

SHELDON HEARS A SQUEAK

SETTING

Sheldon's Room and Kitchen

CHARACTERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Narrator: The storyteller

Mouse: A sweet, intelligent mother mouse who wants to protect her babies

Sheldon: A kind boy, who is not afraid to speak up for others

Mother: Sheldon's mother, who learns to extend her **compassion** to all living beings



SETTING

Sheldon's Room

Narrator:

Sheldon was home and playing with his toys, when suddenly, out of nowhere, he heard a small noise.



Mouse:
Squeak!

Sheldon:

That's funny—there's no one around.

Mouse:
Squeak!

Sheldon:

Where are you, whoever made that sound?

Narrator:

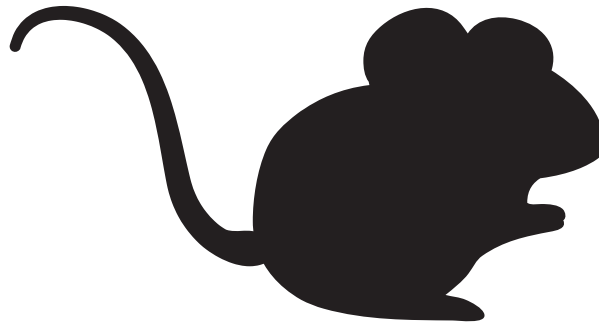
He looked but still could see nothing at all.
Then suddenly, he spied a small hole in the wall.

Sheldon:

I say! I've truly never heard tell
of a hole in the wall that is able to yell!
Why, I think that there must be someone inside,
someone who's tiny and trying to hide.

Narrator:

So, quietly and in a voice filled with care,
Sheldon knelt by the hole and asked, "Who's living in there?"
Without making a **titter**, scurried out of the wall
a mouse just as sweet as she also was small.



Mouse:

I'm a hungry mouse,
and this is my house.
I have several babies I need to feed.
Can you find me at least a crumb or a seed?

Sheldon:

No need to worry. No need to **fret**.
This is a **query** I can answer, I bet.

SETTING

Sheldon's Kitchen

Narrator:

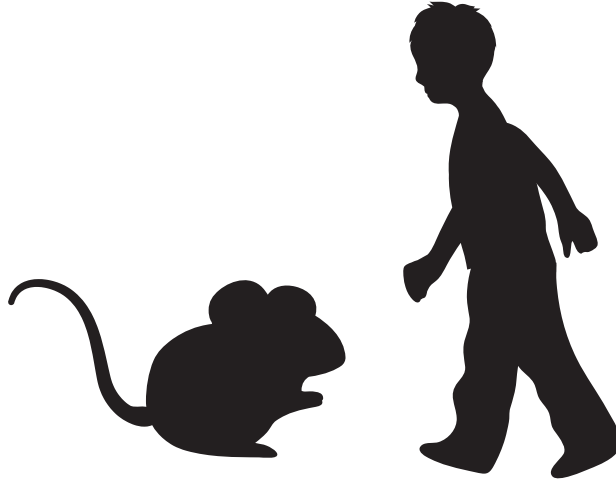
Sheldon went to the kitchen to see what he could find.
His **mission** to help—he had made up his mind.

Sheldon:

I'll gather up all of my favorite eats—
like fruits and veggies and other treats.

SETTING

Sheldon's Room



Narrator:

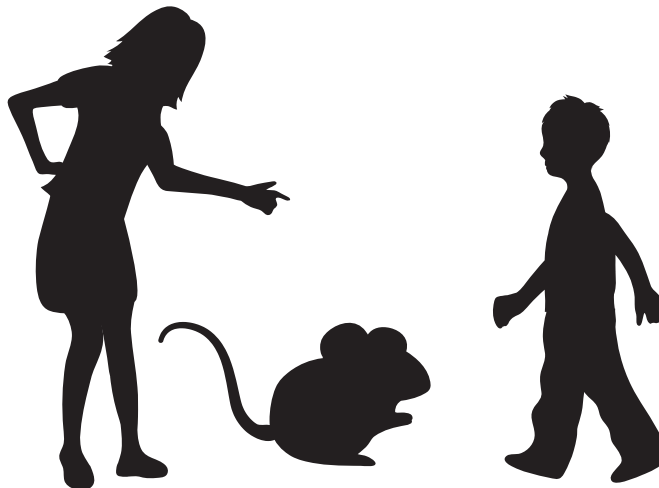
He returned to the wall and laid out a spread.
Enough to **ensure** her whole family would be fed.
She gathered the food and was scurrying away,
when Sheldon's mother returned home for the day.

