

A visit from the Safety Elf

The pumpkin coach stopped outside Storyland Station and Cinderella waved at a small, green elf. He was wearing a bright jacket with 'Safety First' printed on the front, and he was carrying an enormous notepad.

"Hello!" called Cinderella, opening her golden door and jumping down. "Are you the Safety Elf?"

"Yes I am," said the elf, taking a pencil from his pocket. "And it's my job to see if Storyland is a safe place. I hope everyone knows how to ring 999."

"Is that a magic number?" asked Cinderella. "I know how to make three wishes, but I've never heard of three nines."

"Oh dear," muttered the elf, scribbling on his notepad. "Does Storyland have a police station, a fire engine and an ambulance that makes 'NEEE-NAAA' noises?"

"Not exactly," said Cinderella cheerfully.

"Oh dear, oh dear," muttered the elf again. Then, he frowned at Cinderella's glass slippers and made some more notes: 'Glass shoes with wobbly heels! Very foolish indeed.'

Meanwhile, Cinderella was unrolling a map of Storyland. "We're going to go for a nice walk, all the way to Sleepy Castle and back again," she explained. "Follow me."

Cinderella danced away in her shiny shoes, and the Safety Elf followed as fast as he could. The first part of the journey was a bit boring. They hurried past a wild wood and a great many bramble bushes until they came to a castle door.

"Here we are," called Cinderella, stopping so suddenly the elf bumped into her. She jangled the bell and the door creaked open all by itself.

Inside the castle there were thousands of cobwebs. The dust was as deep as snow and everyone (even the guard dog and the kitchen mouse) seemed to be snoring. "This way," called Cinderella as she scampered up the twisty stairs.

The elf peered into every room. 'Safe but sneezy,' he wrote. 'I don't think this castle has been cleaned for a hundred years.'

"Last room," said Cinderella. "Then we can slide down the banisters."

A visit from the Safety Elf (...cont)

“Oh no we can’t,” puffed the elf, peeping around the doorway.

He saw one tiny window, one wooden stool, one bag of wool and...

“A nasty old spinning wheel,” he grumbled. “I bet it’s full of splinters.” And, before Cinderella could stop him, he stuck out his finger to spin the wheel.

WHIZZ went the wheel. PING went a splinter. “OUCH!” wailed the Safety Elf, as he fell to the floor. There was a drop of blood on his finger and his eyes were starting to close.

“Don’t panic,” said Cinderella kindly, “I’ll just press FGM on my toy telephone.”

Two seconds later, before the elf could fall asleep, someone came fluttering into the room. Someone with wings and a sparkly wand.

“Hello,” she said sweetly. “I am your Fairy Godmother. Has someone been fooling around with the Witch’s spinning wheel?”

Cinderella pointed at the elf, and then waving her wand, the Fairy Godmother made the splinter disappear. She then sang a ‘wide-awake’ spell, waved her wand again and vanished in a shower of blue stars.

Cinderella led the elf slowly downstairs (he was feeling rather dizzy) and soon they were back outside in the sunshine. They zigzagged along a crooked lane, climbed over a crooked stile and stopped to look at three houses.

One was made of bricks. “Excellent,” said the elf. “Solid walls and a red chimney.”

One was made of sticks. “Not so good,” sighed the elf. “Rusty nails and sharp twigs.”

One was made of straw. “Shocking,” cried the elf. “It could burn down! It could set the whole street on fire! Look!”

He held up a magic match and lit a handful of straw. “You see?” he said.

The flames flickered brightly. A breeze lifted one of the sparks and it twirled through the air. “Oh no!” screamed a passing ladybird. “It’s going to land on my little home.”

The Safety Elf turned around and noticed a tiny house made of dry leaves. It was already on fire and five young ladybirds were tumbling out of the windows.

A visit from the Safety Elf (...cont)

“Alice, Amy, Adam, Alan and Arthur,” wailed Mrs Ladybird. “But, where is Little Ann?”

“Don’t panic,” said Cinderella calmly. “I’ve already pressed ARK on my toy telephone.”

Two seconds later, before the house could burn down, a loud ‘TAN-TA-RA’ was heard and a pair of elephants (from Noah’s Ark) came thundering along the lane. They lifted their grey trunks and squirted a fountain of water over the flames.

Hooray! The fire fizzled out and Little Ann waved from the rooftop. “I was hiding under the frying pan,” she squeaked. “Silly me!”

