



## Stage 2

# The King and His Wish

## Storyteller Notes

When participation involves crucial dialogue – as with this story’s “As you wish...” – I prefer to set up the participation before it is needed. This way, it does not appear as a distraction; instead, it blends seamlessly into the flow of the main story. For this reason I invented an introduction for this story, allowing your children to get used to the participation before the action really begins. Never be afraid to do this with your own storytelling – adding or removing scenes to achieve a desired effect is part of what makes the tradition so dynamic and fun!

I use a lot of ‘story space’ in this telling, such as watching an imaginary tortoise crossing the floor. Notice how my fingers and my eyes craft the objects in thin air, and let the children know exactly where they are. Oral storytelling uses a lot of eye contact, which can become tiring for both teller and audience. Story space is a great technique to combat this, as it allows everyone to focus elsewhere whilst still being caught in the world of the story. Try it out, and you should find your children will not get restless quite so soon. Other benefits of story space can be found in *The Big Carrot* and *East of the Sun, West of the Moon*.

I leave a few gaps in this telling for the children to call out objects at random. Nothing they say can alter the course of the plot; but, by colouring the detail of the story, they take some ownership in the telling. This imaginative investment is part of what makes storytelling so captivating. Use this sort of participation – where no suggestion is wrong, but neither will it affect the outcome – and it will be even easier to keep your children engaged.

### Written by Chip Colquhoun

Chip is a professional storyteller and a reviewer of children’s literature. Chip visits schools and theatres all over the UK with his storytelling colleague, Amy Robinson. Find out more at [www.snailtales.org](http://www.snailtales.org)