

The story of

The Boy and The Milk

Read out loud:

Mum says: "You're a big boy now. You can go get that Milk for me. Here is a coin. Now go on." The door closes behind the Boy

Chapter 1 - All alone

Location: On the staircase by the Boys apartment with a coin in his hand

Where we learn that this is his first time alone out in the world

The three imaginary friends are *not* present in this chapter

Only for the storyteller:

Inspiration:

- Feelings of loneliness
- Feelings of what to expect
- Feelings of not having grownups for help
- Taking the elevator or stairs?
- Doing the same things he usually does on the way down?
- Exciting and intimidating
- Has he fantasized about being outside alone before?

Read out loud:

Chapter 2 - The big beast

Location: The landlord has a huge dog, behind a worn out fence

Where we learn that the world is a dangerous place and the Boy is scared and flees from the beast

The three imaginary friends are *not* present in this chapter

Only for the storyteller:

Inspiration:

- Mean and angry dog
- Barking loud and wild
- Sharp teeth and drooling
- Giant paws
- Mean eyes
- Snarling and growling
- Gigantic beast in his imagination
- The boy is scared
- Unstable fence
- What happens if the fence breaks?
- What would happen if the beast got to him?
- Would it eat him?
- Has he had a previous bad experience with the dog?

Read out loud:

Chapter 3 - The busy streets

Location: The streets outside

Where we learn that the world is a big and confusing place for a little boy

The three imaginary friends are *not* present in this chapter

Only for the storyteller:

Inspiration:

- Lots of tall people
- Busy people going by
- Not looking where they are walking
- Walking
- Running
- Bumping into him
- Spinning him around
- Lots of traffic signs that he does not understand
- Signs rolling towards him
- Signs stopping him
- Signs shouting at him
- Signs controlling the people
- Rivers of people
- Signs dancing down the streets
- Signs changing direction

Read out loud:

Chapter 4 - The toy store

Location: Around the corner at the local toy store

Where we learn how the three imaginary friends join the Boy

Only for the storyteller:

Fact:

The door is locked –“Be back in an hour”-sign

Inspiration:

- Looks through the window at the wonderful toys
- Introduction of each of his favourite friends: Spiderman, Tinkerbell, Winnie the Pooh
- How do they come alive?
- Does the Boy imagine a story about them?
- Does the Boy remember how he knows them?
- Do we hear what the Boy thinks of each of them?
- Do they jump out of the window to him?
- Does the Boy ask them to join him?
- Do they offer to join him?

Read out loud:

Chapter 5 - The bubble-gum machine

Location: By the road stands a large bubble-gum machine where you can insert a coin to get a big ball of bubble-gum.

Where we learn that the world can be tempting, and we see if the Boy spends his coin on bubble-gum or not

Only for the storyteller:

Fact:

The bubble-gum machine does not give return money, so if he spends the coin he does not have money for the milk

Inspiration:

- Exciting big machine
- Lots of colourful bubble-gums at the top
- Long spiral, the bubble-gum travels down to reach the bottom
- Temptation
- What bubble-gum colour tastes best?
- Which colour would the three imaginary friends prefer?
- The boy can imagine what he can do with bubble-gum instead of buying it
- Crazy imagination
- Wonderful bubble-gum adventure
- Flying in a bubble-gum balloon?
- Riding the bubble-gum itself like a rollercoaster as it travels down the spiral?
- A bubble-gum land?
- Diving in the sea of bubble gums?
- Can Winnie juggle with bubble-gums?
- Could Spiderman blow the biggest bubble?
- Would Tinkerbell get stuck in the bubble-gum?

Read out loud:

Chapter 6 - The traffic lights

Location: The traffic lights at the big street

Where we learn that it is confusing and hard to cross a big traffic light

Only for the storyteller:

Inspiration:

- Cars and bicycles all over
- Busy people not looking where they are going
- Honking and ringing
- Lights changing
- Different directions
- Angry cars
- Big motorcycles
- Aggressive bicycles
- People waiting
- People pushing
- People strolling
- Can they help each other to get across?
- Running across - safety issues?
- Jumping across - can we jump that far?
- Can Tinkerbell fly them across - can Winnie figure out how to fly?
- Can Spiderman create a web they can climb?

