

EEYORE'S BIRTHDAY

by
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ANNOUNCER: This is a story that has a loud noise in it. But we don't want to use a loud noise, because that can be scary for some people. So—you know how in comic books there are sometimes word balloons that say “Pow!” or “Bang!” or something like that? We're going to use one of those. (Hold up the “Bang!” balloon.) So remember, when you see this, a loud noise just happened, even though you don't hear a loud noise at all.

POOH: (*Yawns loudly and long.*) Good morning, sky! Good morning, sun! It looks like a beautiful day. (*Yawns again.*) Time for my morning exercises. Stretch up! Touch my toes! Once more! (*To audience.*) You can do exercises, too.

(Song: “Pooh's Morning Song”)

Oh, I stand up straight, hold my arms out wide,

And I turn my body from side to side.

Then I stretch up tall, and I drop down low

As I try to touch my toes.

(*Straightens back up with difficulty.*)

POOH: Oooof! Now, a little bit faster.

Oh, I stand up straight, hold my arms out wide,

And I turn my body from side to side.

(*Tucks his hands into his armpits, making “wings.”*)

Then I flap my wings like the birdies do.

That's the morning song of a Pooh.

POOH; Now then. What next? Maybe a little smackerel of something. What would taste good? Berries? An apple? Honey?

(*As Pooh is talking, looking off right, Eeyore enters stage left, talking to himself.*)

EEYORE: I might have known. No one cares. Not that I expected them to.

POOH: (*Turning; sees Eeyore.*) Oh! Good morning, Eeyore.

EEYORE: Good morning, Pooh.

POOH: What--

EEYORE: If it is a good morning.

POOH: What are you--

EEYORE: Which I doubt.

POOH: What are you doing?

EEYORE: Oh, nothing. What should I be doing?

POOH: I don't know.

EEYORE: It's not as though today is anything special.

POOH: What do you--

EEYORE: It's only my birthday.

POOH: Your birthday?

EEYORE: But who cares?

POOH: Many happy returns of the day!

EEYORE: It's only Eeyore. No reason anyone should care.

POOH: But--

EEYORE: Why should there be a party? Or presents? Or singing?

POOH: I care, Eeyore.

EEYORE: Well, that's something.

POOH: And lots of others care, too.

EEYORE: They do?

POOH: In fact-- *(Takes Eeyore downstage, confidentially.)* I'm not supposed to tell you this, but everyone is preparing a birthday surprise. You aren't supposed to know. So when it happens, be sure to act surprised.

EEYORE: That won't be hard.

POOH: So you just go on about your day as usual. And remember to act surprised. *(He hurries Eeyore offstage left.)*

EEYORE: Go about my day. As usual. I could sit and watch the thistles grow. By myself. *(He exits.)*

POOH: Oh, dear! What to do. What to do. Think, Pooh, think. *(He pounds his head as he looks off left after Eeyore. Meanwhile, Piglet has entered stage right, and tries to reach the knocker on Pooh's tree. He is too short. Pooh turns around.)*

POOH: Oh! Hello, Piglet. What are you doing?

PIGLET: I'm trying to reach the knocker.

POOH: I can do that. *(Reaches up and knocks the knocker.)*

PIGLET: But it's your house. I came to see you.

POOH: Oh. (*Shakes his head.*) I'm so confused right now. I just saw Eeyore.

PIGLET: He can be confusing sometimes.

POOH: It's his birthday. And I didn't know.

PIGLET: I didn't either.

POOH: And he thinks no one cares. And I told him that there was going to be a birthday surprise. And I don't know what to do now.

Song: "A Birthday for Eeyore"

(Pooh and Piglet) A birthday

For Eeyore--

Oh, what can we arrange?

A celebration for Eeyore--

That could be really strange.

He's not much

For gaming.

I don't think he likes cake.

A birthday party for Eeyore--

What party plans can we make?

(Rabbit enters from stage left. He wears a large magician's hat to pull things from.)

POOH: We need some help!

PIGLET: Look! There's Rabbit! Rabbit always has lots of ideas. *(Pooh and Piglet talk to Rabbit down center, during musical interlude.)*

RABBIT: Good morning, Pooh! Good morning, Piglet. What are you doing today?

PIGLET: Oh, Rabbit, we're so glad you came along. We need your help.

RABBIT: Certainly, certainly—always glad to give advice, even when I'm busy, busy, busy.

POOH: You see, it's Eeyore's birthday. And he thinks no one cares about him and there won't be any celebration. So I told him that his friends were planning a surprise.

PIGLET: And now we don't know what the surprise can be. What do you think, Rabbit?

RABBIT: Well, well, well, well, well! You asked the right animal! I know exactly what to do.

(Rabbit sings) A birthday

For Eeyore--

A banner with his name,
A special book for signatures
Of everyone who came.
My friends and
 Relations
Will have it all prepared
So when his birthday comes next week
He'll know that we all cared.

