



# THE ELVES & THE SHOEMAKER

by Elaine Elliott

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# **THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER**

**A family pantomime by**

**Elaine Elliott**

**Based on the story  
by the Grimm brothers**

# CHARACTERS

The Shoemaker

The Shoemaker's wife

Hannah - The shoemaker's daughter

The Shoemaker's children - any number, any age.

Jack - The shoemaker's apprentice

Miss Hap - the village school teacher (male or female)

Mrs. Dim - a villager

Cuthbert - Mrs.Dim's silly son

Villagers - any number

Village Children - any number, any age.

The Mayor

Snatch - a robber

Grab - another robber

The Two Elves

The robber trap - a moving robot-like machine

# Songs:

(Copies of the music are available)

1. I Work, Work, Work
2. A Pair of Shoes
3. Look out! Look Out!
4. When I'm a Rich Man.
5. The Alphabet Chant.
6. Funny, It's Not Funny.
7. Who Do We Have To Thank?
8. Counting Out The Swag.
9. Everyone's Happy Together.

# The Elves And The Shoemaker

## ACT ONE. SCENE ONE.

The stage represents the village green and the inside of the shoemaker's shop with an area for the schoolroom scene.

The shoemaker is working.

### Song 1. I Work, Work, Work.

#### Shoemaker sings:

Early in the morning I'm rising with the lark,  
Then I'm busy working from sunrise until dark,  
Cutting out the leather, Hammering a shoe,  
I'm really happy all the day for this is what I do,

Chorus

I work, work, work, like the busy little bumble bee,  
I work, work work, for that's the thing that pleases me..  
I sing my song the whole day long  
I work, work, work, like the busy bumble bee.

*(Shoe maker's wife enters with Hannah and the children)*

**Shoemaker:** That's another pair finished.

**Wife:** That's a very fine pair of shoes. You'll sell those in no time at all.

**Shoemaker:** I must remember to order some more leather. I don't want to run out. Not when I'm so busy. I'd better start cutting out some more shoes. I haven't time to stop.

**Wife:** And I must finish my work. Cleaning the house and looking after my big family of children keep me busy all day long but that's the way I like it to be.

**Shoemaker and Wife:** *sing the chorus:*

I work, work, work like the busy little bumble bee  
I work, work, work for that's the thing that pleases me.  
I sing my song the whole day long,  
I work, work, work like the busy bumble bee.

**Hannah:** But we all help you in the house, mother.

**Wife:** Yes, Hannah you do. And all the rest of the children help as well.

**Hannah:** We don't mind. We enjoy working, don't we?

**Children:** Yes!

**Hannah** (*and children for some of the time*)

We like to help our mother with the household jobs each day.  
The children tidy up their rooms before they go to play.  
We help to cook the dinner and wash the dishes too  
We dust the chairs and tables and we sweep the house all through.

**All :** Chorus:

I work, work, work like the busy little bumble bee  
I work, work, work for that's the thing that pleases me.

I sing my song the whole day long,  
I work, work, work, like the busy bumble bee.

**Wife:** Where's Jack?

**Shoe.M.** He's gone to deliver some shoes to Mr. Bun The baker.

**Wife** Here he is now.

**Shoe M.** That didn't take long, Jack. Did you give Mr.Bun the shoes?

**Jack:** Yes. He was very pleased with them. Here's the money he paid me.

**Shoe M.** Thank you. I'd better put that away safely.

**Wife:** Yes. We can't afford to lose it. Not with our big family to feed.

**Shoe M.** Now I want you to deliver these shoes to the mayor, Jack, and then come back and help me with the cutting out.

**Jack:** It's another busy day.

**Shoe M.** Every day is busy here. I told you that when you came to work for me. The hours are long and I can't afford to pay you very much but I can teach you to be a very good shoe maker.

**Wife:** Well, you should know because you're the best shoemaker there is.

**Shoe M.** Back to work now, and you must be on your way, Jack.

*(As Jack leaves the shop he bumps into Miss Hap the teacher.)*

**Miss H.** Look where you're going, Jack. You nearly knocked me over.

**Jack:** Sorry, Miss Hap. I can't stop. We're very busy.

**Miss H.** Busy? Don't talk to me about being busy. After all, I run the village school and that's very hard work. All the little boys and girls come to me for their lessons and when they do some very good work I smile at them like this (*grotesque smile*) and I always say to them "If you want to grow up be a wonderful, kind, beautiful, clever, witty person like me you must keep busy all day long.

**Song:**

Every day I'm working in the little village school  
I never let my children rest, for that's my golden rule.  
I set them lots of sums to do and tick them when they're right  
And then I give them harder ones to do at home each night.

**Chorus (All)**

I work, work, work, like the busy little bumble bee  
I work, work, work, for that's the thing that pleases me.  
I sing my song the whole day long,  
I work, work, work like the busy bumble bee.

