

Brave Heart

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From *Scary Readers Theater*

Adapted by LHU Language Center

Characters:

Narrator, Brave Heart, First Villager, Second Villager, Witch, Girl

Narrator:

Once upon a time an evil witch lived in a forest. She has a voracious appetite and would go into the village and steal animals to eat. The people got so desperate they created a special pen, and each villager contributed animals. One year, it became time for a young man to bring some of his animals to the pen, but he refused to do it.

Brave Heart:

I refuse to give them to that evil witch.

First Villager:

You'd best be careful what you say. She will hear about you and punish you.

Brave Heart:

I'm not afraid of that old hag. In fact, I think I will go into the forest and teach her a lesson.

Second Villager:

He may be a bit foolish, but that young man has a brave heart.

Narrator:

And that is what they called him, Brave Heart, as they watched him head into the forest. Brave Heart walked for two days, finally falling asleep under a tree near a large pond.

The next morning he woke to the sound of someone singing in a cracking voice.

Witch:

Things in the water,
Come here to me.
I'll kill you and eat you.
As quick as can be!

Narrator:

Brave Heart saw that it was the evil witch, singing a magical spell. The witch looked up and smiled.

Witch:

You look hungry, my friend. Why don't you join me for breakfast? I have plenty to eat.

Brave Heart:

Thank you, ma'am, but I'm fine right here.

Narrator:

When the witch saw he wouldn't come down, she began to pluck grass, and sprinkled a magic powder on it and chanted her spell.

Witch:

To the tree, now,
Creep and crawl.
Up the trunk go,
One and all.
Pinch him, bite him,
One and all,
Until he must
In the water fall!

Narrator:

Each grass changed into a large brown ant and crawled straight up the trunk. Brave Heart let go of the branch

and fell into the pond.

Witch:

Things in the water,
Come here to me.

Narrator:

Brave Heart was tangled in the net.
The witch stuffed him into a large bag, dragged him home, and threw him into a room. Later the door opened, and Brave Heart saw a young girl in the doorway.

Brave Heart:

Who are you?

Girl:

I am the witch's slave, but you are to be her next slave.
Now I will be killed and eaten. That is her way.

Brave Heart:

This can't be happening. I can't let her eat you! We must escape.

Girl:

There may be a way. She has a magic stone that she uses for flying.
I know where she hides it, but I've never taken it because I knew that I couldn't get away alone.

Brave Heart:

Yes! Get the stone, and let's at least try to escape!

Narrator:

The girl quickly returned with the stone and a bag of yellow powder.

Girl:

The witch uses this powder to change things from one kind to another. Maybe it will help us.

Narrator:

Brave Heart and the girl held hands while the girl said the magic words to make the stone fly. The witch began to run after them.

Brave Heart:

We must do something quickly, or she will catch us.

Girl:

Drop some of the powder and see what happens.

Narrator:

When the powder fell on a bush, the leaves changed into rabbits. Always hungry, the witch decided she could spare the time to eat just a few.

Girl:

Soon we will be so low the witch will be able to catch us. What shall we do?

Brave Heart:

I see the pond ahead. If we just hang on long enough, maybe she won't be able to swim across the pond.

Girl:

But she can swim just as fast as she can run!

Brave Heart:

Let's try the powder again.

Narrator:

This time the powder changed some rocks into big turtles. Once again, the greedy witch stopped to eat. Just as Brave Heart and the girl crossed the pond, the magic

stone gave out, and they drifted down to the ground.
They watched as the witch began to swim to them.

Witch:

You thought you could get away, but now I have you!

Girl:

Now she will kill me for sure.

Brave Heart:

Maybe not. Look, she is slowing down.

Girl:

It's the turtles she ate! They are too heavy for her!

Brave Heart:

You' re right! She is drowning!

Narrator:

As they watched, the witch howled with fury and slowly sank to the bottom of the pond. Brave Heart and the girl went back to the village where no one ever worried again about the evil witch.