

The Mitten

Ukrainian Winter Fairy Tale

Photos of the puppet theatre of the curative centre Phoenix.



A bunny came up and asked: "Well, who lives in that mitten-house?" "We are Nibbles, the little mouse, and Leapy, the little frog; and who are you?" "I am Speedy, the bunny rabbit. Please, let me in!" "Come on in." So they were three. A little fox tiptoed by and asked, "Well, who lives in that mitten-house?" "We are Nibbles, the little mouse, Leapy, the little frog, and Speedy, the bunny rabbit. And who are you?" "I am Hunter, the little fox!" Then the four of them crouched in the mitten. A little wolf trotted by, stopped in front of the mitten and asked: "Well, who lives in the mitten?" "We are Nibbles, the little mouse, Leapy, the little frog, Speedy, the bunny rabbit, and Hunter, the little fox. And who are you?" "I'm the little wolf Rufflehead. Let me in!" "Come on in!" He crawled in too, and there were five of



them. A boar pattered along. "Well, who lives in that mitten-house? " "We are Nibbles, the little mouse, Leapy, the little frog, Speedy, the bunny rabbit, Hunter, the little fox, and the little Wolf Rufflehead. And who are you?" "I'm Sniffy, the boar. Please, let me in!" It was terrible, everyone wanted to live in the mitten! "But you don't fit in anymore!" "It'll be all right, just move a little bit!" "If you must, crawl in!"

The boar crawled in, too. Now there were six. Oh my! It was so tight, they could neither turn nor move! Then suddenly one heard the twigs crack, and a bear came along. He also approached the mitten. "Well, who lives in that mitten-house?" "We are Nibbles, the little mouse, Leapy, the little frog, Speedy, the bunny rabbit, Hunter, the little fox, the little Wolf Rufflehead, and Sniffy, the boar. And who are you? " "Growl, growl, growl, growl, there's a lot of you in there alright. I am Father Bear. Please, let me in!" "How could we let you in? It is already more than crowded in here". "Well, it'll be okay." "Then come in, but only with one hind leg." And the bear crawled in, and there were seven of them, but they sat so close together that the mitten burst at the seams.



In the meantime, the old man realized that he had lost a mitten. He turned around and went looking for it. But the puppy leaped ahead. It ran and ran and saw the mitten on the ground, moving. Then the puppy barked: "Woof, woof, woof!" The animals were frightened, tumbled out, took to their heels and ran into the forest. And then the old man came and picked up the mitten.



The story comes from the curative school Phoenix, Kharkiv, Ukraine.

The Phoenix School was founded 10 years ago, as the first school of curative education in Ukraine. Children with severe or multiple severe disabilities attend this school. Through the lessons, they get the opportunity to learn and with the help of numerous artistic projects as well as other activities, such as excursions or concerts and plays, they can experience themselves as full members of society. The Phoenix School does not receive any state support and depends on donations from parents and friends.



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