

Turtle of Koka

Tips for Telling

This is a simple story and easy to learn. You can stretch the tale by adding more choruses as the villagers try to break the turtle open with a club, shoe, stick, stone, roll of paper, sword, an axe, or a sledgehammer. This may sound a little brutal but it is a humorous story as Turtle outwits the villagers. To have more fun, let the audience suggest ways to open turtle's shell. Because the story can be expanded indefinitely, this tale makes a useful story when you have time to fill.

The Story

Let me tell you about Turtle of Koka.

A man of Lubi la Suka caught a turtle.

He brought it to the village.

"Let's make turtle stew!"

"But how shall we kill it?"

Someone said:

"Lets us our hatchet."

Turtle of Koka was so brave.

He jumped up on his hind legs and began to dance and brag before them all.

He was telling them they could not hurt him with a hatchet.

"Turtle of Koka

Turtle of Koka

Hard hard shell!

Hard hard shell!

Hatchet of Koka

Hatchet of Koka

Can't hurt *me*.

Can't hurt *me!*"

Now you know that the hatch really would hurt Turtle.

But he fooled those people with his bluffing.

"Then how can we kill this turtle?"

"Maybe with a knife?"

But Turtle jumped up and began to dance and sing again.

"Turtle of Koka

Turtle of Koka

Hard hard shell!

Hard hard shell!

Knife of Koka

Knife of Koka

Can't hurt *me*.

Can't hurt *me!*"

"A knife won't hurt him either."

"What shall we use?"

"Maybe a big stick?"

Up jumped Turtle and began to sing again:

"Turtle of Koka
Turtle of Koka
Hard hard shell!
Hard hard shell!
Big stick of Koka
Big stick of Koka
Can't hurt me.
Can't hurt me!"

The people tried first one thing and then another.
Turtle kept singing his mocking song.
They believed his bluffing

At last someone said:

"What if we throw him into the water?
Then he would drown and we could eat him."

When Turtle of Koka heard that he pretended to be *very* frightened.
He began to tremble all over and cry:

"Water of Koka
Water of Koka ...
No! ... no! ... no! ...
No! ... no! ... no! ...
Water of Koka
Water of Koka
No! ... no! ... no! ...
No! ... no! ... no! ..."

"*That* is the thing to do!" said the people.
"*That* is the thing this Turtle of Koka is *afraid* of.
We will *drown* him!"

Now you and I know that Turtle *lives* in the water.
Water can't hurt Turtle at all.
But he fooled those people.

They took that turtle to the river.
They *threw* him in.
Turtle sank out of sight into the water.

The people waited for Turtle to drown and float to the top of the water.

But water was Turtle's home.

Turtle swam to the top of the water.
He stuck out his little head.
He laughed and sang:

"Water of Koka
Water of Koka ...
That's my *home!*
That's my *home!*
Water of Koka
Water of Koka
Bye ... bye ... bye

Bye ... bye ... bye"

Then he dove under the water and swam away.
And no one saw Turtle of Koka again.