

# story time

with Jill Haywood

oven - forn  
skunk - mofeta  
barn - pallissa  
stripe - ratlla  
fur - pell  
bushy - erigada  
hiss - bufar  
what's wrong - Què passa?



Avui a l'Story Time escoltem una versió d'una vella història popular canadenca d'una dona que troba alguna cosa molt desagradable dins del seu forn de llenya.

## **A surprise in the oven. (Based on a Canadian folk story)**

Once upon a time there was a lovely old lady called Aunty Adela who lived in French Canada. She lived all alone with her big grey cat, Dora. She also had eleven cows in the barn behind her house. Adela loved cooking and baking.

One morning she got up very early as she wanted to bake some bread and an apple pie. She took some wood outside to her oven and was surprised to see that the big black door was open.

"Now why is the door open?" she said. She poked a stick inside to see that no leaves had blown in. But the stick touched something soft! There was something in Aunty Adela's oven!

The old woman bent over to look in. The animal inside hissed at her. She screamed and closed the oven door very quickly.

She ran out of her garden went to her neighbour's house. Her neighbour, Felix was pulling a bucket of water from his well.

“Good morning Aunty Adela. What’s wrong?” asked Felix, looking worried.

“Felix, Felix! Can you help me? There is a skunk in my oven!”

“Are you sure?” said Felix. “Maybe it is your cat.”

“Of course I am sure!” said Adela. “Does my cat have a white stripe down his back? Can you help me?”

“Of course. I will come after I take the water into the house,” said Felix.

Aunty Adela went to the next neighbour.

“Louis, Louis please help me! There is a skunk in my oven.”

“A skunk?” said Louis. “Are you sure it is not a scrap of old fur coat you may have thrown away by mistake?”

“Why would I throw away a fur coat?” said Adela.

“True,” said Louis. “I will come after I feed the chickens.”

The old lady went to the next farm. “Samuel, Samuel!” she cried out. “You must come to my farm. There is a skunk in my oven!”

“Are you sure?” said Samuel. “Maybe you saw a shadow inside as you opened the door.”

“Does a shadow have a bushy tail?” said Aunty Adela.

“I will come when I finish weeding the garden,” said Samuel.

Samuel’s wife gave Aunty Adela a glass of lemonade and when she returned to her house she saw that her neighbours were all there and ready to help with the skunk in her oven.

“I will run home and get my gun,” said Felix.

No, no!” cried Aunty Adela. “You can’t shoot it! Think of the smell in my oven!”

“She will not be able to bake bread in there for a month!” said Madame Roy, and everyone agreed.

“What if we got a dog?” said Alice, the daughter of Samuel and Madame Ross. “A dog will bark. Maybe that will scare the skunk out of the oven.”

“If the skunk gets scared,” said Aunty Adela, “think of what it would do!”

“What if we get a piece of meat and tie it to a string?” said someone else. “The skunk will come out on its own when it smells it.”

“I am not giving good meat to a skunk,” said Aunty Adela.

The neighbours talked a lot and had many suggestions but no decision was made. Soon it was nearly 12 o’clock. By then, everyone was bored and wanted to leave.

Aunty Adele saw Jules coming into her garden. Jules was not very intelligent but Adele asked him to help.

Jules nodded his head. He walked over to the oven. He opened the door and spoke very quietly.

Suddenly the skunk jumped out of the oven and walked out of the garden towards the woods.

Adela was very happy. All the neighbours were amazed.

“How did you make him come out?” said Samuel to Jules.

“I just told him,” said Jules, “that if he stayed in the oven another hour, he would start to smell like Aunty Adela’s bread. If he smelled like bread, none of the other skunks would come near him.”

