

Sonja Anderson



Reader's Theater: A Play to Read Aloud

Butterfly-Fairy-Princess-Troll

Excerpted and Adapted from *Sophie Topfeather, Superstar!* by Sonja Anderson

Sophie Topfeather, a Great Horned Owl, likes to collect people stuff: feather boas, silly hats, sunglasses, toys, anything that people take to City Park and leave behind at the end of the day. Hunting for these treasures is her favorite thing to do with her best friend, Lulu. Except for one problem: Lulu is NOT her best friend, anymore!

Characters:

- Narrator 1
- Narrator 2
- Sophie Topfeather, a Great Horned Owl
- Great Wise Horned Owl (Sophie's Grandfather)
- Lulu, another Great Horned Owl
- Small Child (girl)
- Daddy of the Small Child

NARRATOR 1: On the last day of October, children wearing costumes lead their parents on a parade from one brownstone apartment building to another. Rain, wind, even snow doesn't stop them! Sophie tries every year to see what people drop into the bags—even pumpkin-shaped containers—that the children hold, but she can never quite make it out.

NARRATOR 2: The one thing Sophie does know, is that on this last day of October every year, Sophie and Lulu always find their most interesting treasures. What would she find this year? As our scene opens, Sophie is stopping by her grandfather's maple tree to say hello before perching in his tree to watch the kids on parade.

GREAT WISE HORNED OWL: Hello, Sophie! How is Miss Fancy Feathers tonight? Ready for treasure-hunting? Where's Lulu? Isn't she coming?

SOPHIE: Oh, um, she must be late. I'm sure she'll come later. She loves treasure-hunting as much as I do!

GREAT WISE HORNED OWL: Here, have a hazelnut cookie! I just made a fresh batch.

SOPHIE: Thank you, Grandfather! These are my favorite!

GREAT WISE HORNED OWL: Take a few for later, and for Lulu, too.

SOPHIE: Uh, thanks. See you later!

GREAT WISE HORNED OWL: Happy hunting!

NARRATOR 1: Sophie didn't know why, but she couldn't bring herself to tell her grandfather the truth. Lulu wasn't coming and Lulu wasn't even speaking to her! Sophie flew by herself to the top of the maple tree to watch the children and to see if they dropped anything along the way. Children dressed like witches, ghosts, and even unicorns paraded down the street.

NARRATOR 2: At each door, just like every year on this day, they would ring the doorbell and yell, "Trick or Treat!" Someone would open the door and drop something into the children's bags. One very small child wearing butterfly wings stopped on the sidewalk before going to the next door. She pushed a princess crown out of her eyes and opened her bag.

DADDY: Sorry, you'll have to wait until we get home.

SMALL CHILD: But I WANT some NOW!

DADDY: You know the rules. We will check it for safety at home first, and then you may have some.

SMALL CHILD: I'm not moving until I get some! And I won't wear these, either!

NARRATOR 1: The tiny Butterfly Fairy Princess stamped her feet and threw her rainbow-colored wings into the nearby alley. She screamed and kicked and cried. Her father picked her up and carried down the street and up the stairs and into one of the brownstone apartment buildings.

SOPHIE: They forgot the wings! Those beautiful wings! I sure hope no one else saw them go into that alley. Now, all I have to do is wait.

NARRATOR 2: Sophie settled into her perch and reached for one of the cookies. The parade of children thinned out and one by one, the lights in the buildings were turned off. At long last, people were asleep and she could go pick up the wings. She flew toward the alley.

SOPHIE: Wings, wings, beautiful wings! You make my heart want to sing!

NARRATOR 1: All of a sudden, Sophie's former best friend, Lulu, blocked her path. Both owls hovered in mid-air like helicopters, eyeball to eyeball.

SOPHIE: Aaagh! Lulu, what are you doing? Get out of my way!

LULU: Those wings are MINE. I've been keeping an eye on them all evening from that roof over there.

SOPHIE: But I saw the child throw off the wings! I've been waiting for hours! That little girl, she threw a first-rate tantrum, don't you think? *(laugh nervously)*

LULU: I don't see anything funny about this at all, Sophie. Those wings are MINE.

NARRATOR 2: Lulu reached out and shoved Sophie as hard as she could. Sophie tumbled toward the ground.

SOPHIE: Loo-oo-luu! Hellppp!

NARRATOR 1: Sophie almost hit the ground before she could get air under her wings and stop herself from falling. By that time, the only sign of her former friend was a faint glow of rainbow-colored wings shimmering in the moonlight. The wings were gone.