



Eva Grayzel

Motivational Storyteller

The Ugly Treeling

an original adaptation by Eva Grayzel of a story written by Christie Phippen

His nickname was Scraggle because his branches were thin and his stature small. "Why don't I grow like the others?" he asked his Mom.

"Dear, on this mountaintop, you are surrounded by family who love you," she replied. "Unfortunately, the sun cannot reach your face. Without the sun, you won't grow. But, you will be protected always." Scraggle didn't want to be protected anymore. He wanted his limbs to reach upward and his head to stand high. An overwhelming sadness enveloped him. Forever, he would be the ugly treeling.

One winter day, Scraggle heard the sound of people. As always, he longed to be admired. As usual, no one noticed him. Fast and furious chopping sounds filled the air. It wasn't the sound of villagers getting their Christmas trees as in years past. They were strangers taking what didn't belong to them. All around him, his family was dropping to the ground and hauled away. As his mother was losing her balance, she dropped a large branch over his head to hide him.

By the end of the day, Scraggle was all alone. Now, he had room to stretch and feel the sun, but the freedom was bittersweet; he felt the pain of loss. During the cold and windy days ahead, he was comforted by sounds from the village below.

This December, the village looked different. There were no Christmas trees adorning front windows because there were none to be had on the mountaintop. It's no wonder Scraggle didn't hear the children caroling joyfully. A somber Christmas Eve arrived and with it a huge snowstorm. The wind tickled him under his limbs. Scraggle noticed when he moved just the right way in the wind, he created music. As the wind blew harder, his music got louder.

Villagers came outside to listen. As they looked up the mountain, a large star in the sky looked like it was resting atop Scraggle's head. The snow dust sparkled like stardust and attracted everyone's attention. Scraggle didn't need to be anything but himself to be noticed.

Young and old climbed the mountain to admire him. Songs were sung. Smiles exchanged. Joy multiplied. A tradition began. The villagers protected Scraggle from the woodcutters and celebrated each Christmas around him.

eva@evagrayzel.com



Eva Grayzel

Motivational Storyteller

INTRODUCTION TO THE STORY

There is something magical in a great story; imaginations are exercised, hearts are stirred, and new thinking emerges. This story is designed to be a quick, easy read with a valuable message, providing readers a motivational lift.

- Positively influence your day by treating yourself to an uplifting message.
- Share this story with co-workers. Discuss and bond with your team over core values.
- Read this story to children at bedtime or in a car to promote healthy communication.

GENERATE NEW THINKING AND INITIATE DIALOGUE BY ASKING THESE QUESTIONS:

What's the lesson to be learned?

How do you see yourself in the story?

If you could change anything in the story, what would it be?

How will this narrative change what you do or think?

Who would you share the story with and why?

AFTER READING THE STORY WITH CHILDREN, TRY THESE FUN ACTIVITIES:

Role-play/act out the story. Include simple props (hats, scarves).

Reword the core message of the story in rhyme.

Pick a holiday or a birthday and make a tradition of sharing a story.

Ask an older relative for personal story related to the message. Start a collection of family stories.

Record any personal stories that arise from these family activities.

EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL: WHAT'S YOURS? SHARE AND CREATE CONNECTIONS

Who influenced your life and how?

What is your love story?

What is your greatest fear?

Who would you like to forgive or receive forgiveness from?

What would you do differently with a second chance?

ABOUT EVA GRAYZEL: SPEAKER, SURVIVOR, STORYTELLER

I call myself a Motivational Storyteller because every story I share, whether on a big stage or in a small group, is thoughtfully crafted to educate, entertain and inspire audiences.

This is just one of many stories available to you on EvaGrayzel.com. I would love to hear how you used the story and if it facilitated communication. If you are looking for a story on a particular subject, don't hesitate to ask.

Happy Storytelling!
Eva

eva@evagrayzel.com