

THE LADY AND HER THREE SONS

One time there was a poor lady who lived with her three sons in a small village.

Her husband was dead and she had to work in the cane estate to support the whole family.

The names given to the sons sounded foolish – The small boy was Big Eye, the other was Thin Foot and the oldest was called Broad Mouth.

One morning, the lady sent Big Eye to the shop at the junction to buy one cent biscuits and one cent saltfish to use for breakfast. Big Eye took the penny and went to the shop. When he got the goods from the shopkeeper, he said that the piece of saltfish was too small. The other shoppers heard him and they all laughed and said he wanted more because his name was Big Eye. He was so vexed that he said he would not leave until he had been given more saltfish.

After waiting for a long time the lady sent Thin Foot to bring Big Eye home. When Thin Foot reached the shop and found out what was happening he became angry too and started to make a noise. He stamped his foot on the floor. There was a crack in the floor at that spot and his foot went through. He turned this way and that but could not get it out and everyone laughed at him.

By now the lady was worried and angry and sent Broad Mouth to bring his two brothers home. When he reached the shop and saw what was happening he started to laugh. He laughed so loudly that his mouth split open.

As it was time to leave for work the mother rushed to the shop to find out what was wrong. Her friends explained what had happened and promised to help her out that morning with breakfast for the family – But they also made her promise to give the boys proper names.

(Crick–crack! Monkey break his back in the hamsack!)

