

The Elves and the Shoemaker – Lesson Guide



Book List:

1. The Kingfisher Book of Fairy Tales by, Vivian French
2. The Elves and the Shoemaker by, Bernadette Watts
3. The Elves and the Shoemaker by, Jim LaMarche
4. Grimm's Fairy Tales – audio CD
5. Five-Minute Fairy Tales (Disney)

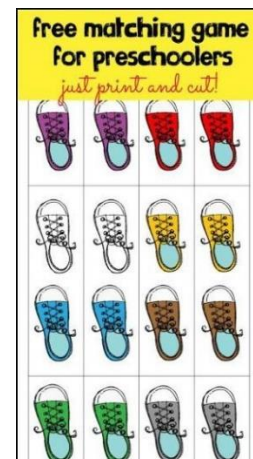
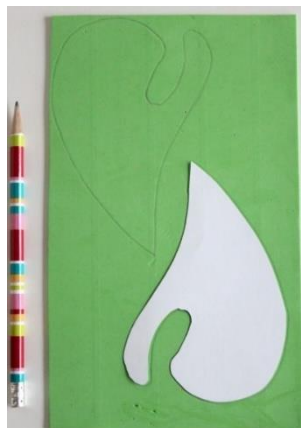
Videos:

Muppet Classic Theater - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rROeBdojVE&t=5s> (Kermit the Frog as the shoemaker and a trio of Elvses as the Elves)

Sesame Street News Flash - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3S8QPbJ6AI> (Kermit interviews the elves and the shoemaker)

Activities:

1. Color/ Trace worksheet
2. Shoe matching game - https://www.messforless.net/free-shoe-matching-game-for-preschoolers/#_a5y_p=3882998
3. Make some elf ears
4. Shadow Puppet Theater (cut-outs below)



The Elves and the Shoemaker

A retelling of the Grimm's Fairy Tale

By, Kendra Bott



Once upon a time lived a shoemaker and his wife. Together they made charming, comfortable shoes and sold them at a very low price. They wanted to make sure even the poorest people in the village could have shoes. Unfortunately, this made the shoemaker and his wife poor as well.

One day he found that he had only enough leather to make one more pair of shoes. They didn't have money to buy more leather.

"My dear, I will cut the leather for the shoes tonight, but the sewing will have to wait until morning," he told his wife.

After a supper of cabbage stew, they went to bed.

While the shoemaker and his wife slept, three little elves crept into the workshop.

"We should help the shoemaker. He's such a kind man," one elf said.

"I agree," said another.

The elves took the cut leather and sewed it into the shape of two magnificent shoes fit for a duke.

When the shoemaker woke and went down to his workshop he called to his wife.

"Dear! Look! Someone has already sewn the shoes. And they are magnificent!"

"They are indeed," agreed his wife. "Look at the tiny, perfect stitches. Exquisite work."

A gentleman appeared at the door of the shop just then.

"I need to purchase some shoes, please."

The shoemaker presented the only pair he had to the gentleman. He tried them on and declared them perfect.

"They are so comfortable and more beautiful than I've ever seen. I will pay you double."

The shoemaker and his wife were astonished. Not only had they shoes been magically sewn in the middle of the night, but this gentleman loved them so much he paid double the price. The shoemaker and his wife now had enough money now to buy food for a few days and enough leather to make two pairs of shoes.



That night the shoemaker cut the leather in the pattern for shoes and went to bed. He planned to finish the shoes in the morning.

Once again the shoemaker woke up and went down to his shop to sew the leather, but found that it had already been done! Two pairs of well-crafted, lady's shoes were sitting on his work table. The shoemaker studied the intricate stitching and practiced it himself on some scrap materials.

Ring! Ring! The shop door opened and a lady with her daughter walked in.

"My brother told me you made beautiful shoes here."

The shoemaker showed the lady the two new pairs of shoes he had and helped her and her daughter try them on. They fit perfectly.

"Amazing!" the lady said, and handed the shoemaker double the price he had asked for.

The shoemaker took the money to market and purchased food for several days as well as enough leather to make at least four more pairs of shoes. That night he cut the leather as before and went to bed. But this night he told his wife they should stay awake and find out who was coming in the shop in the middle of the night, sewing the shoes.

