



## Munch and the Pixies

Once upon a Munch Time there was a cow called Munch who was very curious and always looking for mysteries to solve. One autumn day she was walking across her field with her friends Nan the Goat and Wooley the Sheep when they noticed that the bottom corner of the field was covered in mist. **“This needs investigating,”** said Munch and as they got closer they could see the dark outline of a tree in the white mist.

Wooley stopped because he felt frightened but Munch and Nan walked on slowly, watching for danger. The fallen leaves made a damp carpet of lovely colours, brown, red and yellow from which grew the biggest toadstools they had ever seen. They were bright red with white spots and as Wooley caught up with them, they just stood and stared.

**“What are they?”** asked Munch. **“They are huge,”** gasped Nan, while Wooley thought they might have come from outer space. Something moved and made the leaves rustle causing the friends to hold their breath. **“Oh dear,”** whispered Nan, **“it might be an alien.”**

**“Come from another planet,”** replied Munch, while Wooley’s mouth just hung open. A tiny little man came out from under the tree. He wasn’t even up to Munch’s knee. He was dressed in a most peculiar way; black boots, red trousers, blue shirt and the most amazing pointed ears under his big red cap.

**“Are you an alien?”** gasped Munch. **“Have you come in a space ship?”** asked Nan and Wooley wanted to know if he had a ray gun.

The little man seemed more frightened than the three friends. **“Please don’t hurt me,”** he begged **“I mean you no harm.”**

**“Who are you?”** wondered Munch. **“What are you?”** asked Nan while Wooley wanted to know if he were real.

**“I am a pixie,”** said the little man. **“Long ago, before the humans came, we lived here. But now we only come out at night because grown-ups no longer believe in us, although many children still believe.”**

**“Cows, goats and sheep believe too,”** said Munch, so the three friends decided that the pixie was not dangerous and moved closer.

**“Why are you on your own?”** asked Munch.

The pixie looked sad and explained that all his friends were here last night but when the others left at dawn he got lost and could not find his way home. However, they would come back for him at sunset. Suddenly Munch remembered her manners and introduced herself and her friends while the pixie told them his name was Peter.

**“Will you help me to hide until dark,”** he asked so they built him a shelter out of twigs and leaves and Peter sat inside. Unless you looked very carefully you would not see him at all.

**“What do pixies do?”** asked Munch and Peter explained that they like to sit around in the moonlight and tell stories.



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**“We often come here and sit on the toadstools while we talk,”** he said, **“and of course we can do magic.”**

**“Magic!!”** exclaimed Munch, Nan and Wooley all together.

**“You mean real magic?”** asked Munch again.

**“Oh yes,”** replied the little man, **“it was our magic that made these toadstools so big.”**

The three animals wondered what other magic Peter could do and they were amazed when some berries appeared on his hand and two birds flew down to eat them without any fear. Then he pointed to the ground and by magic, a bunch of carrots appeared there and two rabbits came to nibble them.

**“All the wild animals know we love nature and will not harm them,”** explained Peter.

Munch and her friends were amazed. By now, the sun was setting so Peter expected the other pixies to come soon. He promised to tell the pixie king how the animals had helped him. The three friends walked up the field so the pixies would not be frightened and they realised how hungry they were as they had not eaten since breakfast.

Soon Peter approached to tell them that the others wanted to meet them. The pixies were sitting on the toadstools and the pixie king was in the middle wearing a golden crown.

**“Peter has told me that you have all been very kind to him and made him your friend,”** he said with a smile. **“But you must promise never to tell anyone what you have seen today,”** said the pixie king.

Munch, Nan and Wooley promised and the pixie king told them that he would magic them a reward. He pointed to the ground which was covered in twigs and rough weeds and it turned into the greenest, juiciest grass they had ever tasted. They were so hungry they tucked in straight away and then the pixie king pointed to a muddy puddle and it became the cleanest, sweetest water they had ever seen. They ate and drank so much that they were almost too full to move.

They thanked the pixie king and started for home. Peter looked sad while saying goodbye to his new friends but they had to get back to the farm where they all fell fast asleep.

The next morning they wondered if it had all been a strange dream but they felt too full to eat breakfast. Do you think it was just a dream?