

THE GNAT AND THE BULL

Aesop fable

Adapted by Carole L. Cooney

Setting: A meadow

Characters:

Narrator

Billy Bull

Nicky Gnat

Narrator: The sun was shining brightly as Billy Bull wandered through a shallow stream in the meadow.

Billy: Ahhhh... The cool water refreshes my hooves. I think I'll take a drink of this delicious water. (slurp, slurp, slurp!) What a wonderful day to roam about the meadow. The wild flowers are all in bloom and they certainly make a tasty treat. (chomp, chomp chomp!)

Nicky: **BZZZZZ, BZZZZZ!** Oh, what a beauoooo-ti-ful day! And look at those yummy green leaves. (chomp, ugh! chomp, ugh! Ptuuuuuu!) That's NOT what I'd call yummy. I'd better shoot over to that other tree and see what it has to offer.

Narrator: Little Nicky Gnat flew high in the air and then swooped down on a dark green leaf.

Nicky: Toodle-dum, toodle-dee-dee! A beauoooo-ti-ful leaf for me, for me! (chomp, chomp) Well that's not so bad but it doesn't have much flavor. Flavor! That's what I want. **FLAVOR!**

Narrator: And so, Nicky Gnat spent the afternoon flying around the meadow in search of a flavorful meal. Meanwhile, Billy Bull grazed on the lush green grasses and then decided to take a nap. He walked over to a large shady tree and lay down on the soft leaves.

Billy: (yawn, yawn) Ahhh, I'm as full as can be. The grass is delicious this year with all of the rains pouring down. Now for a little nap. (yawn, yawn)

Nicky: **BZZZZZ, BZZZZZ!** I am so tired of flying around the meadow. **BZZZZZ, BZZZZZ!** I tried to eat a few leaves but they were too tough! And they had NO **FLAVOR!** I think I'll search for a soft mushroom later. Whew! I need to stop. Well, this looks like a nice place to rest.

Narrator: And so, Nicky Gnat flew down to Billy Bull and perched on the tip of one of Billy Bull's horns. Suddenly, clouds began to gather sending a chill through Billy's body.

Billy: Oooo-eee! It's getting cold. Why it looks like it might rain this evening. I think it's time for me to go into my barn where it's nice and warm. (brrrrr!)

Narrator: Billy Bull quickly lifted his huge body off of his leafy bed and started toward the barn.

Nicky: Hey! Hold on, you big creature! Where are we going?

Billy: To the barn, you little critter. It's too cold out here. (brrrrr!)

Nicky: But... but... I was just taking a little nap.

Billy: Sorry, but I've got to move. It's *TOO COLD!*

Nicky: Okay, but I bet you're glad to get rid of me.

Billy: Get rid of you? Where are you?

Nicky: I'm sitting up here on your left horn!

Billy: You are? Why, I didn't even know you were on my horn, so it makes no difference to me whether you go or stay.

Moral: Sometimes we make ourselves more important in our own eyes than we are in the eyes of our neighbor.