



# Telling Tails

## Children's Festival 2018

There was once a young dragon, named Fred that lived in a little village. Fred was different from the other dragons because he loved to Tell Tales. More than anything, Fred wanted to be a Jester, but people were always a little afraid of him because he was a dragon. This made Fred sad but, Fred had a brilliant idea. Fred would disguise himself in his Jester costume and apply for the job as the Queen's Jester at the big Festival. No one would be afraid of him anymore, if he was the Queen's Jester and the Queen would Tell everyone that he is funny and delightful, even if he was dragon.

Fred set off on the journey to the Festival on the hill. On the way, Fred stopped at the Dragon Deli to get his hot dogs and chips. While Fred was finishing his 3<sup>rd</sup> hot dog, some kids coming running up behind him and asked if he would Tell Tales. The kids were laughing and smiling when all of the sudden, Fred's Tail fell out of his Jester disguise and all the children ran away screaming.

Fred realized that he was running behind schedule and he would really have to hustle to make it to the Festival before the Queen hired another Jester. Fred saw a bicycle, so he wrapped his Tail back into his costume and jumped on the bicycle heading down the path. Fred soon learned that the reason that the bicycle was left behind was because it was broken, when the front wheel fell off and he was balanced only on the one wheel. Travelers on the path clapped and giggled watching Fred balance on the unicycle, until all of the sudden, Fred's Tail fell out from of his Jester disguise and the travelers gasped and cried.

Further down the trail, Fred came upon a large gathering of travelers that had stopped at a river's edge. No one wanted to cross the cold raging river. Fred tried to think of a way to cross the river when he spotted two long poles. Fred grabbed the poles and fastened them to his feet so that he could use them as stilts to cross the river without getting wet. Fred secured his Tail under his Jester outfit and hopped up on the stilts and started across the river. The onlookers laughed with joy seeing Fred prance around on those stilts, until all of the sudden, Fred began to tip and Fred's Tail fell out from his Jester outfit, and the people's mouths dropped open and they shook their heads.

As Fred arrived at the Festival, he was very discouraged until he saw that there was still a long line of Jesters waiting to see the Queen to get the job as the Queen's Jester. Fred knew he needed a way to stand out among the other jesters. Fred began juggling. Fred started to sing a ballad as he worked his way around the crowd of jesters and waited to be spotted. Fred finished the ballad with belting out the final phrase with his eyes closed and yet still juggling the apples. When Fred opened his eyes and looked around, he saw that he was the only Jester waiting for the Queen. "What happened to the others?" Fred asked the Gatehouse Major Chairperson. The Gatehouse Major Chairperson pointed to Fred's Tail that had fallen out again while he was juggling. Fred's shoulders sagged, until, the Queen's Major Chairperson came out and hesitated for only a second when she saw Fred's Tail and said "the Queen will see you now." Fred straightened his hat, stuffed his Tail back into his tights and followed the Major Chairperson into the tent.

When Fred entered the tent, he saw the Queen looking very unhappy and he wanted nothing more than to cheer her up. Fred started to tell her some jokes, but still the Queen was unhappy. Fred began to dance and sing, but still the Queen was sad. Fred told some limericks, but still the Queen frowned. In on last effort to give it all he had, Fred jumped high in the air and flipped in the air, when all of the sudden, Fred's Tail fell out and land right in front of the Queen. The Queen gasped and quickly covered her face. Fred started to turn away to leave when he heard the faint sound of giggling. Fred turned to face the Queen, he saw that she was smiling and giggling softly to herself. Fred started to apologize to the Queen when the Queen stopped him and said, "A jester dragon is the funniest thing I have ever seen. Please stay and tell me why a dragon would want to be my Jester." Fred started to Tell the Queen all about his love of making people laugh but how everyone is afraid of him because he is a dragon. Fred told about his Tail falling out at the Dragon Deli. And about his Tail falling out on the unicycle, and about when his Tail fell out when he was walking on the stilts and then he told the Queen about when his Tail fell out when he was juggling.

The Queen roared with laughter and admonished Fred. "Fred, your Tail is part of you and you must always Tell your Tail." Fred smiled at the Queen. Fred loved his Tail and he loved to share his Tail with others. Fred became the Queen's Jester at the Festival and went on to Tell his Tail all over that land. The Queen had proclaimed him delightful and funny and no one was afraid of him.

To this day, you can still hear Fred **Telling Tails**.