Nasreddin Hodja and the Naughty Children

Once upon a time, there was an old man called Nasreddin Hodja. He lived in a village in Turkey. He was a clever and funny man, with a big round belly, a long wide beard and a hat like a giant pumpkin.

One day the children of the village decided to play a trick on Hodja. They sat by the stream and dangled their feet in the water. When Nasreddin Hodja was passing by, they called for help.

"Hodja! Hodja! Please help us!" they yelled. Hodja stopped and asked what was wrong.

"Our feet are all mixed. We don’t know which is whose! We can’t go home if we can’t find our feet. Please help us find our feet," they shouted.

Nasreddin Hodja was a very wise man. He was not going to be tricked by little children.

"Yes, I understand," he said with a smile. "That happens sometimes but don’t worry, I know what to do."

Hodja grabbed a leafy branch from a tree and walked into the water. Then he started to tickle the children’s feet with the branch.

Each child that was tickled jumped out of the water laughing till their bellies ached.

"Aha!" Hodja said. "You see, now you have all found your feet!"