Read out loud:

Chapter 7 - The filthy troll-like drunkard

Location: Across the traffic lights the friends meet an old drunk man

Where we learn how the four friends defeat a big scary enemy

Only for the storyteller:

Inspiration:

- Dirty, smelly drunken man
- A scary, stupid Troll
- Gross and unpleasant
- Does the drunkard ask for money?
- Do they battle him?
- Do they tie him up?
- Do they outsmart him?
- Do they confuse him?
- Winnie could try and talk with the troll
- Tinkerbell could try and stand up to the troll
- Spiderman could battle the troll

Read out loud:

Chapter 8 - The sailboat

Location: By the lake in the park lies an abandoned toy boat

Where we learn if it is ok to play with someone else's toy and what a playful boat ride is like

Only for the storyteller:

Inspiration:

- Thoughts on playing with toys that belong to someone else
- Do the three imaginary friends agree on playing with it or not?
- Wild and crazy imagination
- Will the Boy just imagine playing with the boat or actually play with it?
- Sea monsters
- Large waves
- Pirates
- Mermaids
- Cannons
- Huge sails
- Meeting other sailors
- Where are they sailing to?

Read out loud:

Chapter 9 - The coin is gone

Location: The grey and rainy streets

Where we learn that the boy gets sad, when he realizes that he does not have the coin anymore and cannot buy milk

Only for the storyteller:

Fact:

He lost the coin on the boat ride or he spent it already. He cannot find it or get a coin from anywhere

Inspiration:

- Where is the coin?
- Playing got the better of him and now he does *not* have the coin
- Sad people going by
- Raining
- Grey and dark world
- Irresponsible boy
- Overwhelming sadness
- Does he cry?
- Do the three imaginary friends disappear because of sadness?
- Desperation
- He feels like running away
- Running away from it all
- Houses and people drifting by
- No one will ever find him
- Desperate leaps over huge gaps and high fences
- Big mountains and raging rivers
- Narrow holes
- Hard winds and storms

Read out loud:

Chapter 10 - Grandmother's bench

Location: The bench where the Boy and Grandma usually sits down for a rest

Where we learn that Grandma visits the Boy in his imagination to comfort and reassure him that it is all going to be ok

Only for the storyteller:

Fact:

At the end of the chapter the Boy somehow gets a coin

Inspiration:

- Sitting on the bench
- Desperate and sad
- The boy thinks of his Grandmother
- Grandma appears in his imagination
- Warm, cuddly, cosy
- Hugs and comfort
- How does it feel to be in Grandma's arms right now?
- Reassurance
- Grandma still loves the Boy even though he has lost the coin
- Sunshine
- Not running away any more
- How does he get the coin?
- Does Grandma give him a coin?
- Does he discover a forgotten coin?
- Does it fall from the sky?
- Does one of the imaginary friends have it?
- Is it actually in his deep pocket?

Read out loud:

Chapter 11 - The supermarket

Location: Around the corner is the supermarket

Where we learn that a supermarket is a playground for the four friends and you can have lots of fun

Only for the storyteller:

Fact:

They do *not* find the milk in this chapter

Inspiration:

- Neon entrance sign
- Labyrinth
- Run around
- Get lost
- Be found again
- Huge rows
- Mountains of cans
- Bottles clinging
- Packages on shelves
- Long coolers
- Piles of vegetables
- People shopping
- Flying
- Hopping
- Playing tag
- Celebrating that he has a coin to spend
- Tinkerbell might want to play hide and seek because she is small
- Spiderman may want to swing down the aisles?
- Winnie might be overwhelmed and hides in a box
- Where is the Milk?

Read out loud:

Chapter 12 - The Lollipop

Location: The rows of candy

Where we learn if the Boy can resist buying his favourite Lollipop

Only for the storyteller:

Inspiration:

- The Lollipop is drawing him in
- Temptation
- Mouth-watering
- Hypnotising
- My favourite Lollipop
- Can we afford both Lollipop and Milk?
- Should I just buy the Lollipop?
- Thoughts on the Boy eating the Lollipop
- Have the three imaginary friends ever tasted a Lollipop?
- Winnie likes candy
- Does Spiderman think it is a good idea?
- Is it too big for Tinkerbell?
- How would they feel if they ate the Lollipop right now?
- Can he resist the Lollipop?

Read out loud:

Chapter 13 - The Milk

Location: The enormously tall refrigerator with handlebars at the top where the Milk is on the top shelf out of reach for the Boy

Where we learn how the Boy gets the Milk out of the refrigerator

This chapter takes place only in reality, which means no imaginary friends and no imagination

Only for the storyteller:

Fact:

The Boy *does* get an unharmed carton of Milk at the end of the chapter

Inspiration:

- Finally finds where the milk is
- All the way up there
- Almost in the clouds
- Cannot open the refrigerator
- Is anyone around?
- Ask someone to help?
- Or find a way on my own?
- A couple of boxes to stand on?
- Something to hook in the handlebar to open the refrigerator?
- Somehow get the Milk down unharmed
- Maybe first attempt fails
- Accidentally pushes something else down?
- Juice all over the floor?

