

# The old donkey

from The Musicians of Bremen,  
a traditional story from Germany

Once upon a time, there was a farmer who had an old donkey. One day, the farmer's wife said angrily, 'That donkey is very old! It can't work!' The donkey listened sadly. That night the donkey opened the gate and went slowly down the road. It saw three strange men in the farmer's house. 'Who are they?' thought the donkey.

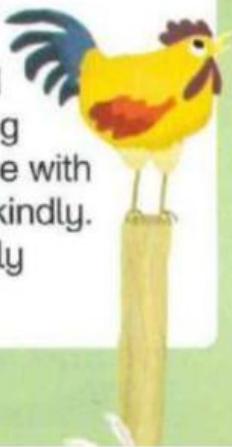
Further down the road, the donkey saw an old cat. 'I'm looking for a new home. Come with me,' said the donkey kindly. So the cat and the donkey went slowly down the road.





Then they saw an old dog.  
‘We’re looking for a new home.  
Come with us,’ said the donkey  
and the cat kindly. So they all  
went slowly down  
the road.

Then they saw an old  
chicken. ‘We’re looking  
for a new home. Come with  
us,’ said the animals kindly.  
So they all went slowly  
down the road.



The animals saw a house with a light on inside. They looked in the window and saw the three strange men. 'Look', said the donkey angrily, 'They took the farmer's clock, his watch and his radio!' The animals made a plan.

When the men went to bed, the donkey stood near the house. The dog stood on the donkey, the cat stood on the dog and the chicken stood on the cat. Then, they made a lot of noise. *Hee Haw! Woof Woof! Woof!*

*Meow Meow! Cluck Cluck!*

What a terrible noise!

The three men jumped out of bed and ran quickly out of the house.

The animals picked up the farmer's things and went back to the farm.

The farmer said happily, 'It's my donkey, my clock, my watch and my radio!' He made a home for the animals on his farm. The animals were very happy.

