



🌸 Korean Folktales 🌸

# The Distracted Dokkaebi

## Age

· Children (Ages 3~5)

## Topic

· Goal: To learn to solve problems wisely.  
· Theme: Cleverness

## keywords

· Cleverness, Dokkaebi, Farmer, Money, Promise, Lie, Horse blood

## Korean Culture

· Goal: To look at how dokkaebis appeared in old stories and see how people long ago imagined them.  
· Elements: Dokkaebi

## Korean

· Goal: To learn the meaning of the verbs “to borrow” and “to repay/return”.  
· Words: 꾸다 (To borrow), 갚다 (To repay/return)  
· Expressions:  
돈을 꾸다/빌리다. (To borrow money.)  
돈을 갚다/돌려주다. (To repay money / To return money.)  
책을 빌리다/돌려주다. (To borrow a book / To return a book.)

# 🌸 Storytelling Activity Content



## Greetings

Put your hands on your belly button! Greetings!  
Hello, everyone. I am OOO, “The Beautiful Story Grandma”, and I’m here to tell you an interesting story.



## Understanding today’s topic

Today, the story that Grandma will tell is... Abracadabra! Here comes the title!

“The Distracted Dokkaebi.”

Everyone, do you have a friend who forgets things a lot? I sometimes forget when I’m very busy or distracted. And it seems like the dokkaebi in today’s story is very forgetful, too. One day, this dokkaebi borrowed money from a poor farmer. Afterwards, did the distracted dokkaebi pay back the farmer, or did he forget all about it? Shall we listen to the story together?



## Start the story with a song

Let’s dive into the story of “The Distracted Dokkaebi!”

🎤 **One, two, three, four! Let’s begin the story! Let’s all have a listen with excitement. Are your ears perked up? Are your eyes sparkling?**

🎶 **One, two, three, four! We’re off. Boom, boom!** 🔊



## Story

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A long time ago, in a village, there lived a poor farmer with no money and no land. Because he had no money, he could not buy land, and because he had no land, he could not farm for himself. He helped with hard work at many houses, and he barely earned one or two coins a day.

One day, the farmer worked all day in a nearby village, got three coins and headed home. As he turned the corner, suddenly, a strange and funny-looking dokkaebi appeared and blocked the farmer's way.

“Hey there, please lend me three coins.”

“What? How can a poor man like me have any money?”

The farmer was scared of the dokkaebi, but he lied because he was afraid the dokkaebi would steal his money.

“Ha, I know you have money in your pocket. I will pay you back tomorrow evening, so please lend me three coins.”

The farmer had no choice but to lend the money.

“Will you really pay me back tomorrow?”

“Of course, I'll pay you back tomorrow, don't worry.”



## Story

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The dokkaebi took the farmer's three coins and disappeared like smoke.

The next day, after finishing his field work, the farmer was eating dinner.

“I came to repay the money I borrowed yesterday.”

The dokkaebi suddenly appeared, threw three coins into the yard and quickly disappeared.

“Well, well, the dokkaebi keeps his promise well.”

The farmer was happy to get his money back.

The next day, when the farmer finished work and was walking home slowly, the dokkaebi appeared again.

“What is it this time?”

The farmer worried the dokkaebi would ask to borrow money again.

“I came to repay the money I borrowed.”

“But you paid it back yesterday.”





## Story

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“What? I already paid it back? When?”

Even when the farmer said no, the dokkaebi pushed three coins into his hands and left.

“Ah, people say that dokkaebis forget things, right? He forgets paying me back but remembers borrowing. Ha-ha.”

The farmer was happy to get free money.

The next evening, the dokkaebi appeared at the farmer’s house again.

“Why did you come again?”

“Why else? I came to repay the money I borrowed.”

Again, the dokkaebi threw three coins into the yard and disappeared. The next day, and the next day, and the next, the dokkaebi came every day and gave him three coins.

“Ha-ha, I lent the dokkaebi three coins, and now money keeps coming by itself.”

The happy farmer used the dokkaebi’s money to build a new house and buy land. Now he didn’t need to work in other people’s fields and





## Story

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could live with plenty to eat. But even after many months, the dokkaebi kept coming every day.

“I came to pay back the money I borrowed.”

“Oh dear, you came again today.”

“Isn’t it good I came to pay back the money?”

The dokkaebi thought it was strange that the farmer didn’t welcome him, but still threw three coins into the yard and left.

“Ah, I’m tired of getting money every day. How can I make him stop coming?”

The farmer thought hard. That night, when the dokkaebi came, the farmer asked:

“Dokkaebi, please stop giving me money. I am most afraid of money.”

“How strange. Don’t people like money?”

“Maybe other people do, but not me. So, dokkaebi, what are you most afraid of in this world?”



## Story

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The farmer slyly asked the dokkaebi.

“Me? I’m most scared of horse blood. Ugh, even saying it is scary—horse blood!”

The next evening, the farmer sprinkled horse blood in the yard.

“He’ll be too scared to come now.”

And after that, the dokkaebi didn’t come anymore.

But one night,

“You bad man! How could you sprinkle horse blood that I’m afraid of! Take this, the thing you said you fear most— money!”

Hearing the dokkaebi shout, the farmer ran outside. Then the dokkaebi poured out a whole sack of money into the yard.

“Oh no, so scary—money, money!”

The farmer shouted and pretended to be afraid of the money. Then the dokkaebi laughed out loud and disappeared.

After that, the dokkaebi never came back. Of course, the farmer became even richer.



# 🌸 Storytelling Activity Content



## Introducing Korean culture and language

Everyone, did you enjoy Grandma's story? The poor farmer worked hard and was going home, when a dokkaebi suddenly appeared and asked to borrow something. What was it?

Yes, it was money. The dokkaebi asked to borrow money. "Kkuda" (to borrow) means to take another person's things or money and give them back later. If you borrow money, you must give it back, right? At that time, we say "gapda" (to repay money).

Everyone, in Korean folktales, dokkaebis appear a lot, right? Some dokkaebi are scary, and many are playful. What kind of dokkaebi was in this story?

That's right. It was a dokkaebi who forgets things. Long ago, when something strange happened, people sometimes said, "It's a dokkaebi's prank!" Dokkaebi have special powers. They can trick people, bother them, or play pranks. But they can also give people good luck. If you want to learn more about mysterious dokkaebi stories, check out the "Dorandoran Story Grandma's Bag of Stories" website for more details!



# 🌸 Storytelling Activity Content



## Wrap up

Everyone, let's review the story "The Distracted Dokkaebi" with Grandma.

A poor farmer by chance lent money to a dokkaebi. But even though the dokkaebi repaid the money as promised, he didn't remember it. So he came every day to repay the money. Thanks to that, the farmer became richer and richer, but the dokkaebi kept coming, the farmer came up with a trick. He sprinkled horse blood in the yard, because the dokkaebi was afraid of it. Then the dokkaebi gave the farmer a whole sack of money, because he said he was scared of money. So, the farmer became very rich.

Everyone, in the end the farmer cleverly sent the dokkaebi away. Even when things are hard, I hope you can solve problems wisely, like the farmer.



## End the story with a song

Now, let's sing the farewell song as we say goodbye to Grandma. Here we go, begin!

🎵 **One, two, three, four! We've listened well. Our hearts have warmed. Ears are perked, eyes are sparkling, great job.**

🎵 **One, two, three, four! Goodbye. Boom-boom!** 🔊



## Say Goodbye

Put your hands on your belly button! Say goodbye!

Everyone, see you next time with "The Beautiful Story Grandma."  
Goodbye!

