

TRACE

**Traditional Children's Stories for a Common
Future**

The Old Man's Mitten



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Once upon a time, there was a grey-headed old man. Once during the cold winter he drove to the woods to gather firewood. All of a sudden, he decided to smoke his pipe.

While the old man was looking in his breast pocket for his pipe, tobacco and the lighter, he lost one mitten. The fly, running away from the bitter cold, noticed the mitten, got into it and started dancing for joy.

The mouse, running away from the bitter cold, ran down to the mitten and asked, "Who is it, who is dancing in the mitten?"

"I myself, the queen of the flies. But who are you? "

"I'm the Mouse Squeak-squeak. Please, let me in to get warm!"

"Well, crawl in and get warm!" The little mouse got into the mitten and they both with the fly started dancing.

The rabbit, running away from the bitter cold, saw the mitten, ran nearer and asked, "Who is dancing in that mitten?"

"It's me - the Fly-queen, and the Mouse Squeak-squeak. But who are you? "

"I'm the Rabbit White-tail. Please, let me in to get warm!"

"Very good, crawl in and get warm!" Rabbit got into the mitten and all three of them started dancing.

The wolf, running away from the bitter cold, saw the mitten, ran nearer and asked, "Who is dancing in that mitten?"

"It's me - the Fly-queen, the Mouse Squeak-squeak and the Rabbit White-tail. But who are you? "

"I'm the Wolf Blunt-ear. Let me in to get warm!"

"Very good, crawl in and get warm!" The wolf got into the mitten and all four started dancing.

The bear, running away from the bitter cold, saw the mitten, ran nearer and asked, "Who is dancing in that mitten?"

"It's me - the Fly-queen, the Mouse Squeak-squeak, the Rabbit White-tail and the Wolf Blunt-ear. But who are you? "

"I'm the big Bear Shaggy-hair. Let me in to get warm!"

"Very good, crawl in and get warm!" The bear got into the mitten and all five started dancing in the mitten.

Now, all of a sudden, the cock was passing by and started his song: "Cock-a-doodle-doo, let's run quickly now, all of you!"

The dancers got scared and everyone started to break out of the mitten with all its might. The Fly flew to the king's castle, the mouse ran to the potato cellar, the rabbit - into the oat field, the wolf - into the bush, but the bear ran into the forest. While running away, they tore to pieces the old man's mitten. And so the old man is walking with only one mitten until this day.