“I know someone sillier,” said Cinderella, and she looked at the Safety Elf. He was feeling rather sorry for himself. He had a bump on his head from the castle floor; a sore finger from the spinning wheel, and a sooty face from all the smoke.

“My boots are wet,” he wailed. “Where you taking me now?”

“To Rapunzel’s Tower,” said Cinderella. “But no one ever goes inside it now, so you don’t need to worry about it at all.”

The Safety Elf didn’t believe her. As soon as they reached the tower, he lifted up the doormat (which said ‘KEEP OUT’) and found a silver key. Then, he unlocked the door and rubbed his eyes.

All he could see was a long ladder that led to a sky-high hole in a sky-high floor.

“That’s the most dangerous thing I’ve EVER seen,” he said. “It’s far too tall and far too rickety. I shall have to inspect it at once.”

“No!” yelled Cinderella, but the elf wasn’t listening. He was clambering up the ladder to the very top of the tower. Every rung made a snapping, cracking sound, and just as he wriggled through the sky-high hole, the ladder exploded in a puff of sawdust.

“Don’t panic!” sighed Cinderella, taking out her toy telephone. She pressed BSJ, then ran outside to squint up at the elf. He looked very small, and he was clinging to an old flagpole. “I’ve called for Beanstalk Jack,” she shouted.

Two seconds later, before the flagpole could bend or break, Jack arrived

A visit from the Safety Elf (...cont)

with a rope and a bag of magic beans. He threw one bean on the ground and smiled at Cinderella. "Count to ten," he said.

Cinderella counted ... and a beanstalk whooshed up the stony walls! Jack climbed it easily and in no time at all the elf was lowered to the ground on the end of the rope. His hair was tangled and his jacket was torn.

"Never mind," said Cinderella. "There's only one more place to visit. It's Ding-Dong Farm."

Farmer Ding-Dong was waiting for them, with a jug of lemonade and a plate of Mrs Ding-Dong's homemade biscuits. "You can look around the farm," he said. "All the animals are friendly and Bo-Peep will show you her sheep. But, please keep away from the well."

"Miaow!" said the farm cat. "I fell down it last week and it was very slimy."

So, of course, the elf HAD to look at the well. First, he turned the handle. Then, he tapped the bucket. He was about to swing the bell, when Cinderella stopped him.

"We only ring the ding-dong bell if there's been an accident," she said.

"I'm glad to hear it," muttered the elf. "Now, I'll just see if this chain is strong enough." He leaned over the edge of the well, stretched out his hands and WHOOPS he toppled into the bucket.

Down rattled the chain. Down bumped the bucket. Down went the elf into the deep, dark well. "The farm cat was right," he sobbed. "It's slimy. And I'm scared."

"Don't panic," giggled Cinderella. "I've always wanted to ring the ding-dong bell."

The bell clanged and two seconds later (before the elf could fall in the water) Tommy Stout came to the rescue. He was a big boy with bulging muscles and he quickly pulled the bucket back up the well.

The Safety Elf was bumped and bruised and smoky and slimy. His clothes were ragged and his boots were soggy. "And now," he sobbed, "I've lost my notepad somewhere. Whatever shall I do?"

"Don't panic," said Cinderella. "We'll send for the Storyland detective."

Tommy Stout put his fingers in his mouth and whistled LOUDLY. Two

A visit from the Safety Elf (...cont)

seconds later, before the elf could blow his nose, a spotty dog came running towards them.

“Woof,” said the dog. “I’ve come from Mother Hubbard’s house. What would you like me to find? Bones? Sausages? Slippers?”

“The Safety Elf’s notepad,” said Cinderella. “It smells of splinters and straw and smoke.”

“I’ll soon sniff it out,” barked the dog and he raced away towards Sleepy Castle.

Did he find the notepad? Of course he did. And, long before bedtime, the elf was riding home on the Dragon Train. All his notes were smudged and spoiled, so his safety report was very short. This is what he wrote:

‘At first, I thought Storyland was a terribly dangerous place, but now I know it has the very best rescue services in the whole, magical world.’

Far away, in a golden palace, Cinderella and Prince Charming were sipping their mugs of hot chocolate.

“The Safety Elf seems to be a rather clumsy person,” said the Prince.

“I know,” agreed Cinderella. “It’s a good job I didn’t take him to see Humpty Dumpty’s wall.”

