

The Magic Beads

by

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Cast: Narrator, Gillian, Mom, Ms. Garcia, Brody, Carina, Claire, Daisy, Witch, Monster, Elephant, Students

NARRATOR: This is the story of how Gillian overcame her fears.

(Mom and Gillian are at home. Gillian is seated. Mom is brushing Gillian's hair.)

GILLIAN: Mom, I don't want to go to a new school.

MOM: I know, honey. But your old school is too far away.

GILLIAN: I don't want to go to second grade.

MOM: But Gillian, you finished first grade last year. Second grade will be fun, and you will make lots of friends. You'll see.

GILLIAN: Promise?

MOM: Yes, I promise.

(Narrator steps onto stage, and Gillian walks in place center stage.)

NARRATOR: On her way to school, Gillian had butterflies in her stomach.

(Two butterflies enter from wings, then all butterflies flutter around her. The teacher, Ms. Garcia, walks into the room.)

MS. GARCIA: All right, class. Settle down and take your seats.

(Kids find their seats.)

MS. GARCIA: Class, say hello to our new student, Gillian.

STUDENTS: Hello, Gillian.

MS. GARCIA: We do lots of fun things here, and every day we have show and tell. Your show and tell day will be Friday. Won't that be fun?

(Gillian looks sick.)

NARRATOR: Gillian didn't think this would be fun at all, and the butterflies in her stomach turned into frogs.

(Students become frogs and hop around.)

NARRATOR: The next day, _____ brought in _____.

(Students applaud.)

NARRATOR: Next, _____ brought in a _____.

(Students applaud.)

NARRATOR: Everyone loved the show and tell, except Gillian. The frogs in Gillian's stomach turned into bunny rabbits.

(Rabbits jump about and exit the stage.)

NARRATOR: After school, Gillian walked home. Except it wasn't really her home. Gillian and her mom had a room in a big house where some other families were staying too. The ladies who worked there were very nice, but you weren't allowed to take food out of the fridge between meals. And Jimmy, the boy staying down the hall, had bad bathroom manners.

(Gillian walks in place, opens door, climbs staircase. Gillian sits on seat and then jumps up.)

GILLIAN: Oh, yuck! You're supposed to put down the toilet seat!

(Students run onto stage and sit down.)

NARRATOR: On Wednesday, _____ brought in a _____.

(Students applaud.)

NARRATOR: And _____ brought in a _____.

(Students applaud.)

NARRATOR: Everyone loved _____, except Gillian. She knew Friday was coming, and the bunny rabbits in her tummy turned into horses.

(Kids become horses and exit stage.)

NARRATOR: That night the ladies who worked in the shelter made lasagna for supper. It was good, but not as good as the lasagna her dad used to make. Gillian missed her dad. After her Dad died, they lost their home. That is why they moved into the shelter. They'd sold everything. Even Gillian's toys. Gillian's mom asked her:

MOM: Why don't you bring a toy from the shelter?

GILLIAN: The toys here are for babies. I'm never going to make friends if they think I am a baby. Please, mom, couldn't we buy just one?

MOM: No, Gilly, we can't. I'm saving every penny so we can afford to rent our own place. You know that.

GILLIAN: I know ... but it's not fair.

(Students run onto stage.)

NARRATOR: On Thursday, _____ brought in his _____.

(Everyone applauds.)

NARRATOR: Everyone loved _____, except Gillian. Friday was only one day away, and the donkeys in Gillian's tummy turned into buffalos.

(Gillian looks sick. Students turn into buffalos and run off stage. Mom rushes onto stage.)

MOM: Gillian, guess what? I got a raise at work, and I saw an apartment today. We should be able to move in at the end of the month.

GILLIAN: Mom, why did we have to come here. At home we had our own TV and lots of clothes and toys. And Dad used to tickle my feet and make me laugh.

MOM: I remember Gilly, and I miss your Dad, too. But do you remember that after your Dad died, I couldn't afford the house payments?

GILLIAN: Yes.

MOM: Then you know that is why we had to come here. Just wait a little longer, Gilly. Tomorrow will be a better day.

NARRATOR: But that just reminded Gilly that tomorrow was Friday, and she had to do her show and tell. On Friday morning, the buffalos in Gilly's tummy ran around in circles.

(Students run onto stage and around Gilly. Ms. Garcia enters.)

TEACHER: Settle down, students.

(Students sit.)

MS. GARCIA: It is time for show and tell. Gillian, why don't you start?

(Gillian walks to the center of the class and stares at the floor.)

MS. GARCIA: Gillian?

GILLIAN: I don't have a toy ... but I do have magic beads.

(Gillian lifts the string of plastic beads from around her neck. The students giggle and snicker and point at Gilly.)

GILLIAN: Sometimes they turn into a leash, so I can walk my elephant.

(Enter elephant. Gillian walks elephant who makes trumpet sound.)

GILLIAN: If there is a monster in my closet, I can turn my beads into a snake and scare the monster away.

(Enter Monster appears, Gillian makes snake and monster disappears.)

GILLIAN: If I meet a witch, I can turn them into a magic wand and cast a spell.

(Enter Witch)

WITCH: I'll get you my little pretty."

(Gillian spins beads over her head. Witch melts to the floor.)

WITCH: I'm melting. I'm melting!

(Gillian stops and stands still. The class is silent. Kids look at each other, and then hands shoot into the air.)

CLAIRE: Where did you get them?

CARINA: Could I get some too?

DAISY: You could make a circle with them and stand in the middle of it and it would be a time machine and beam you into the future!

BRODY: Or back to the ancient Egyptians!

(Bell rings.)

MS. GARCIA: Have a good weekend, everybody.

(Kids shuffle out of the classroom. Jennifer stays behind and approaches Gilly.)

DAISY: I have a purple ribbon at home. Do you think it could be magic, too.

GILLIAN: Oh yes, absolutely.

DAISY: If I bring it on Monday, would you like to play?

GILLIAN: Okay. See you then.

(Daisy exits and Gillian walks in place, spinning her beads.)

NARRATOR: And as Gillian walked home from school that day, she realized that the butterflies, the frogs, the bunny rabbits, the horses, and the buffalos ... were ... all ... gone!

(Gillian tosses beads in the air.)

GILLIAN: Hooray!

THE END