customer entered the shop as soon as the shoemaker opened the door.

**Customer 2:** Oh, these are lovely shoes! I want to buy them.

**Shoemaker:** Of course. Thank you very much, sir.

**Customer 2:** And those shoes there will fit my wife! They look great! I'll take both pairs of shoes, please.

**Narrator:** The shoemaker sold the shoes straight away. Months passed in this way. Each day, the shoemaker bought more leather. And next morning, he and his wife found new, completed shoes. Soon, the shoemaker was rich.

**Shoemaker's wife:** We must find out who is helping us! We must find a way to thank them for turning our lives around!

**Shoemaker:** You're right! Let's stay up one night and find out who it is.

**Narrator:** So, one night the shoemaker and his wife hid and waited. At midnight, two tiny elves jumped in through the window. They had ragged jackets and bare feet.

**Elf 1:** Here's some new leather!

**Elf 2:** Let's make shoes! Hurry!

**Narrator:** As quick as a flash, the elves made the leather into beautiful shoes.

**Elf 1:** I'm finished.

**Elf 2:** Me too. Let's leave now.

**Narrator:** Then they disappeared. The shoemaker and his wife were very surprised.

**Shoemaker:** They are so small. How do they work so quickly and make such beautiful shoes?

**Shoemaker's wife:** We must do something for the elves. I will make them some warm clothes to say thank you.

**Shoemaker:** And I will make them new shoes with some of the leather scraps!

**Narrator:** The shoemaker and his wife left the new clothes and shoes on the table and waited until midnight.

**Shoemaker's wife:** Here they come, dear.

**Shoemaker:** Shhhh!

**Elf 1:** Look! There are tiny, beautiful shoes here!

**Elf 2:** And there are tiny, beautiful clothes, too. Let's try them on.

**Elf 1:** These new clothes and shoes fit perfectly.

**Elf 2:** And they are so warm.

**Narrator:** Then the elves danced for joy and skipped out of the window. They never came back, but the shoemaker and his wife lived happily ever after!

**THE END**

