

The Magic Fish (Adaptation)

Needs 3 characters. (The man, the woman, the fish) and a narrator. For beginners, I would suggest just having the narrator read the story and the kids act it out, or the children could actually say the lines. I foresee only one actual costume, that of the fish. Scenery could be minimal: a boat and a house)

One bright sunny day, a fisherman was fishing for his dinner, and he pulled in a beautiful fish. The man was happy to have caught such a big fish for dinner. As he started to pull it out of the water, the fish spoke. (Man actor pantomimes catching the fish: Fish actor holds onto the line and is pulled towards the boat)

Fish: I am a magic fish. If you throw me back into the ocean, I will grant your wish.

The fisherman was astonished to hear the fish speak. He unhooked the fish and threw him back into the water. The fish swam near and spoke again.

Fish: Thank you. What is your wish?

The man was actually quite content with his life, but he remembered his wife and how hard she worked, so he said.

Man: My wife works so hard. Could you give her a nice cottage instead of the hut where we live now?

Fish: Certainly. Go home, and you will find it so.

So the man went home to find a nice cottage where their hut had been. It had flowers around it, a cow mowed in the pasture, and there were chickens clucking contentedly. His wife opened the door.

Wife: (scolding) Where have you been? And where is my fish for dinner?

Man: I caught a magic fish, and he granted my wish. How do you like the cottage?

Wife: Like? What is there to like? If you had a chance for a wish, why did you not ask for a nicer house? Go back and tell the fish that I want a mansion.

The man went reluctantly back to the sea. The weather was not as nice as before. The sky had gotten cloudy. The man went to the edge of the sea and called out.

Man: Oh, magic fish. Please come back.

Fish: Do you have another wish?

Man: Oh, yes. My wife is not satisfied with the cottage. Could you give her a mansion?

Fish: Certainly. Go home, and you will find it so.

When the man walked up the path, he could hardly believe his eyes. There stood a gorgeous mansion. It had parks and trees all around. A servant opened the door. Inside, the rooms were finely decorated.

He found his wife in the hall with a frown on her face, and her arms crossed. Immediately, she began nagging.

Wife: You call this a mansion? If the fish would grant any wish, why did you not ask for a castle? I want a castle and a kingdom. I want to be queen! Go back and ask for a castle!

The man was reluctant, but he went back to the sea. The weather had gotten even worse. The sky was dark, and the waves were choppy. He shivered, but he stood at the edge of the sea and called out.

Man: Fish! Oh, magic fish! Please come back!

Fish: What does your wife want now?

Man: I thought the mansion was beautiful, but she still isn't satisfied. Could you give her a castle? She wants to be queen.

Fish: Certainly. Go home and you will find it so.

The man went home, and sure enough, there was a castle where the hut had been. Now there were many servants. Inside, the floors were marble and there were statues all around. There was his wife. She had a crown on her head, but her face was dark with anger.

Wife: (shouting) You call THIS a castle? The King of France has a nicer castle than this. I don't want any old castle. I want to be emperor of the world! Go back and demand that fish to make me emperor!

The man was really frightened when he went back. He was scared to ask for another wish. Besides, the weather was horrible. Cold rain was coming down in sheets, the wind was so fierce that he had to fight for every step, and the waves were high and crashing against the shore. He had to shout to make himself heard.

Man: Fish! Oh, magic fish! Please come back.

Fish: What does your wife want now?

Man: Magic fish, I'm so sorry to have to ask again, but my wife wasn't happy with the castle. I'm sure she would be content if she could be the emperor of the world.

Fish: So she wants to be emperor now, does she? Go home. She has everything that she deserves.

And when the old fisherman came in sight of their home, no longer was there a cottage or a mansion, or a castle. Instead, there was their old hut, and there was his wife, sitting on a rock beside the door. She was exactly where she deserved to be.