

FINDING “GOLD” IN NATURE

Based on an Aesop’s fable

Adapted by Carole L. Cooney

Setting: Farmer John’s Vegetable Farm

Characters:

Narrator

Farmer John

William

Joseph

Robert

Narrator: One sunny afternoon, while walking home from his fields, Farmer John noticed his three sons asleep on the porch.

Farmer: What are these sons of mine up to? They are so lazy and do not help me when I need it to run the vegetable farm. What can I do to make them realize the value of hard work?

Narrator: And so, Farmer John spent night after night thinking of a way to stir up his sons’ ambition. With so much worry and so much thinking, Farmer John became very ill. Finally he got an idea. As he lay in his bed, he called to his sons.

Farmer: William! Joseph! Robert! Come into my room. I have something very important to tell you.

William: Father, why don’t you just rest and get well. Then you can tell us.

Joseph: Yes, Father. Here’s something to eat. Then you can tell us.

Robert: We don’t want you to tire yourself with talking. Try to sleep. Then you can tell us.

Farmer: No, my sons. You know that I am very sick and there is nothing to be done to make me well. There is something I must tell you. (whispering) Come close so you can hear me.

Narrator: The sons looked at each other with fear. They didn’t realize how sick their father was. Slowly, they walked to the side of the bed.

Farmer: My sons, many years ago, I buried a chest of gold coins in the field. I have forgotten where it is, but you should have no trouble finding it. I didn’t bury it very deeply. Find it because the gold coins are my farewell gift to you.

Narrator: The next day, the sons found their father had died peacefully in his sleep with a big smile on his face. The sons were sad their father was no longer with them, but they were very excited to find the chest of gold coins, so they each got a shovel and walked out to the large field.

William: All right, Joseph and Robert. It's time for us to find our treasure.

Joseph: Why don't we dig in different directions?

Robert: Good idea! Then we'll find the chest of gold coins in no time!

Narrator: What the three sons didn't realize was that their digging was helping the vegetables to grow. Day after day, the sons dug and dug. They were careful not to damage the tender plants that appeared rising up in the soil. Now they dug and watered and weeded and the plants grew and grew and GREW!

William: Look at all of the plants!

Joseph: They're growing so big and delicious looking.

Robert: I think we should sell our vegetables at the market?

Narrator: And so the sons gathered basket after basket of beans and corn, tomatoes and spinach, lettuce and cucumbers and many, many other vegetables. They sold everything and ended up with more money than they had ever seen before. As they were walking back to their farm, they shared some thoughts.

Joseph: Brothers, I have a thought that hasn't quit all day. It's as if Father was here.

William: I have had one, too. I've been thinking about Father, too.

Robert: Do you think Father is sending us a message?

Narrator: The three sons looked at each other and nodded, "Yes!" It was then that they realized they had found something more important and more valuable than a chest of gold. They discovered that by working together they could support themselves for the rest of their lives.