

HOW WE SAVED OUR HOMEROOM TEACHER

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HOW WE SAVED OUR HOMEROOM TEACHER

A play by Olga Gavrilova

Characters:

Children:

Narrator 1: Freddie

Narrator 2: Natty

Clair

Janet

Miles

Sarah

Jessie

Adults:

Mrs. Harper

Evil Wizard/Mr. Brun

Principal

[*Setting: a second grade classroom. All of the **Children** are present.*]

Narrator 1 (Freddie):

On Tuesday morning, a day, like any other,
We, all of us, the boys and girls of second grade,
Showed up in class, the class of Mrs. Harper,
Our homeroom teacher, for whom before we never had to wait.
As usual, we put our homework in the homework piles,
Except for Clair, who was too busy copying her work -
From Janet she took math and science from smart Miles.

While I would never do that and always do my own homework.

Narrator 2 (Natty):

We waited for ten minutes, then fifteen,
Then half an hour and another seventeen.
We started thinking: this was somewhat suspicious,
And hoped that in no way it was malicious.
We started to investigate our teacher's desk,
And guess what we had found under her tea cup, a little to the left!
There was a letter, of colors dirty browns, blacks, and greens,
Dirty, as if it lay under the earth for weeks!
We opened it and read it, and this is what it said,
At first, we all could not believe it, but listen for yourself!

Letter [read by Freddie]:

Bad morning to you children, short and tall,
I think by now you've noticed, your teacher, she is gone.
You might as well say your goodbyes because you'll never see her ever.
I've taken her this morning before you all showed up.
I'm keeping her with me in my old dungeon from now until forever.
So you all needn't bother your young and pretty heads at all.
I'm not returning her. Not ever, not even for one class,
Not even for one minute, not at all!
However, I will tell you, as you are known as a class, that's extra smart,
Where I am keeping her, and what you have to do, and I just might,
Release her to you if you unlock all of the seven locks behind which,
Mrs. Harper is hidden from you all. Of course, there is a trick to each
Of those big seven locks – you must solve puzzles, impossible to solve!
If you do that, your teacher will be yours once more.

Make a mistake - and say goodbye to her forever and some more!

Yours truly,

The Evil Wizard, who lives next to the school janitor's door.

Jessie:

Come quick, guys! Let's grab this letter and run up to the office!

We'll show it to the Principal and he'll know what to do!

This Evil Wizard guy sure doesn't sound like a novice,

The Principal will have a talk with him and save our Mrs. Harper, too!

[Children run around the stage, as if along the school halls, and gather close together in a setting of the Principal's office.]

Freddie:

So with the letter in our hands we ran straight up the hall,

The whole of our second grade had squeezed ourselves inside the office.

The Principal had seen the madness and exclaimed to all:

Principal:

Why, I'm appalled!

Go back to class, the lot of you, with your fake letter!

I'm sure Mrs. Harper will be here soon, in fact, I promise!

Go read the next chapter in your books.

I'll give detention to anyone I see around in the halls!

[Children walk out of the setting of the Principal's office and go to their classroom to talk.]

Natty:

So back we went, the Evil Wizard's letter in our hands,

How helpless we did feel, upset that we were treated just like little children!
However, it's not in vain we're called the extra smart class by our fans,
We're going to save our Mrs. Harper! We are no little children!
Step one – find out where the dungeon of the Evil Wizard's hidden!

Clair:

I saw the janitor come in and out of a room right by the swimming pool.
I hope the Evil Wizard meant that door because I know of none but that one.

Janet:

Clair, good job, we'll have to go up to the swimming pool, around the school,
Making sure the Principal does not see us in the halls, or we will get detention!

*[Children begin to sneak out of their classroom and walk around the stage cautiously, as if around the school halls, so as not to be noticed by the **Principal**.]*

Freddie:

And so we snuck around the school, around the swimming pool,
Until we found the janitor's door Clair talked of, but we checked by opening the door,
And what we saw? What was it that we saw? We saw a bucket, saw a stool,
We saw some piles of garbage bags, saw mops and soap and it was time to try the other door.
The door right next to that of janitor's was dirty, as if it wasn't cleaned in months,
There were initials stuck in place by scotch tape "E" and "W" – we found the spot.
It was a wonder no one noticed it before. We opened it and we were greeted by some moths.
They flew around and resettled, not willing to abandon their home, but what?
What was it that we saw right there before our noses? It was another door!
That door was locked and on that lock there was a piece of paper.
The lock required a number to be pushed, in order to be opened furthermore!
The paper had a puzzle scribbled on it. We all pulled in to read as we could not afford a failure!

The puzzle said: *“At dinner time, there were two mothers and two daughters,
And a grandmother and a granddaughter.*

Can you count up how many people sat at the dinner table altogether?

If not, you’ll never see your teacher, children, hhaha, no pressure!”

Sarah:

Oh, he’s so evil – I can’t take it!

If we don’t get it right, then we won’t make it!

Clair:

Come on, let’s stop pouting and start counting!

