

## **"A Carochinha" - The Beetle**

An adaptation into English by pre-school teachers in Portugal

One day little beetle was sweeping her kitchen floor, when she found a big, gold coin. She quickly went to the shop and bought a new red dress and a yellow ribbon for her hair.

When she got home she opened her window and sang sweetly,

"Who wants to marry me? I'm very rich, please come and see!"

"I do, I do, I do", said the donkey.

"Speak to me", said the little Beetle.

So the donkey went "EE AW, EE AW, EE AW".

"But, I can't understand you," said the beetle, "I can't marry you!"

"Who wants to marry me? I'm very rich, please come and see!"

"I do, I do, I do", said the pig

"Speak to me", said the little Beetle.

So the pig went "OINK, OINK, OINK".

"But, I can't understand you," said the beetle, "I can't marry you!"

This continues with other farm animals until...

"I do, I do, I do", said Mat the Rat.

"Speak to me", said the little Beetle.

So Mat the Rat went "Squeak, squeak, squeak".

"I can understand you", said the little Beetle. "Let's get married!"

The next day, near the church, the little Beetle said, "Oh, I've forgotten my gloves, please get them for me Mat the Rat".

Mat the Rat went to her house, he opened the door, and..."Umm, UMMM, a lovely smell. Beans and carrots and cabbage and bacon" (any food the children know!)

Mat the Rat saw a large vat of soup.

He put his nose in the vat.

He put his head in the vat.

He put his shoulders in the vat.

Oh, no, and then his toes!

Mat the Rat fell in the vat!

That was the end of Mat the Rat.

Poor little Beetle, she cried and cried, "My poor Rat, Mat, who fell in the vat."

<b>Age range:</b>	3 - 8 years
<b>English level:</b>	Beginner & lower intermediate
<b>Language focus</b>	
Repeated patterns:	Who wants to marry me? I'm very rich, please come and see! Speak to me! I do, I do, I do! I can't understand you! I can't marry you!
Functions:	Can / can't Let's ...(suggestion)
Lexical items:	Farm animals and their sounds (cow, horse, pig, sheep, dog, goose, rooster, cat, duck, and rat) Clothes (dress, bow, gloves, hat) Body parts (head, shoulders, knees, toes and nose) Food (cabbage, carrots, potatoes, beans, onions, sausage, bacon, soup...) House vocab. (hall, living room, bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen)
Language work:	Phonics (Mat, rat, vat, hat, cat, fat, sat)
<b>General education links:</b>	Sequencing from memory Socialising, turn taking and sharing
<b>Story moral:</b>	Being different doesn't matter. (A beetle marrying a rat!)
<b>Teaching aids:</b>	Pictures of the animals involved, or puppets. A large coin, a broom, a bow, a large box for the vat.

This story is another well-known Portuguese pre-school story. The children need to know the animal names and body parts, especially good if they know the song 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes'. This gives them lots of opportunities to contextualise their learning, deciding which animals come next and making their sounds.

### **Suggested Teaching ideas.**

#### **Art and craft:**

- 1) Make masks, use any of the well known techniques, but a really effective method is using a paper plate or a paper bag, and getting the children to cut and stick the relevant bits of the animal. You can review face vocabulary and colours whilst doing this activity.
- 2) Making a storybook. Get the children to draw a part of the story each and then put all the pictures together to make a book for their library corner. There are lots of ways at making books, check out the storytelling book by Andrew Wright, OUP. If they are old enough they can write some words as a gap filling activity. If they are too little the teacher can write the story under their drawings.
- 3) Dressing the Beetle and Mat the Rat for the wedding. A cut and stick activity. The beetle wears a bow, a dress, gloves, socks and shoes. Mat wears a top hat, a jacket, a bow tie, socks and shoes.
- 4) Drawing Beetle's house with a window which opens and shows Beetle inside

#### **Maths:**

Older children can make pretend money and go shopping.

Role-play: "How much is it? It's 20p etc."

Adding and subtracting: You have 50 p, buy a bow for 20p. How much change do you get?

Colour the coins which add up to 20p

Games with a dice. Using the dressing activity above, each number on the dice represents an item of clothing, children see who is able to dress their character first.

**Geography:** Older children could map the route Beetle and Mat take to get to church. They pass the bakers, the butchers, the shop, the town hall, the market, the park etc. They go up the hill, through the park, around the market ...

**Movement and drama:** Once the children know some animals in English, this is perfect for a role-play activity. They will have heard the story several times before doing the role-play and should be quite confident at saying:

*"Who wants to marry me? I'm very rich, please come and see!"*

*"I do, I do, I do"*

*"Speak to me!"*

*"EE AW, EE AW, EE AW". (etc)*

*"But, I can't understand you," "I can't marry you!"*

Pretending to have the wedding. Who would go? Beetle's family and Mat's family!  
A family photograph outside the church. Which animal would be the vicar?!!

**Language work:** Phonic work with 'at' sounds.