The Elves and the Shoemaker

By: The Learner’s Nook
Based on the Fairy Tale by the Brothers Grimm

In a small town lives an old man and an old woman.
They are both shoemakers.
They work very hard, but they are still poor.
One day, the old man finds that he is out of money. He only has one more piece of leather, enough for one pair of shoes.

That night, he cuts out the shoes. But he is too tired to finish. So, he leaves the cut leather on his table and goes to bed.
In the morning, he comes downstairs to finish the shoes. However, he finds that the shoes are already done!

The shoes are beautiful. They are better than even the most expensive shoes.
That day, a man comes into the store and buys the shoes for lots of money. With that money, the old man buys enough leather to make two more shoes.

That night, he cuts out the leather for the two shoes and leaves them on the table. He plans on finishing them the next morning. But, the next morning, he finds them already done again!
The shoes are all beautiful. They are better than even the first pair of shoes.

The old man continues to leave out leather every night. And every morning, he finds new shoes already made for him. Soon, the old man and his wife have enough money to live comfortably.
One night, the old man and his wife come up with a plan. They want to see who is making the shoes for them. So, they hide in the workshop and watch their worktable.

At midnight, little elves appear and begin to make the shoes. The elves laugh and joke while they work. Together, they make the most beautiful leather shoes.
The next day was Christmas Eve. The old man and his wife decide to make gifts for the elves because they have helped them so much!

That night, they wrap their gifts and leave them on the table. They hide in the room and watch for the elves again.

The elves find the gifts and open them. They are so happy with their gifts!
From that day on, the old man and his wife leave gifts every night for the elves.
Everyone lived happily ever after.