

LUKA AND THE EARL OF DUDLEY

Based on the story of Puss in Boots

Adapted by Hal Ames



There once was a clever dog that belonged to an old farmer. The dog's name was Luka.

One day the old farmer died. Luka was very sad. He was all alone and there was no one to take care of him. Many people wanted to take Luka because he was a friendly dog, but Luka was very choosy. He chose to live with the youngest son of the old farmer.

"Please take me home with you," Luka said to the young man.

"I'm afraid I can't take you home. I am too busy and have many things to do," the young man replied.

"I'm not much trouble. In fact I can help you," Luka offered.

"You can help me? How can you help me?" the young man asked.

"Just give me a home and then I will show you," Luka stated.

The young man laughed.

"Ok, you make me laugh and I like to laugh," the young man said. "I will take you home with me."

Luka followed the young man to his farm. When they arrived, he noticed that the farm was small and was in very bad condition. Luka knew he had a lot of work to do.

"Do you have an old sack I can have?" Luka asked.

"I think so. What do you need an old sack for?" the young man asked.

Luka did not answer. He had a surprise for the young man.

The young man left to go into the house. When he returned with the sack Luka got excited.

Luka took the bag and went to the forest. On the way, he found some grain and put it into his sack. When he got to the forest, he put the sack on the ground and laid down pretending to be asleep.

Soon a turkey came by and found the sack. He began to sniff the grain. It smelled good so he began to eat it. As he ate the grain, he began to go inside of the sack. When the turkey was inside of the sack, Luka jumped up and tied the sack so the turkey could not escape.

Luka smiled. He felt proud he had been so clever.

He began to walk toward the castle of the king. He was hoping his plan would work.

When he got to the castle, he asked to see the king.

“Why do you want to see the king?” the soldier at the gate asked him.

“I have a gift for him from the Earl of Dudley,” Luka replied.

“Who is the Earl of Dudley? I have never heard of him,” the soldier inquired about who Luka was talking about.

“He is from a kingdom far away. He wants to give the king a very special gift. May we enter?” Luka said very confidently.

The soldier let Luka enter the castle. Luka knew that king was very forgetful. Everyone in the kingdom knew the king had a very bad memory.

“State your business,” the king said to Luka.

“I have brought you a gift from my master,” Luka replied.

“Who is your master?” the king asked.

“Your majesty, my master is the Earl of Dudley,” Luka answered.

(In the kingdom there was no one known as the Earl of Dudley, but Luka hoped the king would not remember that.)

“What’s the gift you have brought me?” asked the king as he stared at the sack, which was moving from something inside.

“Your majesty, I have a fat turkey for you from my master, the Earl of Dudley. He wanted you to have it for your feast,” Luka said as he bowed at the waist.

Luka then gave the sack to the king.

“Thank your master for me,” the king said smiling. “I accept this gift with great pleasure.”

During the weeks that followed, Luka brought many more gifts. The king was very happy. Each time Luka told the king the gift was from the Earl of Dudley.

One day, while Luka and the young man were playing, Luka saw the king’s carriage coming down the road. Luka ran toward the river. The young man followed thinking it was a game. When the young man got to the edge of the river, Luka pushed him into the water. He then ran as fast as he could to the carriage.

He yelled, “Help my master the Earl of Dudley. Bad men have robbed him and they took everything from him. Then they threw him into the river.”

The king stuck his head out of the window.

“The Earl of Dudley? Go help him!” the king ordered. “I seem to remember him from somewhere.”

The princess was watching from the carriage as the king’s men helped the young man out of the river. She thought he was very handsome.

“Is he all right?” she asked Luka.

“I think he’ll be fine,” Luka answered. “His clothes have been stolen and he is all wet. I hope he doesn’t catch a cold.”

The king told his men, “Give him some dry clothes, and bring him to the carriage.”

When he put on the clothes, the young man looked very much as if he were an earl.

“Come with us and visit our kingdom. We are taking a tour today. You are welcome to join us,” the king said.

The princess grinned a shy grin.

Luka ran ahead of the carriage and came to two men working in a field.

