

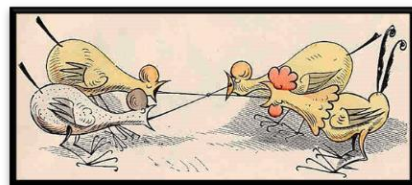
Max und Moritz

From the collection of David Kiehn, Memphis Stamp Collectors



Max und Moritz is the story of two boys who terrorize their village by playing cruel and malicious pranks. There are seven parts to the story that detail the pranks.

Prank #1 - Widow Bolte hears her chickens squawking. **Max and Moritz** tied pieces of bread together. The three hens and rooster swallowed the bread which became stuck in their throats.



Prank #2 – Although upset at the loss of her chickens, she will cook them. When **Widow Bolte** leaves the kitchen, **Max and Moritz** sneak onto



her roof and steal the chickens using a fishing pole down the chimney.



With the cooked chickens in hand, the boys climb down from the roof and go to a nearby field. Hiding behind some hedges, they eat the chickens.

Prank #3 – The boys cut the planks of a wooden bridge over a fast moving stream in front of **Tailor Böck's** house. They taunt and call him nasty names until he comes out of the house and chases them.



As he crosses the bridge, it breaks. He falls into the stream and is quickly swept away.



Prank #4 – While the schoolmaster **Lämpel** is out of the house, **Max and Moritz** break in his home and fill his favorite pipe with gunpowder.

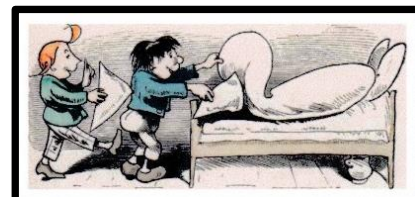


Returning home, **Lämpel** relaxes and lights his pipe. The pipe explodes and he is knocked unconscious.



His skin is blackened and his hair is burnt but he is not seriously hurt.

Prank #5 – **Max and Moritz** collect beetles and sneak into their **Uncle Fritz's** house and put the bugs in his bed. Later, he is asleep when he feels the bugs crawling on his nose.



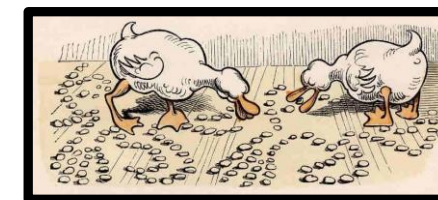
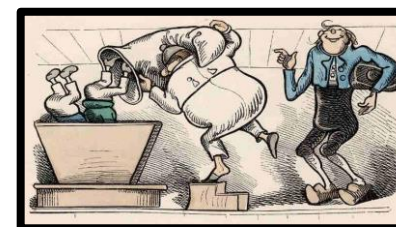
Prank #6 – **Max and Moritz** break in the local bakery. While trying to steal pretzels, they fall in a vat of dough. The baker returns, catches the breaded pair, and bakes them in the oven. But the boys survive and escape by eating through the crust.



Prank 7 – Hiding in **Farmer Mecke's** barn, **Max and Moritz** cut open sacks of grain.



Farmer Mecke notices, grabs them, and puts them in a sack. The farmer takes the boys to the mill where they are ground to bits and eaten by the miller's ducks.



Max and Moritz terrorized their village. But, in the end, they were caught and punished because they violated established behavioral norms. As a result, they suffered the ultimate and final consequence for their misdeeds.



The Author **Wilhelm Busch** (1832-1908) was a German writer and poet best known for his satirical picture stories with rhymed text. Published in 1865, **Max und Moritz** was one of his first picture stories.