And they laughed and laughed and laughed.

By Nicola Bevan

Nursery rhymes

Read the following nursery rhymes aloud to your class. Afterwards, invite children to identify what the emergency in each scenario is and then discuss which emergency services they could call to help the various characters out.

Ladybird, Ladybird

Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home,
Your house is on fire
And your children are gone –
All except one
And that's Little Ann,
And she crept under
The frying pan!

A sailor went to sea (clapping song)

A sailor went to sea, sea, sea,
To see what he could see, see, see.
But all that he could see, see, see,
Was the bottom of the deep blue sea, sea, sea.

Ding-Dong Bell

Ding-dong bell,
Pussy's in the well.
Who put her in?
Little Johnny Thin.
Who pulled her out?
Little Tommy Stout.
What a naughty boy was that
To scare poor Pussy Cat,
Who never did him harm
But caught all the mice in the farmer's barn.

Rub-A-Dub-Dub

Rub-a-dub-dub,
Three men in a tub,
And how do you think they got there?
The butcher, the baker
The candlestick maker...
It's enough to make a man stare!

Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall,
All the King's horses
And all the King's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again.

EMERGENCY QUIZ

Oh dear, all these unlucky people need help, but who can save them?
Choose the correct emergency services from the list at the end.

.....

1

Billy Blunder climbed up Snowflake Hill without his map or his warm coat, so now he is lost and scared and very cold. Who can help silly Billy?

ANSWER: _____

2

Freddy Fishcake sailed out to sea in his rowing boat, but a swordfish accidentally made a hole in the boat and now it's sinking! Who can help frightened Freddy?

ANSWER: _____

3

Polly Perkins was playing in her garden, when she tripped over her pet tortoise. He is alright, but she has hurt her leg badly. Who can help poor Polly?

ANSWER: _____

4

Molly Muddles was cooking sausages when her phone rang. She chattered and nattered and now the frying pan is on fire. Help! Who can help muddled Molly?

ANSWER: _____

5

Prince Proudfoot loves wearing his best crown, but he can't find it! There are muddy footprints all around his special crown cupboard. Who can help the puzzled Prince?

ANSWER: _____

6

Daisy Daring has fallen off her pet dragon and landed on a tall tower. She is hurt, but no one can reach her because the ladder is lost. Who can help dizzy Daisy?

ANSWER: _____

Emergencies services

• Police • Ambulance • Mountain Rescue • Air Ambulance • Fire Brigade • Lifeboat

Let's pretend

Use this performance poem in the playground or PE hall and encourage the children to act out the various activities. Each verse of the poem links to a different emergency service – can the children guess which one?

.....

When I'm on the football field,
Chasing a leaf
I am a hero
Catching a thief.

When I'm on the climbing frame,
Clambering higher
I am a hero
Fighting a fire.

When I'm on the bouncy seat,
Driving round bends
I am a hero
Saving my friends.

When I'm on the wooden bench
Riding the breeze
I am a hero
Sailing the seas.

When I'm playing 'Let's pretend'
Just after tea
I am a hero
Guess what I'll be!

The Daily Magic-Mirror

Seaside scare for tub team



THREE MEN © JKERRIGAN/WWW.STOCKXPERT.COM; SCROLL © BROKENARTS/WWW.SXC.HU

Three men went for a sail around Storyland Bay yesterday and very nearly sank to the bottom of the Salty Sea!

Their tub, named the 'Rub-A-Dub-Dub',

suddenly started spinning around, and it just wouldn't stop.

"I felt really dizzy," the butcher told us.

"I felt really scared," said the baker.

"And I felt really seasick," added the

candlestick maker.

Luckily for the men, a jolly sailor went to sea, sea, sea, to see what he could see, see, see. And he saw the tub twisting and twirling!

"I just tied the tub to my pea-green boat and towed everyone back to the beach," said the jolly sailor, "And then we all made sandcastles."

The King and Queen of Storyland have given the jolly sailor a gold medal. He has also been given a string of sausages, a chocolate cake and a shiny, silver candlestick. Hooray for our Storyland hero!

SAFETY FIRST!

The Safety Elf wants everyone to be safe – princes and princesses; piglets and ladybirds; cats and bears, and children like you. He was going to make a Safety First poster, but he hurt himself. Can you draw the poster for him and cheer him up?

