

# The Elves and the Shoemaker

retold by Paul Galdone

A gentle shoemaker and two mysterious elves will change each other's lives forever, in this retelling of the classic Brothers Grimm tale. Contemporary, action-filled illustrations and a thought-provoking story will continue to inspire a new generation of children.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What would you do if you were a magical elf?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why the elves are making shoes?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *The Elves and the Shoemaker*

- conscience: sense of right and wrong
- astonished: very surprised
- examine: study something, investigate something
- intended: planned for the future, aimed at or designed for somebody or something
- spirit: life force of a person, somebody's personality or temperament
- pierce: bore into something, put hole in something
- cleverly: showing intelligence, demonstrating mental agility
- grateful: feeling or expressing thanks
- waistcoats: sleeveless upper garment worn over shirt
- breeches: knee-length pants, trousers
- consented: give permission or agree
- observe: notice something, watch something attentively
- delight: great enjoyment and pleasure

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why did the shoemaker only have one piece of leather?
- What happened to the cutout leather pieces when he awoke the next day?
- How many shoes did the shoemaker have to sell?
- Who did the shoemaker and his wife find when they stayed up all night?
- What did the elves do every night?
- What did the shoemaker and his wife make for the elves?
- How did the elves react to their new clothes?

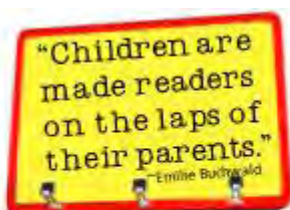
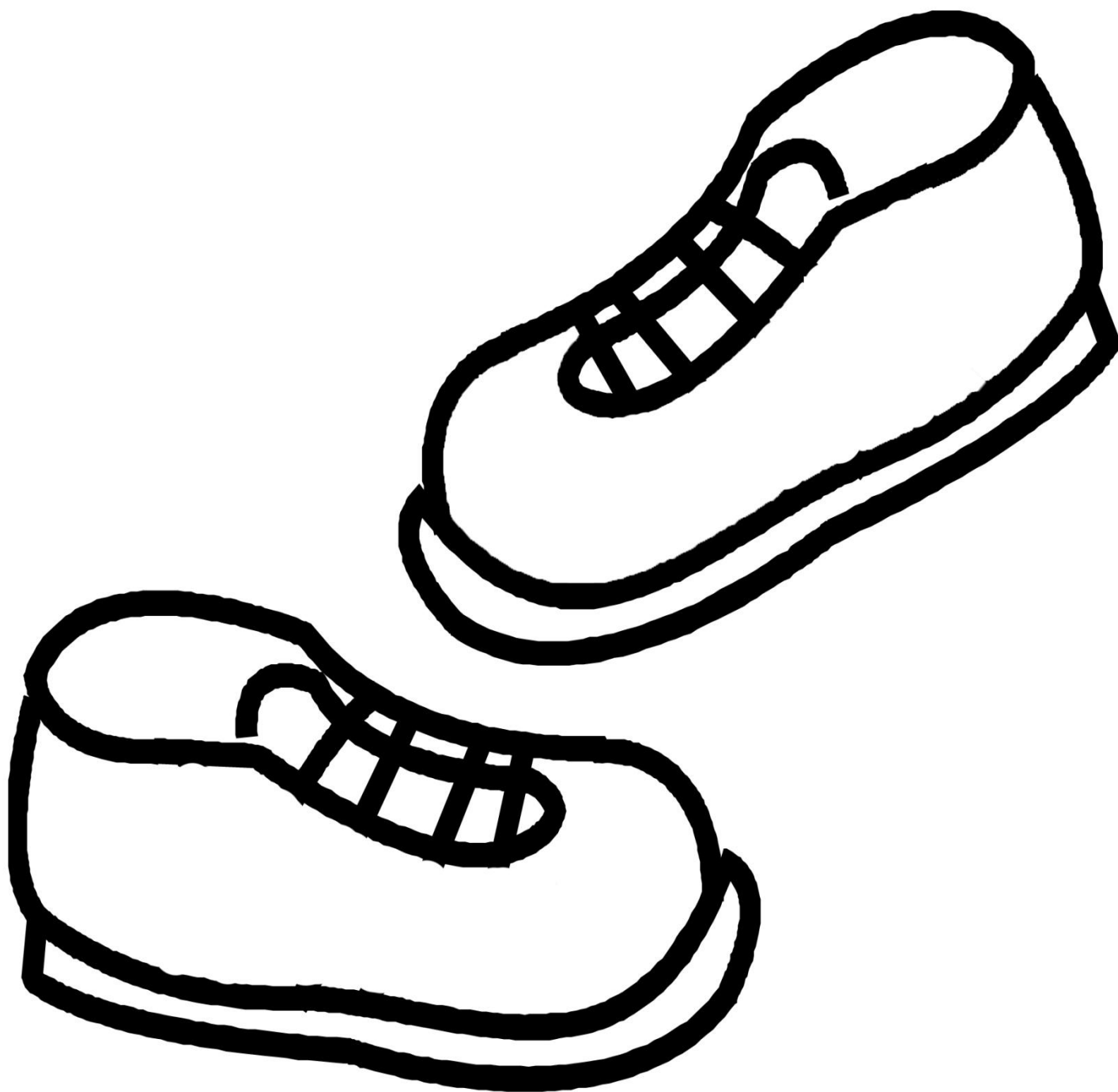
**Do**

## Color Your Own Shoe

After reading the story, hand each child a "My Own Shoe" sheet. Allow them enough time to decorate and design their own shoe.

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# My Own Shoes



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