



# The Elves and the Shoemaker

*Jim LaMarche (retelling, illustrator) , Jacob Grimm , Wilhelm Grimm*

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Here is the classic tale of elfin magic, loved by generations of children and made new by an artist of international acclaim. Jim LaMarche's stunning paintings, reminiscent of his earlier work in *The Rainbabies*, are the perfect compliment to this favorite Grimm fairy tale.

## The Elves and the Shoemaker Details

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Author : Jim LaMarche (retelling, illustrator) , Jacob Grimm , Wilhelm Grimm

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# From Reader Review The Elves and the Shoemaker for online ebook

## Olivia says

Grades: 3rd-4th

The Elves and Shoemaker is appropriate for students in the 3rd and 4th grade because it has more words on the page and it is longer. I liked the meaning of this folktale. It had a sentimental feel to it. I think this book displays an important moral as well as having detailed illustrations to go along with the story. I would use this book as an example of the illustrations to show the students what it means to have the illustrations supporting the text of the story. This tale could relate to the children that come from backgrounds that don't have a lot, but have enough. The moral was to show that hard work doesn't go unnoticed and will always be rewarded. I think this tale was magical and would relate to students that had an interest in design or art.

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## Trish says

Read thanks to the Literary Advent Calendar by BookRiot.

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## Cara says

Probably top 3 favorites of the Grimm's stories. It's a good story that isn't disturbing and has a happy ending for everyone. Just the way I like it.

The Cobbler and his wife were really poor and he only had enough good leather for one pair of shoes. He cuts the leather before going to bed, intending to make it into shoes in the morning. When he wakes up, the shoes have already been made and are exquisite. He didn't have much time to contemplate this because a man walked in and loved the shoes so much that he paid double the price.

That gave the Cobbler enough money to buy twice as much leather and make two pairs of shoes.

This went on and on for months, making the Cobbler's family very rich. A few nights before Christmas, his wife convinces him that they should stay up and watch the shop to see who makes the shoes. They were floored when they saw tiny elves in rags come in and make the shoes. Wanting to say thank you for everything they've done, the wife and husband make them new clothes.

The next night, the elves come back and see the shoes. Now that they're probably clothed, they run out of the shop, never to return.

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## Kathryn says

A book with elves nothing could be better. This is the retelling of the Brothers Grimm story. The illustrations were wonderful. The eyes of the elves sparkled.

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## Karen says

Ellie listened to the audio while looking at the book.

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## Jamie says

In this story there is an old shoemaker and his wife. They were poor and only had enough leather to make one pair of shoes. The shoemaker decided to cut out the shoes and finish them in the morning, but little did he know they were already finished when he woke up. The buyer paid twice the amount. This gave the Shoemaker enough money to buy leather for two pairs of shoes. Just like the night before the Shoemaker wakes up to more shoes. The Shoemaker and his wife want to know who is making the shoes. They hide behind their coats to find that it's two little elves. The wife and shoemaker make the elves a set of nice warm clothes and shoes. After the elves received their gifts they were never to be seen again. This story originated as an oral tradition that was written by the Brothers Grim.

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## Virginia says

gorgeous illustrations

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## ?mman Saqqaf says

I'm actually confused right now. This story holds a lot of implicit meanings behind it:

1. It sheds the light on handicrafts. How the development and emergence of factories began to hurt the interests of professionals, *"(...) with all the big factories springing up all over the city, it's hard to make a living as a shoemaker these days."*
2. The craftsmen were paid little money, during the period in which the story was told. Unlike today, the craftsmen, and specifically "The handmade" shoemakers, are paid huge amounts of money for the art they make. There is no comparison between handmade shoes and commercial shoes, as there is no comparison between natural leather and artificial leather, *"(...) it's hard to make a living as a shoemaker these days."*
3. So, let me understand this clearly: you are in serious crisis, there is no money to provide your family from, and there is no money to buy leather. Then you wake up the next morning and all of a sudden *"there was a beautiful pair of leather boots sitting on the workbench."* Then a young man come and pay for the boots, then days passes without having the slightest curiosity to know who've done all this. If it was me, I would have camped from the first night to know who was doing all this.
4. And now, when the bulb lights up their minds to know who's been doing all this, all what they were thinking of is to actually PAY THEM!!! They still don't have any curiosity whatsoever to know who are they or why they've been doing all this, or if they want something in return. Seriously, how dumb is that?! *"We've got to pay our nighttime helpers back somehow"*

5. I'm not going to discuss the idea that they **ACTUALLY FIND ELVES!!! LIKE REAL ELVES!** Since it's folklore, and all. However, when the **ELVES** finally got paid for their thanked work *"They never returned."* It was like: Hello, what an example are you trying to set for the poor children here? Huh?

