



# The Farmer's Fun-Loving Daughter

## About the story

I know a version of this story from Ethiopia that is told as a riddle. In that version, three sons have to fill a room. The first son tries using straw, the second tries feathers and the third lights a candle and the light fills the room. Of course, there are many other stories in which people have to fulfil tasks. Often it is the third child – the laziest or silliest – who wins in the end. Before watching the story, it may be worth explaining what a ‘will’ is and the job of a lawyer.

## Getting to know the story

Read aloud, watch, or tell the story to the class. Use the following activities to help the children embed the key elements of the story prior to learning to tell it out loud.



**Watch it**  
Watch this story being told by Taffy Thomas on the CD-Rom.

## Discuss

- Challenge the children to come up with other ways of filling a room. Use favourite ideas later when retelling the story.
- Do the children think that the outcome of the story is fair? Would it be fair of the girl to keep the farm for herself? Would she be the best farmer?

## Drama

- As a class, hot seat the father and interview him about his will. Why does he think this is a good way to pass on his farm? Who does he think will inherit?
- Ask the children to role play in groups of four the scene where the lawyer reads the will and explains it to the farmer's three children.

## Writing in role

- Ask the children to write the will. Talk about legal language and challenge the children to make the will as formal as possible. An internet search should provide correct phrases to incorporate.

