

Read and Think Storybook 13

Please Pass the Salt and The Fight Over a Frog

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Please Pass the Salt



Long ago, in a land far away, there was a man and his wife. Their last name was Shaker. They were traveling all over the countryside in search of a nice place to live. Day after day, they walked. Night after night, they slept. Hungry and tired, they had all but given up hope. The husband, Salt, said to his almost-lovely wife, Pepper (yes, those were their real names), “Oh my dear, maybe we should go back to where we came from.”

“No, my darling Salt, we must go on. I just know we will find a better place to make our home. Maybe we will have a ‘sign’ soon.” “Like a stop sign?” he asked, not understanding what his sweetie meant. “Oh, no silly, those haven’t been invented yet! I mean... something that happens that helps you to know what you must do.” Salt understood. “Like when you’re sleepy, that’s a *sign* that you should go to bed.”

“Yes, exactly right, Salt.”

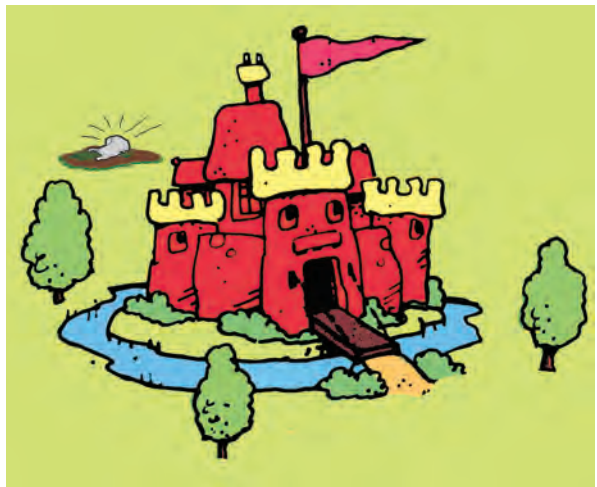
So they went on. Soon, they came to a big meadow with tall grass, and sloppy mud puddles. They helped each other along. It was hard work just to walk through this. **CLUMP, CLUMP, CLUMP!!!** “Don’t fall down, my little chubby-wubby Salt... you’ll never get unstuck from this mess!” Suddenly...



“Oh!” Salt and Pepper Shaker shouted. “We have fallen, and we don’t want to get up. This must be the sign we were looking for. This will be where we make our home!”

After three days, they got up and washed off in a nearby stream. They were the only people here, so they proclaimed themselves King Salt and Queen Pepper, rulers of this kingdom. “We should name our land after the sign that brought us here,” good Queen Pepper said. “Fall-Flat-On-Your-Face-Ville should do it.”

“No, no,” better King Salt said. “Stumbleton! We’ll build our castle now. And soon others who are traveling will stumble over that rock. They will stay here, too, and be in our kingdom, and do work for us because we are the King and Queen.” “As always,” says Pepper, “you are so right!”



So they built a colorful castle, far enough from the mud and too-tall grass. But close enough to “Stumble Rock,” so they could hear any newcomers.



In just one day, a farmer stumbled in...
“Ouch!” Then a shepherd and his flock...
“Ow...ooooh,”
“bah, bah, **baaaah!**” It wasn’t long before there was a village, full of Stumble-tonians. And each person



had a skill that helped everyone else who lived there. It was wonderful indeed!

Salt and Pepper had lots of fresh food every day, brought in from the farmer’s garden, and prepared by the King’s helpers. They had a very good time, as did everyone in the kingdom. It was a beautiful place, with the Ladybug Hills to the north, and the Camel River to the east. The rest of the kingdom was surrounded on the south and the west by dense forests filled with animals... and dark endless paths.

