

Lights up, and introductory music begins. The NARRATOR stands center, holding a picture book. S/he sings, turning pages now and then.

NARRATOR

Gather 'round, gather near, for I have got a story!

(S/he waits, looking around expectantly)

Gather 'round, gather near, for I have got a story!

A story!

Two CHILDREN, and BOY and a GIRL, run in, excited at the prospect of a tale.

CHILDREN

A story, a story, s/he has got a story! *(They sit)*

NARRATOR

Now—There once was a very young angel, on his very first day on the job.

His task was very important, and he had to fly very far.

He carried two very large baskets, and both were so very full:
in one there were the wise souls, and in the other were the fools!

CHILDREN

The angel carried two baskets, and both were so very full:
one basket full of wise souls, and one basket full of fools!

And then?

NARRATOR

The angel was due to sprinkle an even mix of each
on every single town that his big white wings could reach.

But he was getting sleepy, his hand was getting sore,
he dropped the basket full of fools on ONE town! Oh, the horror!

CHILDREN

The horror, the horror!

He dropped the basket full of fools on one town way below
and every person living lost all the things we know,

ALL

Like how to count, or how to read, or how to tell the time
or how to tell the day from night, or how to make a rhyme!

NARRATOR

But--!

There were two children in this town, one boy, and yes, one girl
They missed the dropping of the souls, and so they were not fools!

They were sweet, they were smart,
they won everybody's hearts
in the little town in the hills!

(s/he begins to describe the children; the BOY and GIRL act out the tale)

The grownups in this town, they had it upside-down:

they always lost the matching sock,
they never knew how loud to talk
they put the fish out on the ground
because they thought that fish could drown,
but every time this town of fools
tried another foolish rule,
this girl and boy, this boy and girl,
were always there to save the world!

ALL

In the little town in the hills!
(The BOY and GIRL lay down to sleep)

NARRATOR

One morning, after a good night's sleep
the darling boy and the girl woke up
in the little town in the hills.

But--!

(S/he pauses, the mood changes)

When they woke up, and went outside
the grownups all were gone!

(S/he fades into the background for the time being, perhaps altering the scene in preparation for the upcoming journey)

GIRL

The grownups all were gone!

BOY

The grownups all were gone!

GIRL

Our mother is gone, our father is gone

BOY

The baker is gone, the fireman's gone

GIRL

The teachers are gone, the doctors are gone

BOY & GIRL

Where, oh where have they gone?

(They look for the adults)

The only thing left in town is the water barrel,

turned upside-down

and the old brown cow,

but all she has to say is 'moo!'

Moo, moo, moo,

and that's all she has to say.

BOY

I guess if she has nothing to say,

GIRL

Then we must be on our way

BOY

To find the grownups from our town

BOY & GIRL

This little town in the hills!

(They set off on a journey)

NARRATOR

They traveled on for hours, picking pretty flowers

looking high and low, calling out 'hello?'

BOY & GIRL

Hello-o, hello?

No luck!

We'll have to keep on looking.

But--!

GIRL

Oh dear, oh my, we have come to a fork in the road
One side goes into the woods, one side goes into a field

BOY

Which way did the grownups go, the grownups go?

(A FOX appears, sly and crafty)

FOX

Hello little children, it seems you've lost your way
I have a little challenging game you must play.
If you guess my riddle, I shall tell you where
the grownups went! Was it there? Or was it *there*?
If you guess it wrong, then you shall be
a nice fresh dinner for my family!

(The BOY and GIRL jump back, frightened)

BOY & GIRL

Oh, tell us your riddle, we will try our best
to guess the answer and continue our quest.

FOX

You can walk into me, but only halfway
and deep inside there is no light of day.
Once you're halfway through, you are walking out,
there are leaves and branches and twigs all about.

(The BOY and GIRL confer, eager to escape the sinister fox)

GIRL

Walk inside, but only halfway

BOY

And deep inside, no light of day

GIRL

When halfway through, you're walking out

BOY

Leaves and branches all about

(The BOY, GIRL, and FOX wait for the answer----!)

BOY & GIRL

The forest, the forest!

The grownups are through the forest!

(They race past the FOX, who runs away, defeated, and into the forest)

NARRATOR

They traveled on till noon, searching through the gloom,
looking high and low, calling out 'hello?'

BOY & GIRL

Every moment, getting closer
to the grownups from our town!

(They run through the forest for a while, accompanied by travel music)

But--!

GIRL

Oh dear, oh my, we have come to a fork in the road.
One side goes by the river, and one side goes into a cave.