Now there are two mothers and two daughters,

Which makes it four, now let’s keep adding,

One grandmother and one granddaughter,

Which bring it up to six, it’s done, we’re in!

Janet:

Cool down Clair and do not punch that number in!

The easiest and fastest answer to a puzzle is usually wrong.

Now I suggest we sit in silence, concentrate and think!

And if we draw a picture of it, we’ll get the answer before long.

Freddie:

Look, I have some colored chalk in my pants pockets, let me draw.

Natty:

Great job, let’s draw two mothers first, right here on the floor.

Janet:

Yes, yes, and second, draw just one daughter to begin with, just for now,
Because the second mom could be the daughter of the first one, wow!

Sarah:

So far we have three people at the dinner table altogether,
But what about the grandmother and the granddaughter?

Miles:

Don't draw another person, Freddie, that's enough, I gather.
The woman on the very left can be the very grandmother,
To the one drawn to the very right, who is the granddaughter.
That way we do not need another person here anymore.

Clair [*in astonishment*]:

And at the dinner table there sat three women – not less and not one more!

Natty:

Great job! I'm pushing number three into the lock,
Oh, nuts and bees, I hope it works, I hope it works!
The lock is gritting, gnashing, grinding, oh no, no!
Why doesn't it just open, Freddie, help me with this lock!

Freddie:

With locks you need not be in such a hurry, Natty,
You see, you need to be relaxed and push the number three
So slowly, until you hear the click, and ratty-tatty,
There you go, I think I've opened this one, come closer, let us see!

[**Children** get closer to the door to see what's behind it as it opens.]

Natty:

Oh my, I hear a football game turned up on the TV,
Look everyone, there is the Evil Wizard!
I can tell, just look at his expression of the purest glee!

[**Evil Wizard** gets up from an old armchair, shaking off bits of potato chips he was eating while watching the game on the TV.]

Evil Wizard:

Yes children! You are right – I am the Evil Wizard!
Now what you did is solved the easiest of all the puzzles I have prepared for you.
Your Mrs. Harper is right behind this very thick and noise-proof door, you see,
And on this door I've placed six numbered locks you will be having to go through,
But don't have hope, the puzzles are too hard for you, I know, my older kids could not solve either one of them, you'll see...

Sarah:

Your kids? And who would those kids be? Are you a teacher here at school then are you not?

Evil Wizard [*looks scared and trying to hide his mishap*]:

Of course, I'm *not*!
I wouldn't ever work here if millions and trillions were offered me.
The kids I talked about were Evil Wizard kids, the future Evil Wizards, just like me.

Janet:

Yes, Sarah, you are right, he strikes me as a phony character indeed,
For one, he's wearing the old magician's costume, the one who comes here every Halloween,

And what's that mask hiding his eyes,
Is that so that he wouldn't be recognized?

Evil Wizard:

Hey children, if you're not convinced, I have no problem with it,
Not one bit.
I'll simply tell your Principal I saw you wondering the halls
And instead of saving Mrs. Harper, you will be at detention, that is all.

Freddie:

Alright, alright, you're truly evil, we will give you that.
But are you a Wizard, well, I have doubts on that part,
You'd think a Wizard would get rid of a big belly like you have,
But let's not argue, let's not stray away from what we came here to do,
And that's to save our Mrs. Harper from the likes of you.
Which is the next insolvable and scary puzzle you have got for us?
We're ready, for Mrs. Harper taught us well to think and solve without any fuss.

Evil Wizard [*surprised at the calmness of Freddie and trying to rearrange his magician's costume to hide his big belly*]:

Here, the second puzzle says *there are five girlfriends at a garden.*
They have a basket with five apples in it, they have collected from the apple trees.
Arrange a way so that each of the five girlfriends gets a full apple,
But one of the apples must remain in the basket, and no tricks!

Clair [*whispering to Janet*]:

That's true, the Evil Wizard said the truth,
His puzzles are impossible to solve, I swear by my latest baby tooth!

Janet [*whispering back to Clair*]:

Clair, take hold of yourself, now!

I told you, we relax and slowly tackle all of them, but one by one.

Take care and do not let him see the fear in your eyes,

It will be as if he has already had won – be nice.

Jessie:

Well there just seems not enough apples for all five

And for one apple to be left lying in the basket.

Only four girls can have a whole apple, not all five,

Otherwise something must happen positively drastic!

Janet:

Perhaps, we should be asking ourselves to whom belongs the basket.

That way we'll know who will be carrying it back to their home.

Clair:

You are so right! And she, to whom belongs the basket,

Will carry her apple in it home!

Freddy:

There you go, you Evil Wizard, it's time to open up another lock.

The four girlfriends get their whole apples into their hands directly,

While the fifth girl, takes home her apple in her basket. No more talk.

Now, we are ready for the next puzzle, for we enjoyed the last immensely.

Evil Wizard [*while opening one of the locks*]:

Oohhh, well, *this* I did not at all expect.

You making jokes and so belittling my puzzles.