



# The Elves and the Shoemaker; Goldilocks and the Three Bears; The Runaway Chapati

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Media type:

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BfK Rating:

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Designed for use with early years children, these three big books form part of the beginning phase of the Cambridge Reading Programme. The choice of the stories is welcome, particularly **The Elves and the Shoemaker** which is not easy to come by in a quality version, and **The Runaway Chapati** (a variant of 'The Gingerbread Man'), a favourite tale for telling but not one I have come across in picture book form.

Price's retellings - as one would expect - lend themselves to being read aloud with verve and feeling and make the repetition inherent in each a natural part of the tale. There are speech bubbles too containing the repeated refrains, presumably for the children to read; these are in bold type but for whole class sessions I feel they could have been bigger. The three illustrators have brought their own originality to the familiar characters: Goldilocks is a thoroughly modern miss with trainer boots, stripy tights and mini-skirt while the bears are gorgeously shaggy and huggable; Waterhouse's chapati chasers, particularly tiger, are wide-eyed and wonderful.

These books are well worth adding to the class collection regardless of whether or not you use any other materials from Cambridge Reading.

Running Order:

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