(Spoken.) Don't worry about a thing! I'll start organizing right away--

(Sung.) So when his birthday comes next week
He'll know that we all cared!

RABBIT: Must run! So much to do!

PIGLET: But, Rabbit-- *(As Rabbit disappears.)*

POOH: Eeyore's birthday is today, not next week.

PIGLET: I guess it's up to us. We have to think of something.

POOH: Think, think, think. . . . *(Pacing around.)* What do you think of first when you think of birthdays?

PIGLET: Presents!

POOH: What kind of present would Eeyore like?

PIGLET: What kind of present would you like?

POOH: Honey! How could anyone not like honey? Just wait here a minute. *(Pooh goes into his tree and returns with a jar of honey.)* There! The perfect present.

PIGLET: Ooooh! *(Inspects honey jar.)* Could it be from me, too? From both of us?

POOH: Nooooo—it would be better if you had your own present. It would make Eeyore happier to have two presents.

PIGLET: Well—I know! A balloon! I still have a balloon that Christopher Robin gave me last week. Everyone likes balloons.

POOH: Perfect! You go get the balloon, and I'll meet you at Eeyore's house.

PIGLET: Right! *(He runs off.)*

POOH: Now then. I need a little smackerel of something for strengthening before I go to Eeyore's house. *(Looks at honey pot.)* Maybe it wouldn't hurt if I had just a little taste. *(He dips his paw into*

the pot and licks it off.) Ummmmm! (Takes another lick, and another, and another. Finally puts jar down and rubs his tummy.) Ahhh! Now I'm ready to take Eeyorel his present. (Looks at the pot.) Oh, no! I ate it all! And that's my last pot! (Walks back and forth, scratching his head.) But it's a very nice pot. If I wash it clean, it will be a Useful Pot To Put Things In. And I can write "Happy Birthday" on it. But I can't write! I need to find Owl. (Walks to far down stage left corner of stage.) Owl! (Walks to far down stage right corner of stage.) Owl! I need you!
(Owl enters stage left.)

OWL: Whooo's calling me?

POOH: It's me—Pooh Bear. I need help.

OWL: And what can I do for yooooou?

POOH: It's Eeyore's birthday, and I'm giving him this Useful Pot To Put Things In as a present. And I want to write "Happy Birthday" on the outside, but—I'm a bear of very little brain, and--

OWL: Yooooou've come to the right bird.

Song: "Who? Owl, That's Who"

Do you have a special occasion
For which you need a special oration
With impressive words
That the other birds
In the wood will listen to?
Who is the one to supply it
When most folks are frightened to try it?
I say, and none will deny it--
Whooo? Owl, that's who!

OWL: My friends and neighbors, everyone knows what we are here to celebrate, and for whooooo. It is the day on which—(insert name here)—first—(discovered / fell in love with / decided / was born—choose one) . . . etc., etc., etc.

POOH: But Owl, I don't need fancy words.

OWL: Yes, yes, yes! *(Sings)*

Do you need a comical saying
To produce without need for delaying,
Something you can repeat

Without missing a beat
And that all your friends will be relaying?
Who is the one to supply it
When most folks are frightened to try it?
I say, and none will deny it--
Whooo? Owl, that's who!

OWL: Why—hoo, hoo, hoo! This is so funny! Why did the chicken cross the playground? Hoo, hoo, hoo! Give up? To get to the other slide! Get it? Get it?

POOH: (*Shakes his head in confusion.*) But what does a birthday have to do with a chicken? I just want you to write something for me on this pot. . . .

OWL: Yes, yes, yes! (*Sings*)

Do you need some words that look grand
Written out in an elegant hand
With decisive strokes
So that other folks
Find them easy to understand?
Who is the one to supply it
When most folks are frightened to try it?
I say, and none will deny it--
Whooo? Owl, that's who!

OWL: (*Fishes a pencil from his feathers.*) Just hold the pot steady. (*Writes on the pot slowly.*) H-P-A-P-P-I-Y-B-T-H-B-B-R-D-T-H. . .

POOH: That's a very long "Happy Birthday."

OWL: I'm really writing "A Very Happy Birthday With Love From Pooh."

POOH: That's even better!

OWL: (*Finishes writing.*) There! No one else will have a birthday pot like that.

POOH: Thank you, Owl! I'm going to give it to Eeyore right away.

OWL: I'll fly over myself a little later. (*He exits stage left. Pooh admires the pot, then exits stage left as well. Stage crew removes Pooh's Tree.*)

PIGLET: (*From offstage right.*) I'm coming, Pooh! It's hard to hurry with a balloon in front of your face. I can't see where I'm going and I don't want to faaaallll. . . .(*The sign appears from the center*

stage opening in the curtain: “Bang!” Piglet crawls in from stage right.)

