

Billy and Milly

There once was a brother and sister by the name of Billy and Milly. My Lady Spring had been all about doing her work. She had awakened the seeds and bulbs that were underground sleeping all winter long. She had coaxed the little green shoots to come out and peek at the beautiful warm sun. Billy and Milly were so happy that it was warm and sunny again. They were delighted to play outside without having to put on their winter coats, snow pants, gloves and warm hats. One day Billy and Milly wandered to the edge of the garden. It was their favorite place to be. That is where the tall grasses grew, this is where there were huge rocks to climb and many stumps to jump on. Billy and Milly saw their cat Kitty Mae scamper down across the grass as quick as can be all the way to the field. Usually Kitty Mae liked sitting under the oak tree just lazing around, but today she had seen two fairies and an elf run across the garden and she was curious to see where they went. Billy and Milly wondered where it was that Kitty Mae was running in such a hurry. So they followed her. When they got to the field they saw Kitty Mae crouching very close to the flowers. She was very very quiet. "What do you think she sees", asked Billy. "Maybe a little mouse," answered Milly. But no matter how hard they looked they did not see a little mouse. They sat very quietly and listened to the silence. Flutter, flutter, up over their heads. Flutter, flutter. Billy and Milly felt a soft breeze all around them. Milly was the first to spot a fairy and then second one and a third one. "Oh look Billy, it is the fairies that Kitty Mae sees and it is their flapping wings that are making the soft breeze." Well as you may know, the fairies are always very cautious around humans, so they hid behind the buds on the pussy willow bush. "Do not be afraid fairies," whispered Billy. One by one, very carefully, they peeked out at Billy and Milly. And very carefully Billy and Milly peeked at the fairies. "Oh, do come out dear fairies. We will do you no harm." The fairies came a little closer. One was dressed in pink, one was dressed in blue, and one was dressed in purple. And right behind them was the little elf all dressed in green, as green as the grass. Kitty Mae also came closer and meowed quietly so as not to scare the fairies and elf away. "We were curious to see where our cat Kitty Mae was off to and followed her to this field. Is this where you live?" asked Billy. "Yes, when it's spring we live in the knot hole in the maple tree. See it is right here," and they pointed to their special place. "We work all day helping the bees find the nectar in the flowers. Little elf guards them so that no one bothers the bees in their beehives as they busily make honey. We also watch that no one steps on the worms who are making little tunnels under ground for the rain to seep in all the way to the roots of all growing plants. This way the plants drink the rain and get tall and strong. When all our work is done at the end of the day we gather around and sing. "Thank you fairies and little elf for the good deeds that you do," said Milly. "I love when Mommy puts honey in the cookies she bakes for us." "And I love all the flowers and plants that grow tall and strong because of the worms that little elf guards." "Meow, meow," agreed Kitty Mae. "We will listen for your songs at the end of the day," promised Billy and Milly. But now it was time to go home and have dinner. Billy and Milly promised to come back and visit the fairies and little elf again. "Goodbye, we shall return." Billy and Milly held hands and ran all the way home. Kitty Mae ran as fast as she could right behind. "It was a good day." said Billy to Milly. "Yes, it was a very good day," said Milly.

This story can be utilized in searches outdoors for the knot hole, for where the shoots are coming through, for baking cookies with honey, for taking closer looks at the different plants that are growing in your neighborhood while on walks. Pictures can be drawn of the cat, elf, fairies. Memory game as to what colors of dresses the fairies wore. Looking for worms after a rain is always fun. And take time to listen to the silence. At an opportune time say, lower your voice and say "Hushshshsh children hush-hushshsh...let us close our eyes and listen to the silence." As I told you before we did it in class for about a minute or so. It is very soothing.