

The Emperor's New Clothes

Once upon a time, there was an emperor. All he cared about was looking his best. His clothes were the finest in all kingdoms. He taxed his people to pay for it all. They had nothing and were upset.

TOWNSPERSON 1: I hurt my toe on a hole in the road today!

TOWNSPERSON 2: I have no money for food and my crops are drying up.

TOWNSPERSON 3: All the water is used to wash clothes at the palace.

TOWNSPERSON 4: I had someone sneak into my house last night. They stole my bread!

TOWNSPERSON 5: I wish we could do something!

TOWNSPERSON 6: We have to go. The parade is about to start.

Every week, the emperor had a parade to show off his new clothes. If a person did not see it, they went to jail.

GUARD 1: Look at the emperor!

GUARD 2: See his fine new clothes!

GUARD 3: Everyone cheer!

(Townpeople cheer. The emperor waves.)

TOWNSPERSON 7: When are you going to fix our roads?

GUARD 4: Come with me! You are under arrest!

The guards took him to jail. Four tailors in the crowd whispered to each other.

TAILOR 1: This is crazy. All he cares about is clothes.

TAILOR 2: Yesterday, someone paid us in wilted carrots.





TAILOR 3: If we worked at the palace, we would be rich!

TAILOR 4: That's it! I have an idea.

The two tailors set off for the palace with their tools and bags.

GUARD 1: Halt! Who goes there?

TAILOR 1: Only four tailors.

TAILOR 2: We have some new cloth the emperor will want to see.

GUARD 2: We need to see everything that goes in the palace. Let us see the cloth.

TAILOR 3: If you can.

TAILOR 4: You see, only wise people can see the cloth. If you are a fool, you can't see anything.

GUARD 3: Now we really need to see it!

The tailors reached into their bag and pretended to unfold a piece of cloth. Really, it was nothing. Of course, the guards could not see it.

But they did not want to admit it to themselves or each other.

GUARD 4: It's great! Go inside.

The tailors went inside. They were stopped by the emperor's advisors.

ADVISOR 1 : What do you have to show the king?

ADVISOR 2: We must make sure it is worthy.

TAILOR 1: We have some new cloth the emperor will want to see.

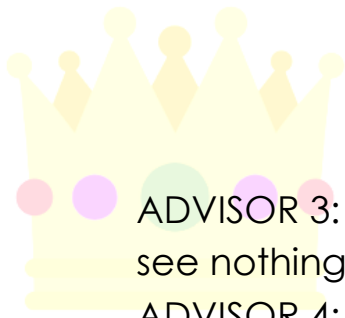
TAILOR 2: But only wise people can see it.

TAILOR 3: You are his advisors. You will have no problem.

TAILOR 4: We will show it to you.

Again, the tailors pretended to unfold a piece of cloth. But of course, the advisors could not see anything.





ADVISOR 3: (whispers to himself) I cannot let the others know I can see nothing.

ADVISOR 4: (whispers to himself) Does this mean I am a fool? I cannot let the others know.

ADVISOR 1: Amazing!

ADVISOR 2: Wonderful!

ADVISOR 3: Beautiful!

ADVISOR 4: Go on in.

When the tailors entered the throne room, the emperor was looking at himself in the mirror.

EMPEROR: How pretty I am! See how this jewel shines! Feel this soft fabric! Everyone will love me.

TAILOR 1: Excuse me, o great one. We are tailors. We have come from far away to bring you magic fabric.

EMPEROR: Magic? What does it do? I must see it!

TAILOR 2: Your majesty, you will love it. It is woven from owl feathers and spider silk.

TAILOR 3: We left it with a wise wizard all night to absorb his secrets.

TAILOR 4: Now we have for you a fabric that only wise people can see.

TAILORS: Let us show you.

One more time, the tailors brought out the fabric. And the emperor could not see a thing. At first. He wanted to see it so much. Soon, he began to believe he could see it.

EMPEROR: Ahh! Feel the fabric! Look at the colors! You will both make me a suit out of this fabric. I will pay you and you will live in the palace until it is done.





TAILOR S: Of course. Thank you. (they bow)

The tailors lived on the best food and drink in the palace for a week.
They slept in soft beds. Soon, they felt it was time to show the
emperor his new clothes.

TAILOR 1: Here it is, your majesty.

TAILOR 2: See how it catches the light.

TAILOR 3: Feel the weight and how it drapes.

TAILOR 3: We have made you our best work.

ADVISOR 1: It is the best suit you own!

ADVISOR 2: You look so regal. So sharp!

ADVISOR 3: I've never seen anything like it!

ADVISOR 4: I cannot imagine anything better!

EMPEROR: I love it! And the people will respect me. They will see how
wise I am. I will wear it at the next parade.

TAILOR 1: We need to go before he finds out!

The people in town gathered for the parade.

TOWNSPERSON 1: I wonder what my milk money bought this week.

TOWNSPERSON 2: I hope he falls in the mud.

GUARD 1: Make way!

GUARD 2: See the emperor's new clothes!

GUARD 3: All hail our emperor!

GUARD 4: Feast your eyes on our emperor!

TOWNSPEOPLE: Gasp!

TOWNSPERSON 3: Is this a joke?





TOWNSPERSON 4: Is the emperor crazy?

TOWNSPERSON 5: Do not dare laugh.

TOWNSPERSON 6: He will have our heads!

TOWNSPERSON 7: I just got out of the jail. I don't want to go back!

CHILD: Look! He has no clothes! He is in his underwear!

(Slowly and one at a time the Guard(s) start(s) holding back a laugh, then let(s) it out. Townspeople laugh. The emperor trips and falls.)

EMPEROR: Oh no! It is true! I thought I was wise, but I am a fool. Thank you, child. Guard, get me a blanket! Advisors, you are all fired! And people. I will fix your roads and give your money back. You can have my clothes. From now on, I will be a good ruler. I will take care of you.

The emperor did everything he said he would. The two tailors left town and lived on their riches. And everyone lived happily ever after.
The end.

