



## The Boot, the Shoe, and the Slippers

Once upon a time there was a tall black boot. He lived on a table in a

shoemaker's shop.

Near him lived a soft brown shoe and two little blue slippers.

One day the tall black boot said, "How tall and beautiful I am! How black and shining my coat is! The king will buy me, I know. Ho, Brown Shoe! Am I not beautiful?"

"Oh, yes, Black Boot!" said Brown Shoe. "You are very beautiful. You are so tall and black. But am I not beautiful, too? Look at my soft brown coat. I am the most beautiful shoe in the country. The queen will buy me, I know."

"Oh, yes! I am sure the king and the queen will buy us," said Black Boot. "But no one will buy those little blue slippers.

"How small they are! Who would buy such small slippers?"



“I am sure I do not know,” said Brown Shoe. “I do not think they are pretty at all. The shoemaker will have to give them away. Some poor child may like them.”

“How sad we are!” said the little blue slippers. “Black Boot does not like us. Brown Shoe does not like us. They say no one will buy us. How we wish we were tall and beautiful like Black Boot! How we wish we were soft and brown like Brown Shoe! Then perhaps the king or the queen would buy us.”



Just then the king, the queen, and the princess came into the shop.

“Good Shoemaker,” said the king, “the princess goes to the ball to-night. We

wish to buy her some pretty shoes. Let us see all you have.”



“Great King,” said the shoemaker, “here I have tall black boots. Here I have soft brown shoes. Here I have pretty blue slippers. Take what you wish.”

“Oh!” said the king, “the boots are too tall. They will not suit for a ball.”

“The brown shoes are too soft,” said the queen. “They will not suit for a ball.”



“Oh, look!” said the princess. “Look at the beautiful blue slippers. How pretty they are! They are not too tall. They are not too large. They will just suit me. Let us

buy them for the ball.”

The king bought the blue slippers. That night the princess wore them to the ball.

How happy the little blue slippers were! They said, “We are not tall like Black Boot. We are not soft like Brown Shoe. But the princess wore us to the ball. How happy we are!”