PIGLET: *(Stands up and shakes his head from side to side.)* Ooof! What happened? My ears are ringing! *(Looks around dizzily, then sees the popped balloon on the ground.)* Oh, no! I fell on the balloon! What can I tell Eeyore? *(Picks up balloon and exits slowly and sadly stage left.)*

(Stage crew brings on pots with thistles and a small bush.)

EEYORE: *(Enters stage left, slowly.)* Just as I thought. No visitors. No notice.

POOH: *(Enters stage right.)* Hello, Eeyore! Many happy returns of the day!

EEYORE: Hello, Pooh.

POOH: I’ve brought you a present. *(He holds out the pot.)* I’m afraid I ate all the honey. But it’s a Useful Pot To Put Things In, and there’s writing on the outside saying “A Very Happy Birthday With Love From Pooh.”

EEYORE: *(Takes pot.)* For me?

POOH: Yes.

EEYORE: I’m having a birthday present?

POOH: Yes.

EEYORE: But the pot is empty?

POOH: Yes. I’m sorry, Eeyore.

EEYORE: Well--

(Piglet runs in SR, panting.)

PIGLET: Hello, Eeyore! Many happy returns of the day!

EEYORE: I’m having them.

PIGLET: *(Shifting from foot to foot nervously.)* I brought you a present. A balloon. But I was running fast to get here, and I couldn’t see around the balloon, and—I fell down. On the balloon. *(Holds out a limp piece of rubber.)* This is all that is left.

EEYORE: *(Takes the rubber.)* This is my present?

PIGLET: Yes.

EEYORE: What color was it when it was a balloon?

PIGLET: Red.

EEYORE: Red. My favorite color. How big was it?

PIGLET: About as big as me.

EEYORE: About as big as Piglet. My favorite size. *(Looks back and forth from the pot to the piece of*

rubber.)

PIGLET: I'm sorry, Eeyore. *(He and Pooh look at each other sadly. Neither of them is looking at Eeyore.)*

EEYORE: Look, Pooh. *(Puts the limp rubber into the pot.)* My balloon goes in my pot.

POOH: *(Still not looking at Eeyore.)* Oh, no Eeyore. A balloon is much too big to go into that pot.

EEYORE: *(Pulls the rubber out.)* And it comes out.

(Piglet turns to look and then turns Pooh around.)

EEYORE: *(Suits the action to the words.)* It goes in. And it comes out.

POOH: You're right, Eeyore. It does go in.

PIGLET: And it comes out.

EEYORE: It's just right!

OWL: *(Entering stage right with Rabbit.)* What's just right, Eeyore?

EEYORE: My Useful Pot To Put Things In. My balloon goes in *(Puts it in.)* and it comes out. *(Takes it out.)* I'm having a birthday!

OWL: *(To Rabbit.)* I told you it was today.

RABBIT: *(Without missing a beat.)* And we've come to help you have it! *(Gesturing to the audience.)* All of us.

(Rabbit leads everyone in singing "Happy Birthday.")

OWL: Now, I think there might be a Thistle Cake somewhere around.

(He and Rabbit lead Eeyore, who carefully picks up his pot and balloon, off stage left. Pooh and Piglet watch them go, waving and calling "Happy Birthday, Eeyore!")

POOH: I'm so glad I thought of giving him a Useful Pot To Put Things In.

PIGLET: And I'm glad I thought of giving him something to put in a Useful Pot.

POOH: *(After a pause, over the introduction to "Always More Fun with Two.")* What shall we do tomorrow?

PIGLET: I don't know. What do you want to do?

POOH: Well. . . .

Song: "It's Always More Fun with Two"

(Pooh) We could visit Christopher Robin
He always has good plans.

We could go out exploring
For unknown foreign lands.
(Piglet) We could go visit Kanga
And help Roo learn to hop—
(Pooh) Or maybe, knowing baby Roo,
Help him learn how to stop!

(Pooh) But whatever we do I don't really care,
Or whether we're doing it here or there,
As long as we're doing it as a pair,
It's always more fun with two!

(Piglet) We could go hunt a Heffalump
And catch it in a trap.
(Pooh) We could go find the North Pole
And mark it on a map.
(Piglet) We could go to the river
And throw some Pooh-sticks in
To float down underneath the bridge—
(Pooh) I bet my stick would win!

(Pooh) But whatever we do, I don't care a bit,
(Piglet) Or how long we take when we're doing it.
(Both) A bear and a pig are a perfect fit.
It's always more fun with two.

(Both) Yes, wherever we go—
And whatever we do—
It'll always be me and you.
(Pooh) 'Cause it's always more fun,
(Piglet) It's always more fun,
(Pooh) It's always more fun
With two—
(Rabbit) Or three—
(Owl) Or four—
(All) Or more!
It's always more fun
When there's more than one!

END OF PLAY