

The Magic Porridge Pot

Once, not twice, but once upon a time,
there was a little girl called Poppy
who lived with her poor old mother.

Early one morning,
she was walking in the woods
when she helped an old lady carry her bags home.

So the kind old lady gave her
a magic porridge pot.

"Say these words and it will give you hot porridge ...
Cook pot cook!
Now we take a look.
Full of yummy porridge now,
cook pot cook!"

"But once you have eaten enough, say,
Stop pot stop
or you're going to pop!
No more yummy porridge now
Stop pot stop!"

If you don't say this, it will carry on cooking."

Poppy ran home
and showed her mother.
She put the pot on the table and chanted

*'Cook pot cook!
Now we take a look.
Full of yummy porridge now,
cook pot cook!'*

Soon the pot was full of hot, sweet porridge.
Poppy chanted,

*'Stop pot stop
or you're going to pop!
No more yummy porridge now
Stop pot stop!'*

and the porridge stopped cooking.

One day Poppy was visiting her grandma
when her mother felt hungry.

Her mother chanted
Cook pot cook! etc.

Soon the pot was full of sweet porridge
as hot as boiling soup.

Unfortunately,
she could not remember the words
to make the pot stop!

Oh dear, there was porridge, porridge everywhere -
The porridge poured -
out of the pot, onto the floor,
up the stairs and out of the door -
into the rooms and down the lane
until there was porridge, porridge everywhere.

When Poppy came back she shouted out,
'Stop pot stop etc'

Luckily, the pot stopped.

In the end,
everyone had to eat porridge
for a whole month
and they lived happily ever after!

Retelling © Pie Corbett and Steve Grocott 2015 (a musical version of this can be found on the CD 'Story Songs' by Pie Corbett & Steve Grocott available from Roving Books. The CD contains songs, musical stories as well as story maps and notes.)