

The Hen and the Apple Tree

By Arnold Lobel

It is always difficult to pose as something that one is not.

One October day, a Hen looked out her window. She saw an apple tree growing in her backyard. "Now that is odd," said the Hen. "I am certain that there was no tree standing in that spot yesterday." The tree said, "There are some of us that grow fast."

The Hen looked at the bottom of the tree.

"I have never seen a tree," she said, "that has ten furry toes."

"There are some of us that do," said the tree. "Hen, come outside and enjoy the cool shade of my leafy branches."

The Hen looked at the top of the tree.

"I have never seen a tree," she said, "that has two long, pointed ears."

"There are some of us that have," said the tree. "Hen, come outside and eat one of my delicious apples."

"Come to think of it," said the Hen, "I have never heard a tree speak from a mouth that is full of sharp teeth."

"There are some of us that can," said the tree. "Hen, come outside and rest your back against the bark of my trunk."

"I have heard," said the Hen, "that some of you trees lose all of your leaves at this time of the year."

"Oh, yes," said the tree, "there are some of us that will." The tree began to quiver and shake. All of its leaves quickly dropped off.

The Hen was not surprised to see a large Wolf in the place where an apple tree had been standing just a moment before. She locked her shutters and slammed her window closed.

The Wolf knew that he had been outsmarted, and he stormed away in a hungry rage.

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Characters: **Narrator(s)**, **Tree**, **Hen**

Narrator 1: One October day, a hen looked out her window. She saw an apple tree growing in her back yard.

Hen: Now that is odd I am certain that there was no tree standing in that spot yesterday.

Tree: There are some of us that grow fast.

Narrator 2: The hen looked at the bottom of the tree.

Hen: I have never seen a tree that has ten furry toes.

Tree: There are some of us that do, hen come out side and enjoy the cool shade of my leafy branches.

Narrator 1: The hen looked at the top of the tree.

Hen: I have never seen a tree that has two long pointed ears.

Tree: There are some of us that have, Hen come outside and eat one of my delicious apples.

Hen: Come to think of it, I have never heard a tree speak from a mouth that is full of sharp teeth.

Tree: There are some of us that can Hen come outside and rest your back against the bark of my trunk.

Hen: I have heard that some of you trees lose all of your leaves at this time of year.

Tree: Oh, yes there are some of us that will.

Narrator 2: The tree began to quiver and shake. All of its leaves quickly dropped off. The Hen was not surprised to see a large wolf in a place where an apple tree had just been standing just a moment before. She locked her shutters and slammed her window closed. The wolf knew that he had been out smarted. He stormed away in a hungry rage.

All Together:

The moral of the story is: It is always difficult to pose as something that one is not.