Mother:

Oh, no, this is bad—I don't want a mouse!
We must quickly get it out of the house.

Sheldon:

But where will she go? Her whole family lives here.
I can't stand the thought of her shedding a tear.



Mother:

Sheldon, I know you mean only the best,
but they're not a family—a mouse is a pest.

Sheldon:

She loves her family—I swear that it's true
She loves them the same way that I love you.

Mother:

Now, Sheldon, please look at the size of that thing.
Her head is as small as a stone or a ring.
Come on, now, and let's be reasonable.
A brain in that tiny head isn't **feasible**.



Sheldon:

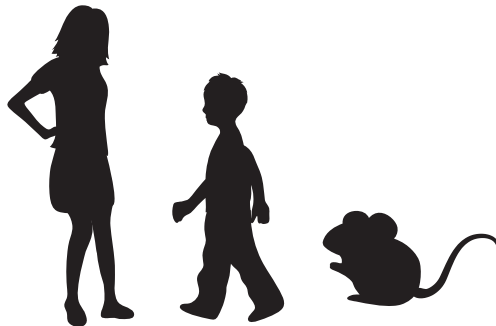
She's really **quite** smart—she has a good mind.
She knows lots of things and is really **quite** kind.
She built a nest to keep her babies safe and dry.
I think you could **relate** to her, if only you'd try.

Mother:

Relate to that dirty thing—oh, please!
Maybe I'd try if I wanted a disease.

Sheldon:

Believe me. I tell you **sincerely**,
she's very clean—I see things **quite** clearly.
There's a family in there—that I know.
A family with babies just starting to grow.
So, please, as a favor to me,
don't **disturb** them. Just let them be.



Mother:

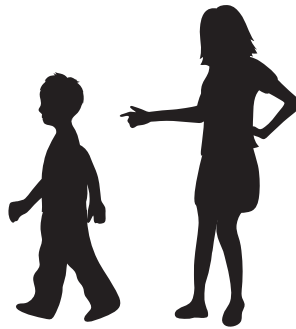
Now, Sheldon, please would you stop all this **chatter**.
Humans are the only persons who matter.
I'll set out a trap. Yes, that's what I'll do.
Then with this problem we soon will be through.

Sheldon:

Please don't hurt these little folks, who
have a **right** to live just as big folks do.

Mother:

Sheldon, you're acting as mad as a **hatter**,
caring about creatures that really don't matter.
Please come to your **senses** as soon as you can.
You're being too **defensive**, and I don't like your plan.



Narrator:

Sheldon knew the mice were in need
so, for them, he did **desperately plead**.

Sheldon:

Come back out of your hole, little mouse!
You've got to **prove** now that this is your house.
I want to protect you and your **right**,
but I need your help to win this fight.

Narrator:

The scared little mouse didn't know what to do.
She stuck out her head and said:

Mouse:

We have feelings, too!
I know our problems may seem **quite** small
to all of you who have grown so tall.
But we, too, feel love, pain, and fear,
and we have others we hold dear.
The Earth is definitely our home, too.
We have the right to be here just like you.

So can't you see why Sheldon asks
that you leave me in peace to work on my **tasks**?
If you were me and I were you,
what would you want *me* to do?



Narrator:

The little mouse at last got through!
She showed that she's a person, too.

Mother:

Little mouse, everything you said was true!
From now on, I will help protect you!

Narrator:

From the birds in the sky to the fish in the seas,
we must carefully listen to all of their pleas.
We should treat every one of them with **respect**.
Animals are individuals—that's not hard to **detect**.
They have a **right** to live out their lives.
We don't get to choose who lives and who dies.
No matter how big, no matter how small,
animals are people, too, one and all!