



Arthur Rackham (1867 - 1939)
(colour added)

Storyteller

Once upon a time in the green countryside, a mouse named Bob lived a quiet and happy life.

He lived in a cosy country cottage under a strong old oak tree.

Bob was feeling excited because today was the day his city cousin Rupert was arriving to pay a visit.

Country Mouse

I'll just check that everything is ready for lunch. Let me see ... Pumpkin seeds – yes. Windfall nuts – yes. Blackberries rolled in dandelion leaves – yes. And delicious wholegrain breadcrumbs from the nearby farmhouse – yes again.

Oh no! What can I give Rupert to drink? Ummm ... Sweet cool spring water from the little waterfall near the riverbank served in acorn cups will be perfect.

Storyteller

Bob put the two acorn cups and a flower-blossom jug of the sweet cool spring water on his polished tree-stump table.

He was very proud of his country-grown organic food with no preservatives or artificial colouring.

Bob was now ready to receive his guest.

Town Mouse

What an exhausting journey!

(mopping his brow)

I've never been so far from home in my whole life! Hello! Hello! Is anyone home?

Such a long and tiring and dusty journey I've had!

The roads in the country are very rough and winding. Up and down they go. Up and down. Ooh ... I feel quite giddy!

(said very impatiently)

Are you **there**? Roberto? Is anyone home?

Country Mouse

Yes! Yes! Of course! Hello, dear Rupert. Come in! Welcome to my little cottage.

I hope you enjoyed your walk in the sunshine and away from the rush and bustle of the town.

And you will probably be very hungry ...

This story works well as simultaneous reading for groups of three (Town Mouse, Country Mouse and Storyteller) as 'out loud' classroom reading.

The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse is also suitable as a stage performance.

How to get the most from this play

- The Storyteller lines can have as much expression and excitement as possible.
- The dialogue lines of *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse* are best when exaggerated as dramatically as you can. Loud is good!
- Use a newsreader's technique of making the eyes go a few words ahead of the voice when reading out loud. Fluency is the result.
- Don't be scared of unusual words. They will become your new best friends.
(New words strengthen your general knowledge and enable you to become vocabulary-rich in your day-to-day life.)

Have fun!