The Musicians of Bremen

A traditional story
In simple English
The Stories First Foundation
In faraway Germany, a donkey travels with his master down the road to Bremen. He is old, and he is slow.

Old Donkey has a cruel master. His master says, “Go! Go faster!” Old Donkey walks as fast as he can, but at his age, it is difficult.

Old Donkey travels for a very long time. Eventually, Old Donkey feels tired.

His master gets frustrated. He cries out, “Old Donkey, you are pathetic! I can go faster alone.”
Angry, the master goes off. He abandons the donkey. Old Donkey looks for his master, but he is alone.

Sadly, Old Donkey continues on the road. As he goes down the road, he hears the sound CLIP CLAP, CLIP CLAP come from his feet. It’s like music. The donkey dances to the rhythm CLIP CLAP, CLIP CLAP!

“Oh my, I am a musician!” thinks Old Donkey. Then he has an idea. “I will go to Bremen to be a musician! In Bremen, the people will love me. I will be a star!”

Old Donkey continues on the road to Bremen. Suddenly, he sees a dog on the road. The dog is all alone, and he looks sad.


The dog says sadly, “I am old and my master abandoned me.”

“My master abandoned me, too. But I have an idea. Let's go to Bremen. Let's go be famous musicians,” says Old Donkey.

“That’s an excellent idea!” says Dog. “I am a musician too. I can sing.” Then, Dog sings BOW WOW, BOW WOW!

"Bravo! You are an excellent musician!” says Old Donkey. “Let’s go to Bremen!”
The cat is all alone. The old cat repeats sadly, “It's terrible, so terrible!”

“Oh no, Cat! Are you okay? Is there a problem?” says Old Donkey.

“Oh, yes. It's terrible. I'm all alone. My master abandoned me,” says Cat. “He says I am old and good for nothing.”

Old Donkey says kindly, “It’s okay, Cat. I have an idea. Let’s travel to Bremen. We will be famous musicians.”

“Musicians? How perrrrfect!” says Cat. “I can sing beautifully!” With that, Cat sings MEOW MEOW!

The music is so beautiful, Donkey and Dog cry, “Excellent! Come with us to Bremen!”

Cat is very happy. He agrees to travel with the band of animals.

On the road, Dog sings BOW WOW. Cat sings MEOW MEOW. Old Donkey accompanies them with a CLIP CLAP. The friends are happy and their music is joyful.
The animals continue on the road to Bremen. They play joyfully as they go. But soon, they are surprised. There is an animal all alone on the road. It’s an old rooster.

The rooster repeats sadly, “Oh no! How horrible.” Poor Rooster is so sad, he cries and cries.

“Oh no, Rooster! Are you okay? Is there a problem?” says Old Donkey, kindly.

“I am old and good for nothing,” says Rooster.

“Oh.... I suppose your master abandoned you,” said Old Donkey.

The rooster cries in terror, “Abandoned me? No, my master wanted to eat me!”

“Oh, that’s terrible!” says Old Donkey. “I have an idea: come with us to Bremen. We are going to be famous musicians.”

“Perfect! I am a great musician. I can sing,” says Rooster. Then, he sings with all his strength COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!

The animals are surprised. “You can sing!” cries Dog. “You have talent!” says Cat. “Come with us to Bremen!” says Old Donkey.
The animals continue on the road to Bremen. They are happy. They play and sing and dance on the road. Old Donkey goes down the road with a CLIP CLOP, CLIP CLOP. Dog sings BOW WOW. Cat sings MEOW MEOW. Rooster accompanies the group of animals. He sings COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!

The friends are happy and they say, “We are going to be famous musicians!”

Old Donkey, Dog, Cat, and Rooster travel far. For a very long time, they are not tired. The music energizes the animals.

Eventually, the animals get tired. They prepare to sleep in the forest. Dog is tired and Cat is tired. Old donkey pretends not to be tired, but really he’s tired, too. Soon, the tired animals fall asleep.

But Rooster cannot sleep. Rooster looks after his friends as they sleep.

The minutes pass. Suddenly there is a cry of COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO! The surprised animals wake up and run to their friend, Rooster.
But it is silent. “I wonder if there is a family inside.”

At this moment, Donkey remembers his master and his family. He loved his family, but they did not love him. Soon, Old Donkey feels very sad.

Then, Old Donkey hears people. There are cries of joy. Donkey smells a delicious dinner. “A family!” cries Old Donkey, happily.

Rooster repeats
COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!

“Oh no, Rooster! Is there a problem?” says Old Donkey.

“Look, a house!” cries Rooster. He is very happy. “There is a house in the forest. I think it is abandoned.”

Old Donkey looks nervously at the house. “Oh, no! I think there are people in the house,” says the donkey. “It may be dangerous. I will go look first.”

Old Donkey goes quickly to the house. It is small and white. “This is an adorable house,” thinks Old Donkey. But it is silent. “I wonder if there is a family inside.”

At this moment, Donkey remembers his master and his family. He loved his family, but they did not love him. Soon, Old Donkey feels very sad.
Old Donkey looks through the window. There are four bandits sitting at a big table. There is a delicious dinner on the table, and there is a pile of treasure.

“100, 101, 102, 103...HA HA! We are rich!” cry the bandits.

“Soon, we will go to Bremen and attack,” cries one bandit. “We will be the most famous bandits in Bremen!”

