

The Big, Fat Pancake

a European fairy tale from the 19th century

Once upon a time there were three old women. They wanted to eat pancakes. The first old woman cracked the egg, the second added milk, and the third added butter and flour. When the big, fat pancake was finished, it stood up in the pan and ran away from the three old women. It ran faster and faster – splish, splash – through the forest.

It saw a rabbit. The rabbit called, "Big, fat pancake, stop! I want to eat you!" The big, fat pancake answered, "I ran away from three old ladies, and you think that you can catch me?" It ran faster and faster – splish, splash – through the forest.

Then came a wolf. The wolf called, "Big, fat pancake, stop! I want to eat you!" The big, fat pancake answered, "I ran away from three old ladies and a rabbit, and you think that you can catch me?" It ran faster and faster – splish, splash – through the forest.

Then came a bear. The bear called, "Big, fat pancake, stop! I want to eat you!" The big, fat pancake answered, "I ran away from three old ladies, a rabbit, and a wolf, and you think that you can catch me?" It ran faster and faster – splish, splash – through the forest.

Then came a pig. The pig called, "Big, fat pancake, stop! I want to eat you!" The big, fat pancake answered, "I ran away from three old ladies, a rabbit, a wolf, and a bear, and you think that you can catch me?" It ran faster and faster – splish, splash – through the forest.

Along came three children. They were sad. They said, "We are so hungry. We have nothing to eat. Dear Pancake, stop!" The big, fat pancake sprang into the pocket of a child and allowed itself to be eaten by the children. The children ate the pancake and were happy.