

The Three Little Pigs

A Folktale (Europe)

Once upon a time there was an old mother pig who had three little pigs. When they were old enough, she suggested to the three little pigs that each of them might build a house.

The first little pig didn't like to work hard. This little pig built a house quickly out of straw.

The second little pig worked a little bit harder, building a house out of sticks.

The first and second little pigs sang and danced and played the rest of the day.

The third little pig worked hard all day and built a house with bricks. It was a sturdy house complete with a fine fireplace and chimney. This house looked like it could withstand the strongest winds.

The next day, a wolf happened to pass by the neighborhood in which the three little pigs had built their houses. The wolf saw the straw house, and smelled the pig inside. The wolf thought the pig would make a fine meal and the wolf's mouth began to water.

So the wolf knocked on the door and said:

Little pig! Little pig!
Let me in! Let me in!

But the little pig saw the wolf's big paws through the keyhole in the front door, and answered back:

No! No! No!
Not by the hairs on my chinny chin chin!

Then the wolf snarled, showing the wolf's teeth, and said:

Then I'll huff
and I'll puff
and I'll blow your house down.

So the wolf huffed and puffed and blew the house down! The wolf opened the wolf's jaws very wide and was about to bite down into the first little pig, but the first little pig escaped, and running away to the house of the second little pig.

The wolf followed and came to the second house, which was made of sticks. The wolf smelled the pigs inside, and the wolf's mouth began to water as the wolf thought about the fine dinner the two little pigs would make.

So the wolf knocked on the door and said:

Little pigs! Little pigs!
Let me in! Let me in!

But the little pigs saw the wolf's pointy ears through the front door's keyhole, so they answered back:

No! No! No!
Not by the hairs on our chinny chin chin!

Again the wolf snarled, showing the wolf's teeth, and said:

Then I'll huff
and I'll puff
and I'll blow your house down!

So the wolf huffed and puffed and blew the house down! The wolf tried to catch both pigs at once, but caught neither! The wolf's big jaws clamped down on nothing but air and the two little pigs scrambled away as fast as they could towards the third house, the one made of bricks.

The wolf chased them, but they made it to the brick house, went in, and slammed the door closed and locked it before the wolf could catch them. The wolf could smell all three of them inside and he knew that the three little pigs would make a lovely feast. The wolf was very hungry because the wolf had not eaten all day.

So the wolf knocked on the door and said:

Little pigs! Little pigs!
Let me in! Let me in!

But the little pigs saw the wolf's face through the keyhole, and they answered back:

No! No! No!
Not by the hairs on our chinny chin chin!

A third and final time, the wolf snarled, showing the wolf's teeth, and said:

Then I'll huff
and I'll puff
and I'll blow your house down.

Well, the wolf huffed and puffed. The wolf huffed and huffed. And huffed and puffed some more. But the wolf could not blow this house down. At last, the wolf was so out of breath that the wolf could not puff anymore. So the wolf stopped to rest and think a bit.

The wolf decided to climb up onto the roof of the brick house, and then come down the chimney and eat the three little pigs for supper. But when the pigs saw that the wolf was climbing onto the roof, they made a blazing fire in the fireplace, and put on a big pot full of water there to boil. When the wolf jumped down the chimney, the wolf fell directly into the pot of boiling water. It was hot! The wolf screamed in pain, and managed to jump up and out of the chimney, off the roof, and onto the ground. The wolf ran as fast as the wind, and was never seen by the three little pigs again.