“Why are you working so hard?” Luka asked.

“If we don’t finish our work the ogre in the castle will eat us,” one of the men replied.

Luka said to them, “When the king comes by, he will ask you who owns this land. Tell him the Earl of Dudley. If you do this I will take care of the ogre for you.”

Luka then ran ahead to the castle where the ogre lived.

As the king approached the men, he told the driver to stop.

“Can you tell me who owns this fine land?” the king asked.

The two men bowed at the waist and one of them replied, “The Earl of Dudley of course, your majesty.”

The young man looked surprised.

The king looked happy.

He looked over at the young man and told him, “You have a wonderful place here young man. I am glad we came to visit.”

When Luka arrived at the castle, he went inside and sitting at his table was the ogre.

“What are you doing here?” the ogre rumbled.

“I heard that you have a very special talent. I hear that you can change into any animal that you want. Is this true?” Luka asked the ogre.

“Yes, it is true,” the ogre responded.

“I don’t believe you. Can you turn into a tiger?” Luka asked.

Just then the ogre became a ferocious tiger.

Luka said pretending to be scared of the tiger, “I bet you can’t turn into something small like a mouse.”

The ogre said, “Yes, I can.”

Then he turned into a mouse.

Luka jumped onto the mouse and killed it.

Shortly afterward, the King's carriage arrived at the ogre's house. When the king saw Luka he asked, "Whose house is this?"

Luka replied, "The Earl of Dudley lives here, your majesty. Just ask him."

The young man was surprised again.

He looked over at Luka. Luka nodded. After looking at Luka he answered, "Yes this is my castle."

The king and his daughter went inside to see the magnificent castle.

"My, this is a wonderful castle! You have a wonderful place here. Please come and visit me in the future. I would love to have you as my guest," the king said as they left for home.

Luka knew the young man was meant to be an earl.

Soon after, the Earl of Dudley and the princess were married.



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VOCABULARY: (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. sack _____ | a. last one born |
| 2. choosey _____ | b. to act |
| 3. youngest _____ | c. doesn't remember |
| 4. grain _____ | d. selective |
| 5. forgetful _____ | e. seed |
| 6. majesty _____ | f. owner |
| 7. master _____ | g. coach pulled by horses |
| 8. carriage _____ | h. name for the king |
| 9. pretend _____ | i. bag |
| 10. ogre _____ | j. giant, monster |

TRUE / FALSE:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Luka was a cat. | T / F |
| 2. The old farmer died. | T / F |
| 3. Luka caught a mouse to give to the king. | T / F |
| 4. The young man was the Earl of Dudley. | T / F |
| 5. Luka went to see the king to find a place to live. | T / F |
| 6. The princess thought the Earl of Dudley was handsome. | T / F |
| 7. Luka pushed the young man into the king's carriage. | T / F |
| 8. The ogre turned into a ferocious giraffe. | T / F |
| 9. Luka killed the mouse. | T / F |
| 10. The princess and the Earl of Dudley got married. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. What did Luka catch to take to the king? _____
 - a) rabbit
 - b) chicken
 - c) turkey
 - d) cow

2. Who thought that the young man was handsome? _____
 - a) the queen
 - b) the princess
 - c) the king
 - d) Luka

3. What did Luka do with the mouse? _____
 - a) kept it as a pet
 - b) fed it to the turkey
 - c) killed it
 - d) turned it into an ogre

4. What did the ogre turn into? _____
 - a) tiger and mouse
 - b) turkey and rabbit
 - c) lion and gorilla
 - d) giant and dwarf

COMPREHENSION: *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. Who died in the beginning of the story?

2. What did Luka ask for from the young man?

3. What did Luka pretend to do before he caught the turkey?

4. What title did Luka give to the young man to impress the king?

5. What happened to the young man along the river?

6. Whom did Luka meet in the castle?

7. What was the ogre doing when Luka entered the castle?

8. What kind of animals did the ogre turn into?

9. Whom did the men on the road tell the king the land belonged to?

10. Who got married at the end of the story?
