



Twist Halloween Costume

Today was Halloween. Soon Jimmy Prune's class would march in the school costume parade.

"Jimmy Prune, what costume will you wear in the parade?" Mrs. Friendly asked.

"It's a surprise," said Jimmy Prune. "An ugly monster?" guessed Loud Larry "A ghost?" guessed a girl in the front row.

Jimmy Prune shook his head. "Here's a hint," he said. "I will dress as a famous person."

"George Washington?" said Mrs. Friendly.

"Christopher Columbus?" guessed the Girl With Bangs, Braids, and Braces.

"No, no," said Jimmy Prune. "I'm dressing as a make-believe character we read about."

"Johnny Appleseed?" Larry said.

"Paul Bunyon?" said a boy in back.

"No, no," said Jimmy Prune. "My character is a famous ruler."

"You're going to be King Midas?" said Mrs. Friendly.

"King Arthur?" guessed a girl.

Again Jimmy Prune shook his head. “Last hint,” he said. “I’ll be a ruler from a story by Hans Christian Anderson.”

The classroom went silent.

“I’m stumped, Jimmy Prune,” said Loud Larry.

“I can’t even guess” said the Girl With Bangs, Braids and Braces.

“It’s time for the Halloween parade,” said Mrs. Friendly. “Go put on your costumes.”

Dressed as ghouls, ghosts, and goblins, students marched out of the school. Moms and dads stood on the playground, holding video cameras to their eyeballs. Marching music played.

Mrs. Friendly’s class joined the parade.

“Where’s Jimmy Prune?” the teacher asked.

“He’s coming,” said Loud Larry. “He’s wearing a great costume.”

“Like he told us, he’s dressed as a famous ruler in a Hans Christian Anderson story,” said the Girl With Bangs, Braids, and Braces.

“His costume is the best one in the parade,” said another girl.

Jimmy Prune strode out of the school. He marched onto the playground and all the students cheered. But as he passed the parents, a father lowered his camera. A mother screamed.

“That boy has on no clothes,” another father

shouted.

“He’s buck bare!” cried another mother.

Yes, indeed, Jimmy Prune was marching in the parade without a stitch of clothes on.

“Notice my fine new outfit,” he called out. “I am the emperor, and I have on my new clothes.”