*(Enter Mrs. Dim and Cuthbert and other village people and children with shopping bags.  
Some of them go to the shop to buy shoes)*

**Mrs. D.** Good morning, Miss Hap.

**Miss Hap** Good morning, Mrs Dim, Good morning, Cuthbert. Are you coming along to school today?

**Mrs.D:** Him? He's too big to be going to school.

**Miss Hap:** He may be big but he's not very clever, is he?

**Cuthbert:** Well, I can't help it.

**Miss.Hap:** Nonsense, of course you can. You don't work hard enough, that's your trouble.

**Mrs.D:** Ooh, I know. He just messes about around the house all day long, trying to be funny. I work my fingers to the bone, doing washing for other people, trying to make ends meet, and does he help me? No. Proper lazy he is.

**Cuthbert:** No I'm not.

**Mrs.D:** Yes, you are,

**Cuthbert:** I'm not.  
**Mrs.D:** You are.  
**Cuthbert:** Not!  
**Mrs.D:** Are!  
**Cuthbert:** Well, I like being lazy.  
**Mrs.D:** See what I mean?  
**Miss,Hap:** You just send him along to me. I'll find him plenty to do.  
**Cuthbert:** But I don't want to go to school.  
**Miss Hap:** We can't have you sitting around doing nothing all the day.

**Song:**

**MissHap;** Everybody's very busy up and down the street.  
The butcher and the postman too, and everyone you meet.  
**MrsDim:** I'm always standing at the tub, I'm never known to shirk,  
**Both:** And even all the little children help to do the work.

**Chorus (All)**

I work, work, work, like the busy little bumble bee,  
I work, work, work for that's the thing that pleases me.  
I sing my song the whole day long,  
I work, work, work like the busy bumble bee.

*(At end of song the village people exit or go about their work. Miss Hap enters the shop)*

**Miss Hap:** Good morning, everybody,  
**Sh. Family:** Good morning, Miss Hap.  
**Miss Hap:** Hard at work, I see. What good children you are, Hannah, Humphrey, Henrietta and Harriet, all helping your mother in the house.  
**Wife:** Yes, they're very good, especially Hannah, here.  
**Miss Hap:** Ah, it won't be long, Hannah, before you have a house of your own. A pretty young girl like you is sure to be getting married, soon, eh?  
**Hannah:** (Looking at Jack) Well, I'm just waiting for the right man to ask me.  
**Shoe M:** Now what can we get you, Miss Hap?  
**Miss Hap:** Oh, now what did I come in for? Oh, yes, shoes. I'd like a pair of new shoes, please.  
**Shoe M:** Certainly.... Jack! (Jack brings notebook)  
Now what sort of shoes did you have in mind?  
**Miss Hap:** Oh, just ordinary ones, you know. Plain shoes to wear every day.  
**Shoe M:** Right.  
**Miss Hap:** On the other hand, perhaps I ought to have boots. It'll be winter soon. Yes, boots. No, no, no, shoes.  
**Shoe M:** Jack, write that down.  
**Jack:** (Writing) Shoes.  
**Miss Hap:** No, I've changed my mind. I'll have sandals.  
**Jack:** Sandals.  
**Shoe M:** Any particular colour?  
**Miss Hap:** Ah yes. Red. Definitely red. Or should it be green? No, I think red.  
**Shoe M:** Red.  
**Jack:** Red.  
**Miss Hap:** No, I've changed my mind. I'll have orange.  
**Jack:** Orange.  
**Shoe M:** Now, what about style. Do you want a high heel, a medium heel or a low heel?  
**Miss Hap:** A high heel, a medium heel or a low heel? .....Mmmm.... High..., medium... low. I'd better have low.

**Jack:** Low.  
**Miss Hap:** No high.  
**Jack:** High.  
**Shoe M:** Now, buttons, laces or buckles?  
**Miss Hap:** Ah yes. Buttons.  
**Shoe M:** Buttons?  
**Miss Hap:** Yes, buttons.  
**Jack:** Are you sure?  
**Miss Hap:** Yes.  
**Jack:** Buttons?  
**Miss Hap:** Or perhaps.....  
**Jack:** Yes?  
**Miss Hap:** No, buttons.  
**Jack:** So that's a pair of orange sandals with high heels and buttons.  
**Miss Hap:** Orange sandals with high heels and buttons? No I don't think so. I don't fancy those at all.  
**Shoe M:** Miss Hap, I think I might have something for you already made. What do you think of these? (*produces shoes or slippers and shows them to her.*)  
**Miss Hap:** Oh, they're perfect. Just what I wanted. However did you guess? What a marvelous shop.  
**Shoe M:** We aim to please.  
**Wife:** My husband can make you any sort of shoe you like. He's a very good shoemaker.  
**Miss Hap:** I must tell all my friends.  
**Shoe M:** Yes, tell them we can make any sort of shoes they like.

**Song: 2. "A Pair of Shoes"**

**Shoe M:** **Verse 1.**  
 You want a  
 Pair of shoes that feel just right  
 Not too big and not too tight,  
 You want them to be soft and light  
 But warm and cosy too.

