

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

Adapted from a Russian folk tale

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Setting: A large vegetable garden

Characters:

Narrator

Alexie, father

Annessa, mother

Feodor, son

Kaleen, daughter

Georgi, son

Narrator: Once upon a time, in a small village in Russia, there was a happily married couple who were known as Alexie and Annessa. They had three children named Feodor, Kaleen and Georgi. Alexie owned a huge plot of land in the countryside where the family proudly grew lots and lots and LOTS of fruits and vegetables! One sunny day, they gathered in the field where the fruits and vegetables were ripe for picking.

Alexie: Feodor, my son, how many vegetables can you name?

Feodor: Papa, I see juicy red tomatoes and bright green carrot tops. Papa, when can I pull up the carrot tops to get the carrots? They are my favorite vegetable!

Annessa: Daughter, Kaleen, what other vegetables can you name?

Kaleen: Mama, there are some delicious green cucumbers and many round orange pumpkins lying under the large leaves.

Alexie: Little Georgi, what are those fruits hanging from the vines?

Georgi: Grapes! Delicious red and green grapes, Papa!

Annessa: Very good, my children. Now, let us help Father pick some fruits and vegetables.

Narrator: The children were helping their mother and father pick fruits and vegetable to sell in the market, when Father shouted.

Alexie: Come here quickly, my dear family, for I have a new idea!

Narrator: The family gathered around with great excitement.

Alexie: Just a few days ago, my friend, Lenka, told me about some new seeds he bought. I asked him what they were and he said turnips. I bought some of his seeds and then I forgot all about them until a moment ago. I'm going to plant those seeds and we shall see how they grow.

Narrator: Annessa and the children excitedly watched Father dig a little hole in the sandy soil and carefully plant the seeds, just so!

Annessa: Children, these seeds must be watered every day - not too much and not too little!

Narrator: So every morning, the children took turns watering the seeds. Soon, little green leaves pushed their way up out of the soil. Then, they grew and they grew and they GREW!

Feodor: Look! Kaleen Look! Georgi! There is something purple growing beneath the green leaves. Quick, run and tell Papa and Mama!

Narrator: And it was true. There was one vegetable - a bright purple and white turnip that seemed to be growing bigger by the minute! A few days later, Annessa was worried.

Annessa: Alexie, do you think it best if we take out the turnip before it gets too large and bitter tasting?

Alexie: A perfect idea, Annessa.

Narrator: Father knelt on the soft earth and grabbed the large turnip leaves. He tugged and pulled and he pulled and tugged, but the turnip would not budge.

Alexie: Annessa, please give me a hand. I can't imagine why this turnip is so stubborn.

Annessa: Of course I will help you, Alexie. You stand on one side and I will get on the other. Let's pull on the count of three. Ready? One... Two... THREE!

Narrator: Mother and Father pulled and pulled and pulled so hard they fell backwards to the ground with a loud "Thump!"

Kaleen: Papa! Mama! What is the matter? Why are you on the ground?

Narrator: As Father and Mother stood and dusted themselves off, all the children gathered around to be told about the precious turnip.

Annessa: Children, we need your help. Form a line and hold on to me tight as Papa pulls this magnificent turnip out of the ground. Come – a little song will always help. "Hold on tight and pull with all your might! Hold on tight and pull with all your might!"

Narrator: Father, Mother, Feodor, Kaleen and Georgi sang loudly as they pulled. They pulled and pulled and pulled mightily, then – POP! they all fell backward onto the ground with a loud "Thump, thump, thump, thump thump!"

Alexie: Feodor, call Dinka and Murka. Perhaps our dog and cat can give us the extra strength we need!

Feodor: Come Dinka, Dinka! Murka, we need you HERE! That's a good dog. That's a good cat.

Narraor: So once again Father, Mother, Feodor, Kaleen, Georgi, Dinka and Murka sang loudly as they pulled. "Hold on tight and pull with all your might! Hold on tight and pull with all your might!" They pulled and pulled and pulled mightily, then – POP! they all fell backward onto the ground with a loud "Thump, thump, thump, thump, thump, thump, thump, thump!"

Annessa: Now what are we going to do?

Gregori: Mama, I think my little Myshka can be a big help. He may be a little mouse but he is strong!

Narrator: Everyone laughed at the thought of a little mouse doing the trick. But Gregori called him all the same and the family lined up once again. Father, Mother, Feodor, Kaleen, Georgi, Dinka, Murka and little Myshka sang loudly as they pulled. "Hold on tight and pull with all your might! Hold on tight and pull with all your might!" They pulled and pulled and pulled mightily, then – POP! Out came the huge turnip!

Alexie: Look at what happened! That little mouse was just what we needed! Thank you, little Myshka, for your helpful service. Look at this beautiful turnip! Let us take it home and have a feast! And...let us remember, many hands make light work.