



STORY: THE WEE, WEE MANNIE AND THE BIG, BIG COO

A Scottish Folktale

Adapted and retold by Dianne de Las Casas

A Story Theater Script from Dianne de Las Casas' book *Story Fest: Crafting Story Theater Scripts* (Teacher Ideas Press, 2005)

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Storyteller 1: Once there was a wee, wee mannie and he had a big, big coo. One fine morning, he went out with his pail to draw some milk. But the big, big coo swished her tail, kicked up her heels, and knocked the pail out of his hands. The wee, wee mannie cried out:

Chorus: What's a wee, wee mannie to do
With such a big contrary coo?

Storyteller 2: So he went to his mother's house and said, "Mother, Coo won't stand still and wee, wee mannie can't milk big, big coo!" So Mother took the pail to the big, big coo said, "Stay still!" But the big, big coo swished her tail, kicked up her heels and knocked the pail out of her hands. The wee, wee mannie cried out:

Chorus: What's a wee, wee mannie to do
With such a big contrary coo?

Storyteller 3: So they went to his sister's house and said, "Coo won't stand still and wee, wee mannie can't milk big, big coo!" So Sister took the pail to the big, big coo said, "Stay still!" But the big, big coo swished her tail, kicked up her heels and knocked the pail out of her hands. The wee, wee mannie cried out:

Chorus: What's a wee, wee mannie to do
With such a big contrary coo?

Storyteller 4: Mother said, "It seems that big, big coo does the opposite of what you ask her to do. Why don't we try something new? So wee, wee mannie said to coo, "Big, big coo, please swish your tail, kick up your heels, and knock this pail out of my hands!" And guess what?

Chorus: Big, big coo stood still.

Storyteller 5:

Wee, wee mannie milked big, big coo and shared fresh milk with his mother and sister. And the big, big coo never acted like that again - - until the next time!