The clock bonged midnight and the shoemaker heard scuffling downstairs. He and his wife crept down silently and peered through the shop door.

On the work table were three small men with pointy ears, one holding the leather together, one threading the needle through the material, and the other cutting the trim.

"Elves!" the shoemaker gasped.

"Oh dear," his wife said. "look at their clothes." For the clothes the elves wore were tattered and dirty. "I will make them some new, warm clothes. It's the least we can do to thank them."

"Just right dear," said the shoemaker. "And I will make them each a belt and a pair of shoes to go with the new clothes."

In the morning, four pairs of magnificent shoes were waiting to be sold in the shoemaker's shop. And they did get sold, for the gentleman and the lady had spread the word about the wonderful shoes they bought.

The shoemaker went out early to buy more material and spent all afternoon practicing the delicate sewing just like the elves had done. He worked late into the night, and had proudly made several pairs of shoes almost as beautiful as the elves had made. He also finished the belts and shoes for the elves while his wife sewed new outfits for them.

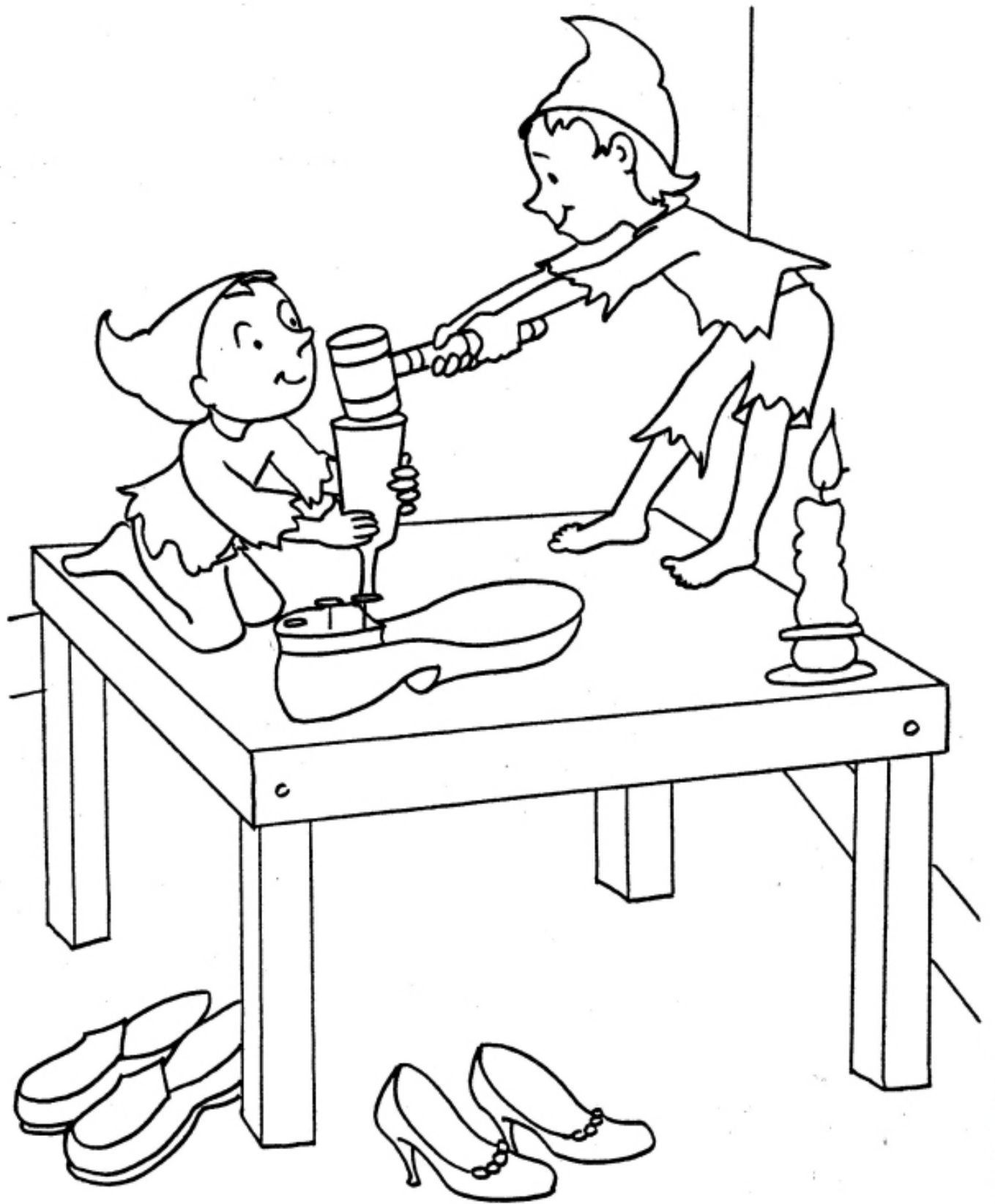
After the clock chimed midnight, the shoemaker and his wife hid behind the door to watch the elves find their presents.