Read out loud:

Chapter 14 - The cruel witch-like cashier

Location: At the cashier by the exit

Where we learn how the Boy gets the Milk out of the supermarket

Only for the storyteller:

Fact:

He has to come out with the Milk

He does *not need* to come out with the Lollipop

He does *not* have enough money for both Milk and Lollipop

Inspiration:

- Standing in line
- Seeing the cashier
- Very cruel lady
- Wicked witch?
- Mean eyes and a stern look
- Warts and long fingers
- Cashier demanding payment
- Only buy Milk?
- Also buy the Lollipop?
- The coin is not enough for more than Milk
- Can we trick the witch?
- Will someone else pay?

Read out loud:

Chapter 15 - The street artists

Location: Outside the supermarket is the big square where a musician, a juggler and a small dog are performing

Where we learn just how much fun you can have with dancing and celebrating getting the Milk

Only for the storyteller:

Inspiration:

- Music
- Dancing
- Juggling
- Acrobatics
- Small dog jumping hoops
- Celebrating getting the Milk
- Things jump out of the music
- Wild imagination
- Crazy dancing
- Dancing animals?
- Juggling plantation?
- Acrobatic houses?
- Party time!

Read out loud:

Chapter 16 - The lake on the street

Location: A huge puddle of water next to the sidewalk

Where we learn how the four friends gets across the water

Only for the storyteller:

Inspiration:

- Debate on how to get across
- They have to bring the Milk
- Too far to walk around
- Cold water
- Wave after wave
- Dangers in the water?
- Swim? – Can they all swim?
- Sail? – On the Milk?
- Use Spiderman's web?
- Be carried across?
- Tinkerbell fly over? – Can Winnie figure out how to fly?
- Will they fall in the water?

Read out loud:

Chapter 17 - Inside the clock

Location: The big Clock at the city hall not far from home

Where we learn that the Boy is late and that he tries to turn back the time

Only for the storyteller:

Inspiration:

- Spent too much time playing
- Didn't walk the straight way
- What if we could turn back the time, so we won't be late?
- Crazy imagination
- Step inside the clock itself
- Different sizes of springs and cogs
- Tic-toc sounds
- Turning wheels
- Moving dials
- Spinning gears
- Ducking, jumping, tiptoeing
- Careful timing
- Seconds, Minutes, Hours
- Numbers
- Do they knock something over?
- Do they stop the clock?
- Can they get it started again?
- Do they turn back time?

Read out loud:

Chapter 18 - Back at the toy store

Location: The same local Toy Store as earlier

Where we learn that the Boy is convinced, that he can manage the last part of the trip on his own and the three imaginary friends stay at the toy store

Only for the storyteller:

Fact:

The three imaginary friends cannot go further with the Boy

Inspiration:

- Spiderman, Tinkerbelle and Winnie are missing in the window display
- There is nothing we *cannot* do!
- You have all helped me through everything
- Feelings of confidence
- Feelings of courage
- I know I am not alone anymore
- The best adventure ever!
- Jumping back into the window display?
- Does the Boy tell each of them what they have given him?
- Saying goodbye
- Individual goodbye or group hugs?
- Permanent goodbye?
- Or a "See you later"?
- Will they always be there to help him?

Read out loud:

Chapter 19 - Showdown with the big beast

Location: The landlord's huge dog right outside the main entrance

Where we learn that, on his journey, the boy has collected enough courage to face the big beast and defeat it

The imaginary friends are not with the Boy and he faces the dog alone

Only for the storyteller:

Inspiration:

- The final showdown
 - Thoughts on facing the dog again
 - Nasty dog
 - Teeth and barking
 - Mad beast
 - No longer scared
 - Courageous
 - Defeating the beast?
 - Commanding it?
 - Playing with it?
 - Throwing the ball? – Playing fetch?
 - Speaking gently?
 - I know the world can be scary but it is ok!
 - Becoming friends with the dog?
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At the end of the chapter, when the Boys has defeated the beast, read out loud:

The Boy rings the doorbell to his apartment.

Mum says: "I am so glad you are back. You are the best. Come on up and have some hot chocolate."

The end