

Who did Patrick's Homework?

Patrick never did his homework. "Too boring," he said. He played football, basketball and video games instead. His teachers told him, "Patrick! Do your homework or you won't learn a thing." And it was true. Sometimes he didn't feel quite smart.

But what could he do? He hated homework. Then one day he saw his cat playing with a little doll. To his surprise, it wasn't a doll at all, but a man of the tiniest size. He had a little woolen shirt with old-fashioned trousers and a tall hat much like a witch's. He yelled, "Save me! Don't give me back to that cat. I'll grant you a wish, I promise you that."

Patrick couldn't believe how lucky he was! Here was the answer to all of his problems. So he said, "Only if you do all my homework throughout the year." The little man frowned and looked angrily at Patrick, "Oh, am I cursed? But I'll do it."

And true to his word, that little elf began to do Patrick's homework. Except, there was one problem. The elf didn't always know what to do and he needed help. "Help me! Help me!" he would say. And Patrick would have to help – in whatever way. "I don't know this word," the elf squeaked while reading Patrick's homework. "Get me a dictionary. No, what's even better? Look up the word and spell it, too."

When it came to math, Patrick was out of luck. "What are multiplication tables?" the elf asked. "We elves never need addition, subtraction, division or fractions. Here, sit down beside me, you simply

must guide me.” Elves know nothing of human history. To them it’s a mystery. So the little elf kept shouting, “Go to the library, I need books. More and more books. And you can help me read them, too.”

Patrick was working harder than ever and it was tough! He was staying up nights and had never felt so tired. He was going to school with his eyes puffed.

Finally, the last day of school arrived and the elf was free to go. As for homework, there was no more. So the elf quietly slipped out the back door. Patrick got good grades. His classmates were amazed and his teachers smiled. And his parents wondered what had happened to Patrick. He was now a good boy.

You see, in the end, Patrick still thought he had made that tiny man do all his homework. But I’ll share a secret, just between you and me. It wasn’t the elf; Patrick had done it himself!