When the three little men walked into the shop they spotted the new outfits right away. They squealed and giggled with delight and put on the new clothes. The elves skipped out of the shoemaker's shop singing praises for their beautiful new clothes.

In the months that followed, the shoemaker perfected his stitching and made the best shoes in the country. People from all over came to his shop to buy shoes. The shoemaker and his wife were always grateful to the elves that helped them.

The End



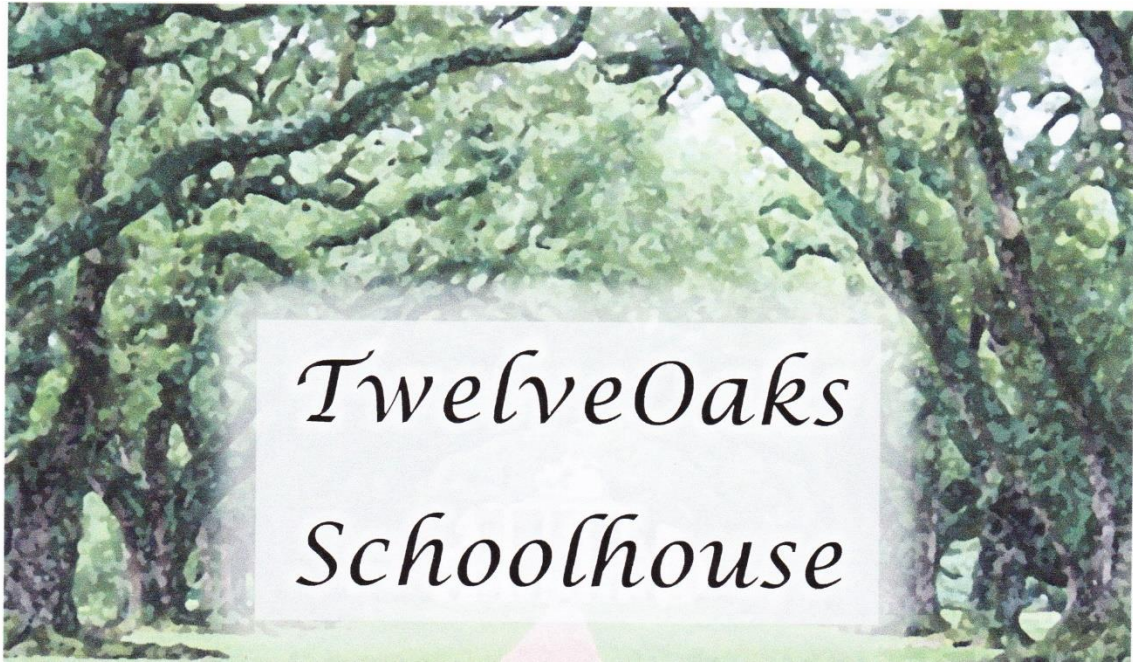


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Shadow Puppet Theater - The Elves and the Shoemaker

Print on cardstock, cut out, paste characters to craft sticks. Use them in a shadow theater to tell the story.





Feature Stories and Fairy Tales ~ The Elves and the Shoemaker

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Kendra Bott