



The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs

Characters

Narrator
Goose
Joseph

Mother
King
Guardsmen

Setting

This reader's theater takes place in the palace of a rich and selfish king.



Act I

Narrator: On the last day of the month, all peasants in the kingdom pay rent to the king.

King: I've seen many peasants so far this morning. Are there more to come?

Guardsmen: Yes, Your Majesty, plenty more. You own all the land, so any peasant who lives here eagerly wishes to pay you.

King: Yes, quite true. Isn't it wonderful that I have everything I could ever want?

Guardsmen: But Sire, don't you wish for more?

King: I'm pleased with what I have.

Guardsmen: You deserve it all.

Narrator: The king chuckles.



King: You are quite right. Well, let's get on with it!

Guardsmen: Gatekeeper, send in the peasants.

Narrator: The king bites a turkey leg and then flings it back to the plate as the peasants file past.

Act 2

Narrator: Outside, a boy and his mother wait. The boy holds a goose that flaps and honks loudly.

Mother: Hush, you silly goose!

Joseph: Mama, I am frightened.

Goose: Honk!

Mother: I know, Joseph. But our rent is due. We must give this goose to the king. It will be all right.



Goose: Honk!

Joseph: The merchant told us that she's a magical goose. He said that if we treat her well, she'll lay golden eggs. Are you hoping that will make up for not having the rent?

Goose: Honk!

Mother: Well, yes, I am. Aren't golden eggs worth more than copper coins?

Goose: Honk!

Joseph: But the goose is *not* magical! I've done everything the merchant said. But no golden eggs! All she does is honk.

Goose: Honk!

Joseph: Oh, be quiet!