

Jiminy Cricket

123 Green Grass

WUA, Star

Dear Pinocchio,

Would you believe what happened to me yesterday?! I was chirping along on my way to Pleasure Island when out of the blue I was captured by a Blue Fairy and placed inside a glass tube. I tried very hard to escape but my six legs kept slipping and sliding.

The next thing I remember was six large eyes staring at me. I could hear their comments flowing into my tube, *"It has three body parts"*, *"no, it has two body parts"*, *"they are the head, thorax, and abdomen"* *"no, it's the head, abdomen, and then thorax"*, *"it has six legs, four seemed to be attached to the middle and two to the bottom"*. Can you believe it? I'm surprised they didn't grow donkey ears. The indignation of it all! Everyone knows that a cricket has three body parts; head, thorax and abdomen in that order. And my legs are ALL attached to my thorax, thank you very much!

But the biggest humiliation was when they began to speculate about my gender! *"It's a female, look how small it is"*, *"it's a female because it doesn't have something sticking out of its rear"*. Don't THEY have a conscience? I'm a MALE!!! Size has nothing to do with it and only females have something sticking out of their rears. Which by the way is not a "something", it's a long needlelike egg-laying organ called an ovipositor. I DON'T LIE!

Pinocchio I beg you please save me from these fairies! The weather is warming up and I will be able to chirp more rapidly and you will be able to track my location. Save me from this torture!!!

Desperately yours,

Jiminy Cricket



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