Old Donkey is very surprised and thinks, “How terrible! This is not a family at all, but a group of cruel bandits.” He goes to alert his friends.

"Everybody! There are bandits in the house!” cries the donkey. “Let me look,” says the curious dog. Dog jumps on the donkey’s back and looks inside.

“Let me look, too!” says Cat. Then, Cat jumps on Dog’s back. “Me, too!” cries Rooster as he jumps on Cat’s back.

The animals look through the window. They are very scared, but they cannot look away.
Rooster starts shaking and says to his friends, "They are bandits! It's dangerous. We must leave immediately!"

Old Donkey is scared too, but he is scared for the people of Bremen. The bandits will attack Bremen soon.

Old Donkey thinks and thinks. Then, he has an idea. "No, we must not go. We must attack the bandits."

The scared Rooster repeated, "It's dangerous! It's dangerous!"

"But we have the element of surprise," says Old Donkey. "We will sing."

"I like this plan," says Dog. "Let's do it!" says Cat. "I suppose I can sing," says Rooster. Finally, the animals are enthusiastic and only a little scared.

The band of animals prepare to sing and count, "3-2-1." Then Old Donkey runs into the house first. Dog, Cat, and Rooster follow him.

The brave animals sing with all their strength. BOW WOW! MEOW MEOW! COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!
The bandits are relaxing at the table. Suddenly, there is a terrible cry.

The animals jump at the bandits as fast as they can. They attack in unison. The bandits think they are seeing one big animal.

“A monster!” cries one bandit. “Let’s run away!” cries another. The bandits run as fast as they can.

The bandits run so fast, they abandon their delicious dinner. They abandon their comfortable house. Most importantly, they abandon their pile of treasure.

The animals cry for joy, “Hurray! We did it!”

“We will be famous!” says Cat. “We will eat a delicious dinner,” says Dog. “We will sleep in a comfortable house” says Rooster.

The friends celebrate with a delicious dinner, music and dancing. Finally, the animals feel tired. Cat, Dog, and Rooster relax in the comfortable house. Soon, the animals fall asleep.
The other bandits are terrified. In unison, they shout: “No! It’s dangerous! There is not much treasure. Give it up.”

There is a big argument. The chief of the bandits is in charge. He orders the other bandits to return to get the treasure.

But they refuse. The chief is furious. He shouts: “Idiots! They are not monsters. They’re just stupid animals. I’m going back for the treasure... alone.” Furious, he leaves them.

But Old Donkey cannot relax. He looks around the house. There is no sign of the bandits, but he is still nervous. “A bandit does not abandon his treasure,” he thinks. “They will return.”

Old Donkey guards the house. He is tired, but he refuses to sleep. “I told my friends to come to Bremen. I told them to attack the bandits,” he thinks. “I am responsible for my friends.”

Old Donkey guards the house for as long as he can. But Old Donkey is very old and very tired. Eventually, he falls asleep.

In the forest, the gang of bandits regroups. The chief of the bandits says, “Calm down! Monsters don’t exist. Let’s go back to the house and get the treasure.”
The chief bandit goes off alone in the forest. Frustrated, he thinks, “Those idiots abandoned me.”

Little by little, his frustration turns into terror. “Oh, no!” he thinks. “The monster will see that I am alone, and it will attack me in a second!” But the he thinks about the treasure. “No, monsters don’t exist....”

Soon, the bandit arrives at the little house. He hesitates... then he enters. He looks around, but there is no monster. There is only a horrible silence.

At that moment, Cat jumps at the chief bandit. Cat takes him by surprise.

The bandit is terrified. He looks around in a panic, but the cat jumped on his eyes. He cannot see his attacker and he is in agony. “Monster! It’s a monster!” cries the bandit.

The cries alert Dog and Rooster. Immediately, they attack the bandit, too. Quickly, the bandit abandons the treasure. He runs away with all his strength.
From inside the house, Rooster, Dog, and Cat cry out, "A bandit! Get him!"

Old Donkey is sleeping in front of the house. But the cries alert Old Donkey. He feels terrible and thinks sadly, "Oh no! I abandoned my friends. They are in danger!"

At that moment, he looks up and sees the bandit running out of the house. The bandit is running as fast as he can.

“He attacked my friends!” thinks Old Donkey. He runs after the bandit and gets into position.

Old Donkey kicks with all his strength. He kicks the bandit up into the air. The bandit is horrified and he cries, “It’s a monster!”

From a distance, the gang sees their chief running and crying in terror. In a panic, the chief arrives at the bandits’ camp. “Monster! There is a monster!” he shouts.

Immediately, all the bandits run from the forest. They completely abandon their plan to attack Bremen. The bandits never again return to the road to Bremen.
“We did it!” cry Dog, Cat, and Rooster. But Old Donkey is too sad to celebrate. “I am old and good for nothing. I was asleep and I abandoned you.”

“You did not abandon us. You led us to this house and made a new family,” say the animals.

From that day on, Cat, Dog, Rooster and Old Donkey are a family. They abandon their plan to go to Bremen.

If you go into the forest, near their adorable, small white house, you can still hear Rooster sing COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!

You can still hear Cat sing MEOW MEOW! and Dog sing BOW WOW!

And even today, you can still hear Old Donkey go CLIP CLAP, CLIP CLAP.

THE END