



The Enormous Turnip

A Story from Russia

Davnym-davno (once upon a time), an old man planted a turnip seed. Every day, the old man tended to his garden, watering the plant, pulling the weeds, and making sure that the plant had plenty of sunshine.

The turnip plant grew and grew until its leaves stood tall and the root bulged up from the ground: It was time to harvest. The old man took hold of the leaves and he pulled and pulled, but the turnip was too big for him to pull up on his own. It was enormous! He needed help.



The old man called his wife and the old woman came to help: She pulled the old man and the old man pulled the turnip, but the enormous turnip was still too big. The old woman called the granddaughter to come and help them pull.

The granddaughter pulled the old woman, the old woman pulled the old man, and the old man pulled the turnip, but the enormous turnip was still too big. The granddaughter called the dog to come and help them pull.

The dog pulled the granddaughter, the granddaughter pulled the old woman, the old woman pulled the old man, and the old man pulled the turnip, but the enormous turnip was still too big. The dog called the cat to come and help them pull.

The cat pulled the dog, the dog pulled the granddaughter, the granddaughter pulled the old woman, the old woman pulled the old man, and the old man pulled the turnip, but the enormous turnip was still too big. At last, the cat called the tiny mouse to come and help them pull.

The mouse pulled the cat, the cat pulled the dog, the dog pulled the granddaughter, the granddaughter pulled the old woman, the old woman pulled the old man, and the old man pulled the turnip. They pulled and pulled all together and finally the turnip came out!

Then, the old man, the old woman, the granddaughter, the dog, the cat, and the mouse all worked together to carry the enormous turnip into the house and into the kitchen. They chopped up the turnip and put it into an enormous pot with stock and spices to make enough delicious turnip soup for everyone to enjoy together.

