

THE BIG BAD WOLF

Man, you accidentally knock down some pig's house with a sneeze and they start telling stories about you. And now there's this little girl and her red hood. Who knows what they'll say about this one.

I have self-a-team issues too. Everyone is always going around saying "what a big nose you have" and "what big teeth you have." It hurts.

I just want to go away to some place where I won't bother anyone.

They're always promising happy endings but where's my happy ending? All that happily ever after seems to be reserved for princesses and cute little animals. Especially bunnies. Why are rabbits always getting happy endings?

They're rodents, I tell you. Rodents!

BONES THE PIRATE

I am sick of being at sea. I want to feel solid ground. Oh... To take a nice warm bath... Instead of washing in freezing cold sea water. You see what the sea has done to my hair!

(Removes hat or bandana to reveal a mess).

No more pirate's life for me. No more yo ho with these yo-yos. I am tired of all the bottles. I want to drink from a chilled glass goblet... And have some ice cold milk. Fresh cool milk... and ice... a glass of ice water would even be nice. And you know what else you get when you mix milk and ice... this incredible thing called ice cream. You'll never find that on a pirate ship. I'd give anything for a scoop. But you'll never find anything like that on this rust bucket... no milk, no ice cream, not even an itty bitty ice cube... How come the most wonderful things in life spoil so quickly?

THE PLAY

I love theatre, even though I'm shy. So, I auditioned for our spring play called "The King." Mrs. Lopez gave everyone parts, but because she knows I'm shy, she gave me a very small role. My line is to say "nah" after the king says his line "Bow before me." After that one word, I was done for the whole play.

Seriously? Well, obviously, you can see how that might bother me.

So, I went to Mrs. Lopez and demanded she give me a new part. She had no choice but to give me a new role! Ok... I admit it. That's not actually how it happened. I did go to my teacher, and I politely asked her for a new role.

But she would not budge. I needed a new plan. I knew if Mrs. Lopez saw how good of an actor I was, she would have no choice but to change my part!

So, I continued to say my line "nah" but in different accents, making it more interesting. (Improvise different ways of saying, "nah.") I think she liked it because she told me she'd change my character. I was so happy!

Now, it's the day of the play, and I am playing a bush who does not talk or act. At all. I guess she didn't like it.

THE PIPER

What do you mean you aren't going to pay me? I just got rid of those rats for you. They won't be back for a long time, if ever. So, where's my money?

What? This is a joke, right? I have a family to feed you know. You need to pay me now!

I just single handedly went from town to town playing my flute and had an army of rats following me. I got rid of them all, every last one! If it wasn't for me, then you people would have gotten a horrible plague that would have killed almost everyone. You need to know that there are more things I can do with this flute of mine. Since you were smart enough to hire me to take care of the rats then you should be smart enough to know that you should pay me unless you want something terrible to happen.

Still not going to pay, huh? (Starts playing the flute.) Do you hear that? That thunder and lightning surrounding us? That's the magic starting to work. Say goodbye to your children. (He grins and starts playing the flute again.)

SQUIRREL CODE

Betcha never met a talking squirrel before. Well, news flash. We all talk. We just don't talk to humans. But I'm breaking squirrel code because I have to tell you this story. It's about a lady. A real old lady. She's got white hair and she's stooped over. And you know what she does? She feeds us. Now, you might think that's not a big deal. But in squirrel world, it's the biggest deal.

You see, most people go out of their way to make sure that we don't have food. But this old lady, she is different. She puts peanuts right on the ground for us. Every day, she does this.

We go to her house and see her at her kitchen table, sipping tea and reading the newspaper. And when we come by, she goes over to this big bag and scoops out fresh, delicious peanuts. She even built a little house on her deck so that our food would not get rained on, and she gave each of us a name. The little old lady doesn't get many visitors, so we go by as much as we can.

So anyways, I'm breaking squirrel code to tell you to remember the little guys. Squirrels need love too.

IMAGINARY FRIEND

Hi, my name is Alex, and I am not real. You're probably thinking, Alex, you have to be real, how else would you be talking? Well, that's a good question.

It all started on the first day of Pre-K. A young girl named Eliza was scared for her first day of school. She had no friends, at that very moment, I was created.

Eliza and I have been best friends ever since that day. Lately, she has started to make other friends. Don't get me wrong, I'm happy she is making friends, but her new friends ignore me. I'm not going to lie; I'm scared Eliza will leave me for them. Eliza! Hey, Eliza!

Did you see that? She ignored me too. I treasured each day of our friendship, and this is how she repays me. And that's when I remember; I'm not real. Wait, what's happening? It's getting kind of dusty in here. When was the last time they dusted? (coughs into her arm and looks down) Wait... Where are my hands! I-I don't feel so good. (vanishes into dust)