

MATERIALS FOR LANGUAGE TEACHING AT (RUDOLF STEINER) WALDORF SCHOOLS

Silly Simon

A STORY FROM ENGLAND

retold by

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Once upon a time there was a very rich man who had a beautiful daughter. But the beautiful daughter could neither laugh nor speak.

The best doctors in all the land came to see the girl and they said, “This girl cannot speak because she cannot laugh. If someone can make her laugh then she will be able to speak.”



Silly Simon came to a stream
and in the stream he saw silver fish and gold
fish, but when he tried to catch a fish,
his bright new, penny slipped out of his hand
and rolled into the stream.



When he got home, he told his mother what had happened.

“You stupid boy!” said his mother. “That is not the way to carry a penny. The way to carry a penny is to put it in your pocket and run along home. Now remember that!”

“Yes, I shall remember that,” said Silly Simon.



On the fourth day, Silly Simon set off across the common and very soon he met a woodcutter.

The woodcutter said, "I need a boy like you to tie up my sticks. If you will tie up my sticks, I shall give you a log of wood."



So Silly Simon tied up the sticks
and at the end of the day,
the woodcutter gave him a log of wood.



Silly Simon said to himself,
“Now what did my mother tell me?
She said I was to tie it with rope
and pull it along home.”

So he tied the leg of mutton with rope,
put it on the ground and pulled it along
home.



Now when his mother saw the leg of mutton all covered with dirt and dust, she said, “I do believe you are the stupidest boy in all the world. That is not the way to carry a leg of mutton. The way to carry a leg of mutton is to lift it onto your shoulder and come along home. Now remember that!”

“Yes, I shall remember that,” said Silly Simon.



Silly Simon said to himself,
“Now what did my mother tell me?
She said I was to lift it onto my shoulder
and come along home.”

So he lifted the great donkey onto his
shoulder and set off for home.



Just then the rich man and his beautiful daughter passed by. When the beautiful daughter saw little Silly Simon carrying the great donkey on his shoulder, she began to laugh.

Then she said to her father,
“Just look at that silly boy
carrying a great donkey!”