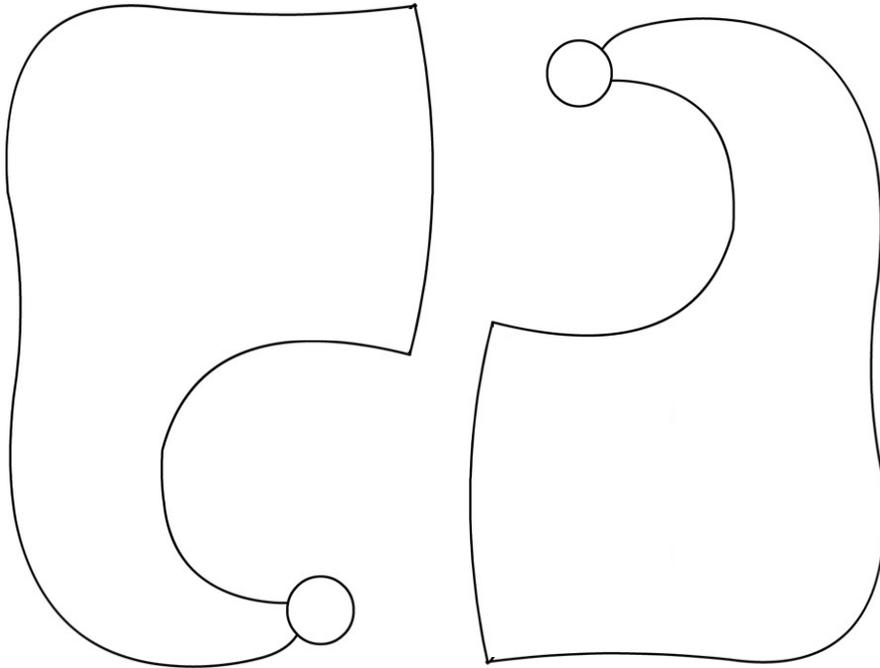


A Shoe Interview

Take the childrens' verbal skills further and interview the children, as the talking shoes, and tape record the conversation! As the interviewer, ask the shoes such questions as: What color are you? Do you have ties, buckles, velcro, or zippers? Do you like to walk on grass, pavement, or carpet best? If you could walk (or fly) anywhere in the world, where would you go? What size are you? How much do you cost? Play back the interview and let the children hear themselves!

Elf Shoes

Color the elf shoes below. What color(s) will they be? What makes them magical? Are there magic words that need to be said?*



* We encourage you to use the blank space on page 3 and allow the preschoolers to draw their own shoes. However, some children are more concrete and still need some guidance and lines to color in, so we provide this template as an alternative.

Dancing Shoes

Put on a piece of music and have the children dance in their imaginary elf shoes! How do talking shoes sing? Show how flying shoes fly.



presents

The Elves and the Shoemaker

from the Brothers Grimm story

Dramatized by Leigh Conant and Chris Nelson

(with Karen Hirst and Jim Cunningham)

produced by special arrangement with CLIMB, Inc.

This show is perfect for preschoolers ages 3-5 years. In the play, Emilio is a poor shoemaker who, in his effort to please the Queen, agrees to make far more shoes, in one night, than he can possibly produce. Luckily, little Elves, played by the children in the audience, cleverly and quickly finish all the shoes while Emilio sleeps.

Active participation, sequencing, and repetition make this show a delight for the youngest child's first theatre experience.

Directed by Youth Stages founder, Jean Prall Rosolino, with a set by Maria Evans, *The Elves and the Shoemaker* features Jim Folly and Jean Prall Rosolino. They lovingly bring this classic to life with minimal costumes and set, allowing the children to see hundreds of shoes in their imaginations.

The stars of the show are the children in the audience- the Elves- who make magical shoes fit for a Queen!

Read the Story: Compare and Contrast

p. 2

Read the following story of *The Elves and the Shoemaker* to the children.
Discuss the similarities and differences between the story and the play.

There was once a shoemaker who, through no fault of his own, had become so poor that at last he had only leather enough left for one pair of shoes. At evening, he cut out the shoes which he intended to begin upon the next morning, and he and his wife, lay down quietly and fell asleep.

In the morning, when he was preparing to sit down to work, she found the pair of shoes standing finished on his table. He was amazed and could not understand it in the least.

He took the shoes in his hand to examine them more closely. They were so neatly sewn that not a stitch was out of place, and they were as good as the work of a master hand.

Soon afterwards a customer came in and, as she was much pleased with the shoes, paid more than the ordinary price for them, so that the shoemaker's wife was able to buy leather for two pairs of shoes with the money.

The shoemaker cut them out in the evening and the next day was about to go to work. But he had no need to, for when he got up, the shoes were finished. More customers came in and gave him so much money that his wife was able to buy leather for four pairs of shoes.

Early the next morning the shoemaker found the four pairs finished, and so it went on. What he cut out at evening was finished in the morning, so that he and his wife were soon wealthy. Now it happened one evening, when he had cut out some shoes as usual, that his wife said, "How would it be if we were to sit up tonight and see

who it is that lends us such a helping hand?"

The shoemaker agreed and they hid themselves in the corner of the room, behind the clothes which were hanging there.

At midnight, in came two little naked elves who sat down at the shoemaker's table, took up the cut out work, and began with their tiny fingers to stitch, sew, and hammer so neatly and quickly that the shoemaker and his wife could not believe their eyes. The elves did not stop until everything was quite finished and stood complete on the table. Then they ran swiftly away.

The next day the shoemaker's wife said, "The little elves have made us rich, and we ought to show our thanks. They are running about with nothing on, and must freeze with cold. I will make them little hats, shirts, coats, pants, and socks. And you shall make them each a pair of tiny shoes.

The shoemaker agreed and at evening when they had everything ready, they laid out the presents on the table and hid themselves to see how the little elves would behave.

At midnight they came skipping in and were about to set to work. But instead of the leather ready cut out, they found the charming little clothes. At first they were surprised, then excessively delighted. With the greatest speed they put on the pretty clothes, singing, "*Now we're elves so fine and neat, Why cobble more for others' feet?*" Then they hopped and danced about and leapt over chairs and tables and out the door. They never came back, but the shoemaker and his wife lived happily ever after.

Draw Your Shoes

p. 3

In the space below, have the children draw a picture of the shoes they made for Emilio. Ask them questions like, "Are those flying shoes or talking shoes?" Take their visualization further and ask, "When your shoes fly, where do they go?" or "Who do your shoes like to talk to?"

