Foot and Mouth

An unpleasant couple from the city had gone to the country for a relaxing day out. In the morning they went to the village shop, and were rude to the shopkeeper when she didn't have what they wanted. At lunchtime they went to a pub, and were rude to the landlord when he didn't serve the sort of food they liked. Then in the afternoon they went for a walk over the farmland. They dropped litter, left gates open, and trampled on crops. They weren't bothered. Someone else could clear up their mess.

After a while they came to a gate with a notice pinned to it. The notice said:

DANGER.
FOOT AND MOUTH.
KEEP OUT!

'What's Foot and Mouth?' she asked.

'It's some sort of disease,' he said. 'But we needn't worry. People can't catch it, only animals. Come on.'

They opened the gate, but before they could walk through, a voice called, 'Hey! What d'you think you're doing?'

A boy was running towards them, waving. 'Can't you read?' he demanded. 'It says, KEEP OUT!'

'Don't be stupid,' sneered the man. 'We're humans, not sheep. Humans don't get Foot and Mouth.'

'But—' the boy began.

'Go away,' the woman interrupted. 'Go on. Mind your own business and stop bothering us!'

Before the boy could say another word, they went through the gate—leaving it open—and walked away, while the boy stared after them with his mouth like a wide 'O'.

'Stupid kid!' the man said. 'What does he know about anything?'

'He's just an ignorant country bumpkin,' said the woman smugly. *'We're* from the city. City people are more intelligent.'

'That's right. He'll probably never even go to college!'

They strolled happily on across the field. Until, out of the sky, a gigantic foot came slamming down, and squashed the woman flat.

And at the same moment, an enormous mouth opened up in the ground, and swallowed the man whole.

From the gate the boy still stared. Well, he'd *tried* to warn them, hadn't he? It wasn't his fault if they wouldn't listen.

Stupid townies.

He closed the gate, and went home.

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