

“One, two, one, two . . .”

One day a soldier is proudly marching home, happy to have completed his mission. Along the way, he comes across an old woman with a pointy chin resting by a large tree.

“Good evening, dear soldier!” she says

“My **tinderbox** has fallen into this hollow tree.

If you can crawl down into the tree and get it out, I’ll give you all the money you want.”

The soldier doesn’t have to think twice. *The old lady is surely a witch*, he thinks. But he doesn’t care.

He can put the money to good use,





The witch tells the soldier what to expect when he goes down into the hollow tree. Then she hands him her **apron** along with a few instructions. The soldier puts the apron into his bag and eagerly lowers himself into the tree. Amazed, he soon finds himself in a long corridor. In the glow of a thousand lamps he sees three large doors, just as the witch described.