

## Transcription of the video « The singing tree »

**Constance, the storyteller, is strolling through the museum.**

[Constance]

Autumn is a lovely time to walk in the forest. You can find chestnuts, mushrooms and hazelnuts, and sometimes strange things too...

**Constance goes up to a painting of a chestnut tree path. The trees are so tall and leafy that the path is completely overshadowed.**

[Constance]

This reminds me of a wizard who lived at the end of a chestnut path at the edge of a forest.

One beautiful autumn morning he said to himself,

[Wizard]

'Ah, a perfect day for gathering the ingredients I need for my magic potion! And I'll gather some chestnuts on my way...'

[Constance]

So off he went, into the forest, and he found: rabbit's ears, rat's whiskers, spider's webs and toad slime.

By evening his baskets were full and he was tired, so he went back along the chestnut path.

As he was feeling a bit tired, he thought:

[Wizard]

'I'll have a little rest'

[Constance]

But just then, he heard...a song...

[Wizard]

'Oh...that's strange, it isn't a woman's voice, it isn't a man's voice, it isn't a child's voice...What can it be?'

**Constance approaches another painting. It shows a cluster of stately oak trees in the middle of a field with cows.**

[Constance]

The wizard was intrigued, so he followed the singing until he reached a little clearing among oak trees and cows, and he thought,

[Wizard]

'Nobody...nobody singing...but I'll stay here to rest for a while.'

[Constance]

He went up to the oak tree and sat against the trunk. Just then, he felt...

[Wizard]

'What a fool I am! I'd completely forgotten...Of course...! I'd forgotten that these trees sing. But anyway, I'd like to have a little snooze, so I'll make it stop.'

[Constance]

He got up and took a rope from his basket. Being a wizard, he flung it at the tree and he pulled and pulled...until the tree shut up, and stopped singing.

[Wizard]

'At last I can sleep!'

[Constance]

He settled down, his back against the oak, and finally closed his eyes.

But suddenly,

[Wizard]

'How strange, there's a smell of burning! Can you smell it? Whatever can it be?'

[Constance]

He looked down and suddenly saw, rising from the roots, wisp of white smoke that turned to grey and then to black...It swirled and twirled and turned into an evil spirit, with a big fat nose, sticking-out ears, and red eyes.

[Evil spirit]

'Aha, it was you who shut me in this tree! I'm going to scrunch you, munch you, gobble you up!'

[Constance]

The wizard knew that these spirits were very wicked, but also very stupid. So he said,

[Wizard]

'You know, if you're hungry, I'm getting old, my flesh is not so fresh, so you'd better grill me.'

[Evil spirit]

'Ha ha! You're right! I'll get some wood!'

[Wizard]

'If you go for wood, do you really think I'll just wait here? You'd better tie me up!'

[Evil spirit]

'Oh yes! How can I tie you up?'

[Wizard]

'Well, look...see that rope on the tree? Get it!'

[Constance]

So the evil spirit went up to the tree, grabbed the rope, and as he pulled it, the tree began to sing a magic song, and the evil spirit turned back into black smoke, grey smoke, white smoke, and went back inside the roots of the tree.

[Wizard]

'Good riddance! That evil spirit won't be out again in a hurry!'

[Constance]

And since then, no sign of the evil spirit. As for the tree, it's never stopped singing.

And the wizard talked home along the chestnut path, and roasted himself some chestnuts.