



Pancakes!

When telling the story you can substitute the names of people who are present if you like. The main character should quite brisk and busy. The three lazy characters in contrast should be really slow and apathetic. If you like you can let people in your audience take on the different roles.

Props suggestions: bag or tin of flour, wooden spoon, bowl, pancake flipper, lemons, table cloth, 'pancakes' cut out of brown felt.

Feel free to substitute other props according to what you have available and what would appeal to your audience. For example you could include smells such as cut lemons and maple syrup. Or the story could finish with a real pancake feast!

I enjoy the 'naughtiness' of the ending of this story but if you are telling it to a young audience and feel that it does not contain the right message you could 'reform' the three lazy characters at the end. They could rush around helping to set the table and then share the pancakes and do the washing up afterwards!

(Stage directions' are in brackets, blue text and italics - these should not be read out!)

Aileen was cleaning out the cupboards in the kitchen.

At the back of the cupboard she found a little bit of flour. *(Give flour canister a shake)*

'Who will help me make pancakes with this flour?' said Aileen.

'Not I,' said William.

'Not I,' said Ben.

'I can't be bothered,' said Mary.

'Well,' said Aileen 'I will do it myself!'

She put the flour in the bowl with eggs and milk.

'Who will help me mix the batter?' said Aileen.

'Not I,' said William.

'Not I,' said Ben.

'I can't be bothered,' said Mary.

'Well,' said Aileen 'I will do it myself!' (*Mix' using the spoon and bowl*)

And she did!

'Who will help me flip the pancakes?' said Aileen.

'Not I,' said William.

'Not I,' said Ben.

'I can't be bothered,' said Mary.

'Well,' said Aileen 'I will do it myself!'

And she did! She flipped and flopped twenty-seven pancakes! (*Mime flipping pancakes*)

'Who will run down to the shop for some lemons?' said Aileen.

'Not I,' said William.

'Not I,' said Ben.

'I can't be bothered,' said Mary.

'Well,' said Aileen 'I will do it myself!' (*Make 'running' sound by tapping hands on knees*)

And she did!

'Who will help me lay the table and make it nice?' said Aileen.

'Not I,' said William.

'Not I,' said Ben.

'I can't be bothered,' said Mary.

'Well,' said Aileen 'I will do it myself!' (*Shake out table cloth*)

And she did!

'Who will help me to eat the pancakes?' said Aileen.

'I will,' said William.

'I will,' said Ben.

'I will,' said Mary.

'No you won't' said Aileen.

'You watched while I mixed the batter...'

'You watched while I flipped the pancakes...'

'You watched while I ran down to the shop for lemons...'

'...And now you can watch while I eat the pancakes!'

And Aileen sat down and ate all twenty-seven pancakes, with lemon and maple syrup and ice cream and strawberries and sprinkles on top.

'Delicious!'

For other versions of this story see the Siberian folktale 'Pancake Party' in *Three Minute Tales* by M R MacDonald and the British folktale 'The Little Red Hen'.

I would love to hear your feedback or comments on this story – please email me if you get a chance: info@flotsamandjetsam.co.uk

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