

Herman the Hairy, Scary Monster



by Kathy Warnes

SUSAN

First grade is going to be harder than kindergarten. We have to learn how to spell and read.

TONYA

What do we have to spell?

SUSAN

Cat and dog and tree and house

TONYA

Look and see and man and mouse.

SUSAN

Lots of spelling words.

TONYA

We won't have time to play with Herman any more.

SUSAN

Or pretend we're afraid of him.

TONYA

He should be coming right now to scare us.

SUSAN

Herman, where are you?

(Herman the Scary monster jumps out and hollers boo. He is dressed like a scary monster.)

SUSAN

Ohhhhh, it's Herman the scary monster. I'm scared! (She hides behind Tonya.)

HERMAN

Boo! (He stands in front of Tonya and jumps up and down, acting scary.)

TONYA

Go away, Herman! I don't have time to be scared. I have to go home and study my spelling words. (Herman stops jumping and scratches his head)

HERMAN

Huh? What are spelling words?

SUSAN

Words like cat and rat and cold and hot.

TONYA

We have to learn how to spell them by tomorrow, Herman, so we don't have time to be scared.

SUSAN

Sorry, Herman. (They turn and walk away, leaving Herman standing there scratching his head.)

HERMAN

Huh? Can't play? Oh, boo, hoo, hoo, please come back and play with me. (He watches them go, crying.)

HERMAN

Boo, hoo, hoo. Nobody lets me scare them any more. I'm so sad. Boo, hoo, hoo.

MISS JONES

(Walking up to Herman) I'm Miss Jones, the school teacher. What's wrong, little hairy, scary monster?

HERMAN

I'm Herman, the scary monster and I'm sad because Susan and Tonya don't love me anymore. Nobody loves me anymore. Nobody lets me scare them anymore.

MISS JONES

Why not, Herman?

HERMAN

They said they had to study their spelling words.

MISS JONES

That's right. I did give them some spelling words to study. Cat. Rat. Cold. Hot.

HERMAN

They can't play with me, now. They have to study their spelling words. Oh, boo, hoo, hoo. Oh catfish and canary gizzards. I'm soooo sad.

MISS JONES

Wait a minute, Herman. I have an idea. I think we can solve your problem.

HERMAN

(Hiccoughing)How?

MISS JONES

Would you like to come to school with me? I've never had a scary monster in my class before, but I'll experiment if you're willing.

HERMAN

I'll try.

MISS JONES

Come at eight thirty tomorrow morning.

HERMAN

Thank you Miss Jones. You're my teacher. (he gives her a kiss.) I'm sorry happy.

SCENE TWO

The scene opens in the first grade classroom. The background noise is of children talking and laughing.)

SUSAN

I learned all of my spelling words, did you?

TONYA

C A T, R A T, C O L D, H O T.

SUSAN

That's good, Tonya. I can do mine too. Listen. CAT, RAT, COLD, HOT.

TONYA

You know your spelling words, too, Susan. We both should spell them all correctly.

SUSAN

I wonder what happened to Herman. He was crying last night when we left him. Don't you think we should have let him scare us for awhile?

TONYA

We didn't have time. It takes a long time to study spelling words.

SUSAN

I know, but I still felt sorry for Herman.

(Miss Jones walks into the classroom.)

MISS JONES

Good morning, boys and girls.

EVERYONE

Good morning, Miss Jones.

MISS JONES

We have a new pupil today.

EVERYONE

Who is it?

MISS JONES

His name is Herman, the scary monster.

HERMAN

(Peeks around the door of the classroom.) Hello everybody.

SUSAN

It's Herman!

TONYA

I wonder if he'll have to learn spelling words, too.

MISS JONES

Herman, you can sit here beside Susan and Tonya.

HERMAN

Yes, Miss Jones.

MISS JONES

Now it's time for our spelling words, class.

EVERYONE

Oh, no!

MISS JONES

Susan, how do you spell cat?

SUSAN

C A T, cat.

MISS JONES

Very good, Susan. Amy, how do you spell rat?

AMY

R A T , rat.

MISS JONES

Good, Amy. Now we'll try Herman, the scary monster. Herman, how do you spell hot?

