

# The Magic Mitten

## Telling the story

*Folktales with their strong plots and plenty of repetition are ideal for telling to young children! The Magic Mitten is a great one to tell when the snow is on the ground.*

*It is often attributed as a Ukrainian tale but it is also told in other versions from surrounding countries. Of course, different versions have different details. But details are not so important.*

*What is important is the delight in the repeated lines and the absurdity of the mitten growing and growing – until it can grow no more!*

*So tell it with enjoyment and your children will enjoy it, too. Change the animals to suit yourself, change the words the animals use (only try to repeat the same words each time). That way you make it your own story.*



The story is so easy to tell that you will find that you capture the children's attention far more by telling rather than by reading it. To help you to do this, the text of the story is printed on the last page of the centerfold to read for yourself. And below there is the skeleton of the story. This makes it easy to see the outline of the plot. Then you can easily re-tell it without needing to look at either the skeleton or the text.

Remember, when you re-tell the story like this, your telling will be slightly different to this written version. Don't worry, this is what always happens in storytelling. You are simply changing the story to make it your own!

## A note on the present tense

When writing about other stories to tell in this series, I have used the past tense. But if you want to tell this story with an envelope mitten and animals cut out of cardboard, it can easily be presented as happening in the present tense. So I have written it like that. Choose which tense you feel most comfortable with.

### Notes

A puppet play version of the story, suitable for children to produce, is printed in the teacher's handbook of *Ikuru* Book 3 (Cornelsen Verlag, 2003) together with a slightly shorter storytelling version which is also recorded on the accompanying CD.

The American children's author Jan Brett ([www.janbrett.com](http://www.janbrett.com)) has a delightful illustrated version of this story.



## Skeleton

### The Magic Mitten

Woods, snow, boy, dog

Cold – mittens, white as snow

Snowballs – puts one mitten on snow

Boy can't find mitten, but rabbit can

"Who lives here? A warm house for a cold rabbit."

Frog, "Who lives here?"

"Rabbit – and house is full."

"So cold – please let me in."

"Oh, there's always room for one more. Be careful."

Fox

Wolf

Bear

Mouse – tail tickles Bear's nose.

SNEEZE – mitten goes BANG!

Animals run back to woods.

Boy hears sneeze – finds mitten.