- a) Do good and wait for the day when you get paid.
- b) Don't have the courtesy to thank who did you good.
- c) Be an elf and spread your goodness, and don't forget to play guitar.

*"But don't worry about the shoemaker and her husband. They had been touched by magic, and they were prosperous and happy for the rest of their lives."* No, I'm not worried. It's just a lovely and simple fairy tale story that my advanced reasoning couldn't help put profoundly analyse it until it's fucked up. Sorry.

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### **Dolly says**

We watched this story on DVD as part of Scholastic's Storybook Treasures. The story is not truly animated, but the illustrations are shown with various zooming techniques throughout as a read-along narrative is depicted.

This story was narrated by Patrick Stewart and the illustrations by Jim LaMarche are very sweet and entertaining. We really enjoyed watching this story together.

It's a very nice version of the classic tale by Jacob Ludwig Karl Grimm and Wilhem Karl Grimm.

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### **Jennifer says**

The illustrations in this book take my breath away.

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### **Kayla Pollema says**

A poor shoemaker becomes rich by two elves. When the shoemakers discover who is helping them they helped the elves and never saw them again.

This story originated as an oral tradition that was written down by the Brothers Grim. This author/illustrator retold this story in a way that was short and engaging. When teaching traditional literature in the classroom, I would select this book as a read aloud because it is engaging without being too long. My students get restless if the story is too long or they cannot see the book. This book has large pictures to keep students engaged during the read aloud. Struggling readers would also like this book, because it is not intimidating in size. Doing a read aloud with this book would introduce this genre to many students, while creating an appeal for the struggling readers.

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## **Linda Hutchinson says**

Today's Challenge. Winter Classic. Originally by the Brothers Grimm this classic remains a favorite Christmas story for me. The poor shoemaker transformed by elves and they pay it forward by making the elves new clothes. It's a sweet story and A precious memory. #elves #shoemaker #brothersgrimm #grimm childrensbooks #theardentbiblioreads #december #christmasbooks #decemberphotochallenge #book #books #bookstagram #read #reader #christmas @theardentbiblio #reading #bookstagram #bibliophile #bigwolf #illustrated #sweet #love #grandboy #booktogift #elvesandtheshoemaker #winterclassic #5stars

IG: @bookbimbo

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## **Patrick Coman says**

The Elves and the Shoemaker is the classic fairytale by the Brothers Grimm. The version I have used is added to by illustrations by Jim LaMarche. The illustrations really bring the story to life and lends itself very well to reading aloud to a class.

The book tells the story of a poor shoemaker who is kind but can not sell any of his shoes. One night, the shoemaker leaves his last bit of material out. A group of elves are watching and feel sorry for the kind shoemaker. They decide to stitch up a new pair of shoes for him that are very beautiful. The shoemaker sells the shoes the next morning and uses the money to buy more material. After discovering that it5 was the elves making his shoes, he and his wife make them tiny new clothes. After receiving their new gifts the elves fly off but the shoemaker continues making beautiful shoes and lives happily ever after.

This story is for younger children. The illustrations and fairytale story will keep them very interested throughout. The illustrations could help the children with numeracy by counting the elves in the picture or how many shoes there is in the picture

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## **Tiffany says**

We acted this story out today in training. There's a part for an entire class, so no one feels left out.

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## **Kathryn says**

This is a lovely, loving retelling of the Brothers Grimm story. LaMarche's illustrations glow with warmth, joy and detail. I love the happy, elderly shoemaker and his wife--they are just about the cutest old couple ever! And the elves are darling. I love the slightly wild aspect to them, and the little details (like the girl wearing a dress made from a coffee bean sack). There is a Christmas scene that could make this a nice tie-in for a holiday read, though it is not specifically a Christmas themed story. Also, there is a beautiful, sweet Siamese cat in many of the illustrations ;->

Spoilers: I do wish the elves had done a little something as a "thank you" at the end, rather than simply disappearing now that they had to cobble no more, but I think their kindness and generosity had already been shown and the couple got their reward in seeing the joy the elves had in receiving their new clothes. (I don't remember the original telling. Are the elves somehow indentured to make shoes? Maybe they are like the

house elves in Harry Potter, free once they get new clothes?)

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