HERMAN

Hot? Hmm, let me think. Hot. I'll start out with an H.

MISS JONES

That's right so far, Herman. Keep it up.

HERMAN

H and then I'll put in an A. H A T, H A T. That's how you spell hot.

EVERYONE

Everyone laughs at Herman

MISS JONES

No, I'm sorry, Herman, that's wrong. Perhaps you can tell me how to spell rat.

HERMAN

Rat. Hmmm, rat. I'll start out with an R.

MISS JONES

Yes, Herman, go on.

HERMAN

R O T. Rot spell rat.

MISS JONES

No, Herman I'm sorry, that's wrong.

SUSAN

You get an F for today. (Everybody laughs)

TONYA

(Whispers to Herman.) You didn't study, Herman. Do you want me to help you with your spelling words?

HERMAN

Would you help me? I would really like that.

TONYA

We'll study spelling words tonight. We'll show those kids that make fun of you what you can do.

HERMAN

Yeah, let's show them. R A T spells rat.

MISS JONES

Class is dismissed until tomorrow. Herman, don't forget to study your spelling words tonight.

HERMAN

Yes, Miss Jones.

MISS JONES

Goodnight, everyone.

(Herman, Susan, and Tonya walk home together.)

SUSAN

You need to study your spelling words, Herman. You didn't get any of them right.

TONYA

He will if he studies them tonight.

HERMAN

I want to get my spelling words right. Even more than I want to be a scary monster.

SUSAN

Then, we'll help you.

(They walk along, spelling CAT, RAT.

SCENE TWO

(Herman, Susan, and Tonya walk to school together)

HERMAN

I studied my spelling words all night. Do you know how to spell rat?

SUSAN

Tell me

TONYA

How do you spell rat?

HERMAN

Ratt, rat.

SUSAN

That's not how to spell rat, Herman.

TONYA

We're going to have to spend another night studying with you if you can't spell rat better than that.

HERMAN

Rat. Ratte spells rat.

TONYA

No, Herman. Ratte does not spell rat. R A T spells rat.

HERMAN

R A T spells rat.

(He mutters R A T spells rat all of the rest of the way to school and into class.)

MISS JONES

Good morning boys and girls.

EVERYONE

Good morning, Miss Jones.

MISS JONES

The first thing we're going to do this morning is our spelling words Herman, spell rat for me.

SUSAN

Oh, no!

TONYA

Keep your fingers crossed.

HERMAN

R A T spells rat.

MISS JONES

That's right, Herman. Now spell cat.

HERMAN

That's easy. C A T.

MISS JONES

Herman! You must have studied.

HERMAN

I studied a lot.

MISS JONES

One more word, Herman. Spell hot.

HERMAN

I think it begins with H, and then O and then T.

MISS JONES

You got all of your spelling words right, Herman. For that you deserve an A and I'll give you one. (She reaches into a box and pulls out a cookie shaped like an A.)

EVERYONE

Yah! Cookies!

MISS JONES

Whoever has a good spelling lesson gets one of these.

CHILDREN

Cat, rat, hot, cold.

MISS JONES

All right, let's do it one at a time.

(Everyone spells CAT, RAT, HOT, COLD.)

MISS JONES

It's been a busy day. Class dismissed. (Herman, Susan, and Tonya walk home together.)

SUSAN

That was a good day at school, Herman. We got cookies and you spelled all your words right. We don't have to stay up tonight to study with you.

TONYA

You might even have time to scare us.

HERMAN

But I have to study tomorrow's lesson. See, Do, Look, and At. Do you know all of them?

SUSAN

See, look, do, and At.

HERMAN

Ha, ha. You don't know all your spelling words. No cookies tomorrow. I'll have to study with you tonight.

TONYA

Scare us a little first, will you Herman?

HERMAN

Okay. Boo, BOO, BOOOOOOOOOO! I'm Herman, the scary monster. Monster.

M O N S T E R!!!!

SUSAN, TONYA, HERMAN

MONSTER! MONSTER!

EVERYONE

MONSTER! MONSTER! MONSTER!
(They chase Herman off the stage)

CURTAIN