**Wife:** **Verse 2.**  
 You want them in the latest style?  
 At a price that makes you smile.  
 So comfy you could walk a mile?  
 Is that your kind of shoe?

**Shoe.M.** **Chorus**  
 We've got a lot of pairs of shoes  
 So many you can hardly choose  
 You'll find that we will not refuse  
 To make some just for you.

**Shoe maker, wife and Jack.** **Repeat chorus**  
 We've got a lot of pairs of shoes  
 So many you can hardly choose  
 You'll find that we will not refuse  
 To make some just for you.

**Miss H.** **Verse 1.**  
 I want a pair of shoes that feel just right

Not too big and not too tight .  
I want them to be soft and light  
But warm and cosy too

**Jack**      **Verse 2.**  
You want them in the latest style?  
At a price that makes you smile  
So comfy you could walk a mile  
Is that your kind of shoe?

**Shoemaker, wife and Jack: Chorus**  
We've got a lot of pairs of shoes....  
So many you can hardly choose,  
You'll find that we will not refuse  
To make some just for you.

( *Optional repeat of verses and chorus sung at the same time* )

**Miss Hap:** Thank you very much. I'll remember that. Now how much do I owe you?  
**Shoe M;** That's three and ninepence, please.  
**Miss Hap:** There you are.  
**Wife:** Thank you. I'll put it away safely. Not that there's any need to worry in this village. Nobody ever steals anything here.  
**Miss Hap:** You never know. You can't trust everybody. Well, goodbye to you all.  
**All:** Goodbye, Miss Hap.  
(*She goes out of the shop to the village green*)  
**Shoe M:** Off you go, Jack to collect that thread. We've nearly run out.  
**Wife:** And back to work, all of you.  
(*They exit*)

(*Lights change. Villain music, Snatch and Grab enter*)

**Snatch:** Ssshh.  
**Grab:** Ssshh.  
**Snatch:** No one about. That's good.  
**Grab:** Let's get cracking then. (They enter the shop)  
**Snatch:** Nice little place, this. Fancy them leaving all this stuff around for us to take.  
**Grab:** Yeah, fancy.  
**Snatch:** What's in here? Oh. Money. I'll take care of this and you start loading the rest.  
Got the bag?  
**Grab:** Course I have. A nice big one. (He starts taking things)  
**Snatch:** What's that?  
**Grab:** Looks like leather.  
**Snatch:** Take it. Take everything. We'll sell it all and make ourselves a bit of money.  
**Grab:** Yeah. This is a nice little job. They almost make it too easy for us.  
**Snatch:** Mind you, we'd find anything easy. Best robbers in the business we are.  
**Grab:** That's right.  
**Snatch:** I'm Snatch. I'm the clever one. I tell him what to do.  
**Grab:** Yes, you do.  
**Snatch:** He's Grab. He does what I tell him.  
**Grab:** That's right, Boss.  
**Snatch:** Are you finished?  
**Grab:** Yeah. It's all in the bag.  
**Snatch:** Come on then. Ssshh.

**Grab:** Sssh.  
(*They exit. Lights change. Shoemaker enters*)

**Shoe M:** Time to finish off making those shoes.....that's funny, they've gone. All the others have gone too and where's all the leather? The till is empty! There's no money left! (*Going to shop door*) Help! Stop thief!

**Wife:** (*entering*) What's the all the noise about?

**Shoe M:** Look. We've been robbed. Everything's gone.  
(*Villagers enter*)

**Villager:** What's the matter?

**Shoe M:** We've been robbed there are thieves around.

**Wife:** They've taken everything.

**Shoe M:** All our money, the shoes that I was going to sell....

**Wife:** Even the picture of the children.

**Villager:** But how can it have happened?

**Shoe M:** The shop was only empty for a moment. I'd just popped out to sharpen the scissors.

**Villager:** And somebody came in without you hearing them?

**Wife:** Yes.

**Cuthbert:** Ooh, Mum. I'm scared.

**Mrs D:** Oh you.You're scared of everything.

**Cuthbert:** No, I'm not.

**Mrs D:** Yes you are.

**Cuthbert:** I'm not.

**Mrs D:** You are.

**Cuthbert:** Not.

**Mrs D:** Are. Why don't you grow up a bit. Why don't you try to catch the robbers instead of being scared of them.

**Cuthbert:** Who me?

**Mrs D:** Yes, you.

**Cuthbert:** But I don't know how to.

**Jack:** We ought to do something about it.

**Hannah:** How? We don't know which way they went.

**Villager:** They could be miles away by now.

**Miss Hap:** Oh dear. If only you'd been more careful. I told you you can't trust everybody.

**Villager:** No you can't there are some dreadful people about.

**Mrs D:** My sister in the next village told me they had a robbery there.

**Wife:** Think of it. You never know when there's someone like that around.

**Villager:** Waiting and watching.

**Miss Hap:** Watching and listening.

**Jack:** Waiting and watching and listening.