

The Three Little Fishies and the Big, Bad Shark

An Underwater Twist on "The Three Little Pigs"

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Number of Puppets: 4

- 1st Fish
- 2nd Fish
- 3rd Fish
- Shark

Playing Time: 10 minutes

Props:

- House of seaweed (pattern, p. 197)

- House of shells (pattern, p. 199)

- House of rocks (pattern, p. 201)

- Tin can with bow

Setting: Underwater scene

Lighting: No special effects

Music: Any children's music about water, or classical with tide sounds

Scene I

Action: *Music (approx. 20 seconds). One by one the fishies arrive onstage.*

1st Fish: Oh, oh, wasn't it awful to see mother crying like that?

2nd Fish: Well, it was really sad news. Mother is so poor that she can't take care of us anymore.

3rd Fish: I hope you were listening carefully to what Mother told us about going off on our own. She said we must build our own separate homes, where we will be safe and secure from that big, bad shark who lives in the sea.

1st Fish: Ah, shark, smark. I'm not afraid of that toothy troublemaker.

2nd Fish: Me either. He doesn't scare me. Who's afraid of the big, bad shark?

1st Fish/2nd Fish: *(Dancing and singing.)* Who's afraid of the big, bad shark ...

3rd Fish: You two should be afraid of the shark. After all, he *does* eat fish.

1st Fish: Nah, don't be such a worry wartfish.

2nd Fish: Yeah, we can look after ourselves.

3rd Fish: Remember, you must promise to build yourselves good strong houses so the shark won't be able to get inside and have you for dinner.

1st Fish:

You're not my mother. You don't have to worry about me. I'll just follow the path to the left. (*1st Fish exits.*)

2nd Fish:

And me? I can stand on my own two fins. I'll take the path to the right. I'm positive that's the best one. (*2nd Fish exits.*)

3rd Fish:

I won't forget you, Mother. I will build myself a good, strong home. And I'll follow that path there—the straight and narrow one. (*3rd Fish exits.*)

Shark:

(*Enters.*) Did I just see three little fishies go by? YUMMMEE! Tuna casserole ... fish and chips ... poached salmon ... (*Shark exits while talking.*)

Scene 2

Action:

A water scene filled with seaweed. Music (approx. 15 seconds). Enter 1st Fish.

1st Fish:

This looks like a good place to settle down. There's plenty of food nearby, and I won't even have to build a real house. I'll just hollow out a hole in this seaweed and live inside. That won't take any work at all. (*Put seaweed house onstage.*) There! Instant housing! Oh, such a smart fish I am. Now, I'll just go inside and take a nap. (*Fish goes behind house.*)

Shark:

(*Enters suddenly, sniffs.*) Mmmm. I smell something GOOOOOD. Boys and girls, is it chicken I smell? No—rabbit? No—fish? (*Sniffs again.*) Yes, it's definitely fish. (*Knocks on door.*) Little fish, little fish, let me come in!

1st Fish:

OOOOOH, not by the scales on my finny, fin, fin.

Shark:

Then I'll splash, and I'll thrash, and I'll smash your house down! (*Shark begins to thrash; house falls down.*)

1st Fish:

Oh no! My house! Where's my house? Where's my MOOOMMY!

Shark:

Stop, my little fish stick! I'll get you yet! (*Chase ensues on stage; fish escapes and exits stage.*) Rats! He got away! (*Shark exits.*)

Scene 3

Action:

Sea setting with sea shells on stage. Music (approx. 15 seconds). Enter 2nd Fish.

2nd Fish:

I must have swum for ages and I still haven't found a deserted house to live in. (*Heavy sigh.*) I guess I'll have to build my own house after

all. Let me see ... oh, my, there are lots of shells around here. I'll just build a house out of them. (*Put shell house on stage.*) There! What do you think, boys and girls? (*Taps on house and it nearly falls over.*) I'm sure this will be just fine. (*Yawns.*) Boy, this house-making is no fun at all. I think I'll just go inside for a nap now. (*Fish goes behind house.*)

Shark:

(*Enters quickly, sniffing.*) Ahhh, maybe this is my lucky day after all. (*Sniffs around some more.*) YES SIR, I see fish and chips for supper. (*Knocks on door.*) Little fish, little fish, let me come in!

2nd Fish:

OOOOOH, not by the scales on my finny, fin, fin.

Shark:

Then I'll splash, and I'll thrash and I'll smash your house down! (*Shark begins to thrash; house falls down.*)

2nd Fish:

OOOOOH, I don't want to be fish sticks, I don't want to be fish sticks! (*Chase ensues on stage; fish escapes and exits stage.*)

Shark:

Rats! He got away! Those little haddocks can sure swim fast! (*Shark exits.*)

Scene 4

Action:

Sea setting with rocks on stage. Music (approx. 15 seconds). Enter 3rd Fish.

3rd Fish:

Gosh, I wonder how my brothers are getting along. I hope they listened and built themselves safe homes. Well, I guess I should start my home. Now, let's see. What can I use to build a good strong home? Boys and girls, do you see anything strong that I could make a house with? Rocks? Why, yes! Rocks would make a wonderfully strong home. And there are plenty of rocks on the bottom of the sea.

(*Singing.*)

I'll use these fine stones
to build me a home
'cause I promised my mother
that I'd never roam.
There's a big, bad shark
who'll eat me up fast
unless I build a house
that will last and last and last.

(*Put stone house on stage.*) My goodness, these rocks are heavy, but a good strong house is worth all the work. There! A shark-proof house. Now I'll just go inside and finish up the kitchen.

Shark: *(Enters quickly, sniffing.)* I smell fish stew, and this time I'm not going to let it get away! *(Knocks on door.)* Little fish, little fish, let me come in!

3rd Fish: NO SIR! Not by the scales on my finny, fin, fin.

Shark: Then I'll splash, and I'll thrash and I'll smash your house down! *(Shark begins to thrash; house does not move.)* Hmmmm, maybe I'll have to try chomping your house down! *(Shark begins to chew at house.)* OOOOOH, my teeth!

3rd Fish: *(Laughing.)* Go ahead, Mr. Shark. You'll break every tooth before you chew this house down!

Shark: Not so fast, my handsome herring! I haven't really tried yet! I'll thrash and I'll chew! *(Shark splashes around and chews at house.)* OOOOOH my poor teeth! Ooooooh, my sore fins!

3rd Fish: *(Giggles and sings.)* Who's afraid of the big, bad shark ...

Shark: Well, I'm not finished yet. Boys and girls, what do you think I should do? Do you think there's a window in the back I can swim in? I'll try! *(Exits.)*

3rd Fish: Oh, oh, I'd better do something about that shark. I'll just bring out my canning supplies and ... *(Shark dives into house; loud struggle ensues; large can with bow is placed on stage.)* There! Shark in a can! Now when my little brothers come to visit, I can serve sandwiches! *(Exit, singing.)* Who's afraid of the big, bad shark ...

(Music.)

The End