

TWO BRAVE HARES

Once upon a time there were two little hares: Vikrute and Šuoliukas. They lived in a small burrow. One day they were left alone and waited impatiently for their mother's return. Every little noise scared them, even the flying wasp.

Vikrute peeped out of her house and called,

- 'Mummy, mummy!'

-Šuoliukas responded, - 'Be quiet, what if someone else hears you'.

'Vikrute say, - 'But I can't see her?'

Šuoliukas answers, - 'Maybe she won't come back at all'.

Vikrute whispers, - 'Did you hear that?'

- 'What? I can't hear a thing' - whispers back Šuoliukas.

Vikrute shouts, - 'Somebody is out there!'

Let's run!'

- 'Wait' - says Šuoliukas - 'First we have to find out who's there, then run'.



Two little hares heard the noise again and they started to run. While the little hares were gone Mr. and Mrs. Hedgehog appeared. The autumn was coming. It's the hedgehogs' time to look for a nice, warm, winter shelter. Mr. Hedgehog is moving slowly dragging an old sabot. Mrs. Hedgehog is quite upset with him. She states impatiently, - 'Instead of looking for some nice house you occupy yourself with this old shoe'.

- 'Who knows, maybe we will need it someday' responded Mr. Hedgehog.

Arguing Mrs. Hedgehog falls into the burrow together with the old human shoe.



The hares return but they notice there's someone or something in their little house. Mr. Hedgehog, knowing his wife is inside, pretends to save them from "whatever" sits in their hole. Mrs. Hedgehog climbs out. The hares see the old sabot. Mr. Hedgehog claims that this is not an ordinary sabot and that it has some extraordinary powers to make everybody strong and brave. He convinces the hares to swallow two little pieces of the wooden shoe. They gladly do it. They want to check

their bravery right away. M. Hedgehog proposes scaring a fox. He also suggests practising the scare techniques before going after the fox. Mrs. Hedgehog doesn't understand her husband.

She says, - 'What's got into you, why are you doing it? '

He says, - 'You don't understand. If the hares scare away the fox, we'll have its burrow for free and the old sabot we may use as a bathtub'.

All four of them march towards the fox' burrow. At first the fox was happy to see the hares because it was almost lunch time. Then she became annoyed that they are not scared of her. The hares start to scream and come closer and closer towards the fox.

The fox shouts, - 'What are you doing?'

Two little hares make faces and continue to scream.

She runs away. The hares are ecstatic.

A mouse shows up. She asks, - 'Is this true that you have scared the fox away?'

- 'It's true' they answer.



The mouse starts to plead for their help, - 'Could you please help us, the big bad bear stepped on our hole and now we have nowhere to live'.

Vikrute says apprehensively, - 'What if he doesn't listen to us'.

- 'But he will, you will see' says the mouse.

Šuoliukas feels really brave and reminds Vikrute that they have swollen the splinters so they are able to do anything they want. All of them go towards the bear's den. They find the bear asleep.

Two little hares start to shout waking the bear up, - 'You have destroyed the mouse's hole, you need to be punished!'

- 'So what if I have, why was it dug in the middle of the path?' responds the very surprised bear .

Vikrute shouts again, - 'You should have walked around it'.



'Is that so?' laughs the bear. The hares start to scream and make faces shouting, - 'We will rip you apart! Let's go around him'.

The bear screams, - 'This is the end of the world, the hares have gone mad!'.

He runs away. The mouse reappears. Suddenly the little wasp circles over the hares. It frightens them.

After a little the hedgehogs show up.

Šuoliukas jumps and says happily, - 'We have prepared for you two burrows instead of one'. Mrs. Hedgehog is astonished.

Mr. Hedgehog drags his old sabot and says to his wife, - 'I told you my sabot is magical'.

The fox and the bear decided to look for help. They went to see a smart owl. She

didn't believe their story, but she wanted to meet the hares very much. Very soon they met. The hares began to scare her the same way they have done so with the fox and the bear. She was so confused that she flew away.

She reached the fox and the bear and said to them,- 'They have crossed the line, we have to hunt them'.

- 'But how, where?' asked the animals.

- 'In front of their burrow, of course' answered the owl.

In the mean time the hares return home. Mrs. Hedgehog runs towards them with a warning that they will be hunted down.

They answered,- 'We are not afraid, we are the bravest in the forest' .

- 'You silly little animals' - says Mrs. Hedgehog- ' this old sabot is not magical at all, my husband has cheated you!'.

Now Šuoliukas and Vikrute became really scared and decided to hide in their house. Soon the owl, the fox and the bear appeared. They took their positions of attack.



The hares peeped out saying,-



'There's nobody here, maybe our friend has made a mistake?'

Suddenly the wasp flies over. The hares get frightened and run towards the place where the fox hides. The fox shouting for help runs towards the owl's hiding place.

Now both of them bump into the bear. They all run away.

Vikrute slightly fazed says: ' I think they are afraid of us; what does it mean?

Šuoliukas answers : ' That means we are the bravest in the whole forest.'

Vikrute continues, - 'Well, could that old sabot be really magical?'

- 'I don't believe it has anything to do with the old shoe. I think we have learnt not to be scared any more' says Šuoliukas.

- 'Yes, I think you're right!'