The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

A Classic Tales Play developed by Donatella Fitzgerald from the Classic Tale retold by Sue Arengo.

The story of The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

One day Town Mouse goes to see his friend, Country Mouse. There's a lot to eat. But Town Mouse thinks the food is strange. He doesn't like it very much. So he only eats a little bit.

Country Mouse gives Town Mouse his bed. But Country Mouse's bed is strange. Town Mouse doesn't like it very much. He can't go to sleep. It's very dark and quiet. In the morning Town Mouse is tired. But Country Mouse isn't tired.

‘Come on!’ says Country Mouse. ‘Let’s go and get some food.’ The grass is long and wet. Town Mouse’s feet and trousers are wet. He doesn’t like the country very much. There's a cow in the field. ‘Oh!’ cries Town Mouse. ‘What's that?’ ‘It's only a cow!’ laughs Country Mouse. Town Mouse thinks the country is very strange. It's interesting. It's different. But he likes the town better. It's nice and warm and dry in the town. It isn't dark at night and there's a lot to see.

The next day the two mice see a cart. It's going to town. The mice go to Town Mouse’s house. ‘What a lot of noise! What a lot of people!’ thinks Country Mouse. Suddenly there's a strange noise. ‘Oh! What's that?’ says Country Mouse. ‘It's only the clock,’ laughs Town Mouse.

There's a lot to eat. But Country Mouse thinks the food is strange. He doesn't like it very much. Town Mouse gives Country Mouse his bed. But Town Mouse's bed is strange. Country Mouse doesn't like it very much. He can't go to sleep. It isn't dark in the room and the street is very noisy. In the morning Country Mouse is tired. But Town Mouse isn't tired. ‘Come on! Let's go and get some food,’ he says.

But there's a cat and they can’t go out. At last the cat goes away and the mice go out to get some food. Then Country Mouse sees some cheese. ‘Stop! Don’t touch that! It’s a trap!’ shouts Town Mouse. Country Mouse likes the country best. ‘It’s nice and quiet in the country,’ he thinks. The next day they see a cart and Country Mouse says goodbye to his friend. Soon he is in the country. He goes home and sits by the fire. He says, ‘It’s good to be home again,’ and he's happy.

Characters in the play

Chorus
Town Mouse
Country Mouse
Cow
Man on a cart
Sheep
Clock
INTRODUCTION
Chorus
This is the story of two mice.
Town Mouse
Hello, I’m Town Mouse. I live in a town.
Country Mouse
Hello, I’m Country Mouse. I live in the country.

DO YOU LIKE THE COUNTRY?
The mice go for a walk in the country.
Town Mouse
Look, what’s that?
Cow
Moo! I’m a cow.
Country Mouse
It’s only a cow. (He laughs.)
Cow
Hello, Country Mouse. Moo!
Chorus
The mice sit down and eat.
Country Mouse
Well, do you like the country?
Town Mouse
It’s very strange here.
Country Mouse
Life is good in the country.
Town Mouse
Yes, but I like the town better.
Country Mouse
Why?
Town Mouse
Because the town is warm and dry. It isn’t dark at night and there’s a lot of food.
Country Mouse
Let’s go there.
Some sheep and a man on a cart come in.
Sheep
Baa, baa, baa!
They stop in front of the cart.
Man on a cart
Hurry up, you sheep! I want to go to town.
Town Mouse
Listen, that cart’s going to town.
Country Mouse
Come on! Let’s go.
The mice get on the cart and go to town.

I CAN’T SLEEP
The mice go to Town Mouse’s house.
Town Mouse
Oh, it’s good to be home.
Country Mouse
What a lot of people!
Chorus
And what a lot of noise!
Town Mouse
Come in.
Country Mouse
Thank you.
Clock
Ding dong, ding dong!
It’s two o’clock.
Country Mouse
What’s that?
Town Mouse
It’s only the clock. Come on! I live there. Let’s go and eat.
The mice go out.
SCENE 6

THE STREET IS NOISY

Chorus       Town Mouse gives Country Mouse his bed.
Town Mouse   You can have my bed tonight.
Country Mouse Thank you.
Town Mouse   Good night.  (He goes out.)
Country Mouse Good night.
Chorus       But Town Mouse's bed is strange.
Country Mouse I don't like this bed.
Chorus       Country Mouse can't go to sleep. It isn't dark and the street is very noisy.

SCENE 7

IT'S A TRAP

In the morning Country Mouse comes back into the room. The cat is standing by the door.

Country Mouse Oh, I'm tired.
Town Mouse   Come on! Let's get some food.
Cat          Miao!  I'm hungry.
Country Mouse What's that?
Town Mouse   It's the cat. He wants to eat us.

The cat goes away.

Town Mouse   We can go out now.
Country Mouse Look, cheese!
Town Mouse   Stop!  Don't touch that! It's a trap!

Country Mouse Oh, no!

The mice stop and talk.

Town Mouse   Do you like the town?
Country Mouse It's very strange here. I like the country better.

Town Mouse and Country Mouse We mice like different things.

Chorus       We all like different things.

SCENE 8

I'M GOING TO THE COUNTRY

Man on a cart Hello, Country Mouse! I'm going to the country.
Town Mouse   He's going to the country.
Country Mouse Can I come too, please?
The man on the cart Yes, come on!
Country Mouse Goodbye, my friend. And, thank you.
Town Mouse   Write to me! Goodbye!

SCENE 9

HOME AGAIN

Country Mouse Ah!  It's good to be home again.
Chorus       Yes, it's good to be home. It's good to be home in the country. And it's good to be home in the town.