

The story of Befana

Once upon a time a young girl, called Befana, lived in a small village near Betlemme. She had a small house at the end of "Via della Calza " (Sock's street). She was a beautiful girl but she had a bad temper. Nobody went to see her and she spent her time by cleaning her house quickly with the broom. She was so fast it seemed she flew.



She lived alone without going out of her home. She became an ugly, selfish girl. On the evening of 5th January, the Three Kings arrived in the village. They were going to worship Jesus in Betlemme. One of them knocked at Befana's door to ask for some information. He stayed there for the night. The king told Befana about the child Jesus and invited her to go with them.

She said no but she gave them an empty sock to give Jesus. When the king went away Befana changed her mind and went out to look for Jesus.

She didn't know where He was so she gave every child she met a sock full of sweets and cakes.

From that night every 5th January she brings every child a sock full of sweets to good ones while sweet coal to naughty ones. She hopes they will become good children.

Every child, in Italy, waits for Befana hoping she will bring a lot of presents and ... no coal !!!