



A TRUE STORY

By Lynne Kobus

“Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the King’s horses and all the King’s men
Couldn’t put Humpty together again.”

Would you like to know the true story of Humpty Dumpty?

Humpty was employed by the King. The King’s daughter was to be married and the King asked Humpty to speak at her wedding. Humpty was terrified to speak in public, but he could not refuse the King’s request. It was a great honour to be asked.

As the day of the wedding approached, Humpty grew more and more nervous. He didn’t know how best to prepare so he muddled through and didn’t join Toastmasters to get help. He considered feigning sickness to avoid giving the speech, but he couldn’t disappoint the King.

On the day of the wedding, Humpty did not have to pretend sickness. He really did feel sick.

The wedding reception was held in the King’s gardens. There was no stage, so Humpty was instructed to sit on the high stone wall to give his tribute to the bride and groom.

Humpty spoke. He tried to use big words that he couldn’t pronounce. He tried to go back to correct his mistakes. He had every word of his speech written down, but he kept losing his place. He was not aware of all the little things he was doing which made him appear even more nervous.

Humpty became so nervous that he fell off the wall. The King’s men on their horses rode up but they could not calm him.

If Humpty had only gone to Toastmasters, this disaster would never have happened. Humpty would have learned from practice in a safe supportive environment to be less nervous. Educational Tips would have taught him to use ordinary language, to not backtrack in a speech, and to use cue cards. Evaluations would have pointed out his nervous habits.

Too bad for Humpty. But why don’t you come out to see what Toastmasters is all about? Attend three complimentary meetings. See if Toastmasters is for you.

You never know when you may have to give a speech at work, at a friend’s wedding, or when receiving an award.

Renfrew Toastmasters will meet again the Monday after the Renfrew Fair in the common room at 236 Hall Avenue E. See you then. For information call Lynne Kobus at 432-7557.