BOY

Which way did the grownups go, the grownups go?

(An EAGLE appears, circling menacingly)

EAGLE

Hello little children, it seems you've lost your way
I have a little challenging game you must play
if you guess my riddle, I shall tell you where
the grownups went! Was it there? Or was it *there*?
Don't guess wrong, for the two of you look
like children that I'd like to cook!

(On 'cook,' the BOY and GIRL jump back, startled)

BOY & GIRL

Oh, tell us your riddle, we will try our best
to guess the answer and continue our quest.

EAGLE

I have a mouth, but do not eat
I have a bed but do not sleep
I often murmur, never talk,
I always run but never walk,
What am I? What am I?

(The BOY and GIRL confer, keeping a wary eye on the EAGLE)

GIRL

Has a mouth but doesn't eat

BOY

Has a bed but doesn't sleep

GIRL

Often murmurs, never talks

BOY

Always runs, but never walks

(A tense moment----)

BOY & GIRL

A river, a river!

The grownups went by the river!

(They race past the EAGLE along the riverside)

NARRATOR

They ran along the river, trying not to shiver,
looking high and low, calling out 'hello?'

BOY & GIRL

Every moment, getting closer
to the grownups from our town!

(They run along the river for a while, accompanied by travel music)

But--!

GIRL

Oh dear, oh my, we have come to a fork in the road.
One side goes to the ocean, and one side goes over the mountain.

BOY

Which way did the grownups go, the grownups go?

(A BEAR appears, huge and formidable; clearly very irritable)

BEAR

Hello little children, it seems you've lost your way
I have a little challenging game you must play
if you guess my riddle, I shall tell you where
the grownups went! Was it there? Or was it *there*?
If you guess it wrong, then I shall sup:
I'll catch you and I'll eat you up!

(The BOY and GIRL are more scared than ever)

BOY & GIRL

Oh, tell us your riddle, we will try our best
to guess the answer and continue our quest.

BEAR

I go up high but never grow,
I'm bigger than a house, you know,
I'm covered all in trees, although
From me, you can see all below.
What am I, what am I?

(The BOY and GIRL confer, hoping to escape)

GIRL

Goes up high but never grows

BOY

And bigger than a house, you know

GIRL

And covered all in trees, although

BOY

From this, you can see all below

(Anticipation—will they guess correctly, or be eaten?)

BOY & GIRL

A mountain, a mountain,

The grownups went up the mountain!

(They race past the BEAR up the mountain)

Every moment, getting closer

to the grownups from our town!

(They run up the mountain, accompanied by travel music)

Every moment, getting closer

every moment, getting closer

every moment getting closer

to the grownups from our town!

Oh--!

(The ADULTS appear. The children circle them, excited)

BOY & GIRL

Our mother is here, our father is here

the baker is here, the fireman's here

the teachers are here, the doctors are here

the grownups all are here!

BOY, GIRL, ADULTS

You're/We're here, you're/we're here!

We've found each other at last!

Here on the top of the mountain, we have found each other at last!

But--!

GIRL

Grownups, if I may be so bold,

why did you leave our town?

BOY

You left at night when it was cold,

and just couldn't be found.

GIRL & BOY

Why did you come to the top of the mountain, the mountain?

ADULTS

Well, well, well, we were very, very worried
worried, worried, worried, and hurried, hurried hurried
the moon went missing from the water barrel
so we chased it to the top of this mountain here,
but the sun's up now, and the moon has disappeared!
We don't know where it's gone, or if it's coming back
we don't know if it ran away or if it was kidnapped,
all we know is that it vanished in a flash,
and that's what caused all the grownups to dash.

*(The BOY and GIRL consider this explanation and realize that the grownups have made a
mistake)*

GIRL & BOY

Oh, grownups! We can explain!
You saw the moon in a barrel of rain

GIRL

The moon was reflected on the water from the skies

BOY

And that is the moon that you saw with your eyes
while the real moon was safe above you

GIRL

The moon would never leave you!
She is there in the sky when it's daytime too,
but she's taking a nap, and waiting for dark

BOY

And when it is dark, you will see her, blue
and round and full and bright in the night!

BOY & GIRL

So let's go home and wait for night time

We should hurry, it's the right time

BOY, GIRL, ADULTS
Home, home, we're going home
to our little town in the hills!

The moon will rise tonight,
we'll close our eyes tonight,
The moon will rise tonight,
and everything's alright.

Home, home, we're going home
to our little town in the hills!

Home, home we're going home
to our little town in the hills!
Our little town in the hills!
The hills!