

Small Wonders

Trifles Says Yes

Trifles goes far down to come up again.

Lesson Link: The Annunciation of Mary and saying yes to the right things. Often the secret to following God and living life well is humility and sacrificing what we want in order to say yes to God in difficult situations, believing that He will see us through.

It was pitch-black as Trifles nosed his way down, down, down into the hole from the cave.

He had very kittenish thoughts like *I wish I was home in my little bed*, and *I don't like the person who invented hikes*, and *I wonder if other little kittens have such big adventures*.

More than anything, he hoped that snakes weren't clever enough to have stolen Granna's cupcake recipe.

Then it occurred to him that snakes didn't have arms or legs and would have great trouble with things like mixing bowls and oven knobs, and so they *couldn't* make cupcakes at all.

The hole became very narrow, but Trifles squeezed himself through. Suddenly, the hole became bigger, and he felt soft dirt under his paws. He could even stand up without bumping his head.

I've gone from a hole into a tunnel, he thought, sure that there was a difference.

He wondered what kind of scary creatures lived in dark tunnels rather than holes.

I must be brave, he said to himself. He crept onward, sniffing the air because the smell of Granna's cupcakes was stronger than before.

He brushed against the dirt wall of the tunnel on one side and then the other side, hoping that he wouldn't brush against something that *wasn't* dirt but might be living and moving.



The tunnel opened into a *passage*. Trifles assumed it was a *passage* because, instead of dirt walls like a tunnel, the passage had walls made of wooden planks.

Trifles comforted himself that snakes probably couldn't make walls made of wooden planks for the same reasons that they couldn't bake cupcakes.

The passage sloped up, and up farther, and up some more, until it came to a small wooden door. Trifles felt excited now because wooden doors were very Toy-like and that meant he was close to a Toy of some sort and a Toy meant he would find help.

He nudged the door open and stepped into a small room with shelves filled with bags and tins and cups and boxes. Trifles remembered that Granna had a small room like this that she called a *pantry*. He also remembered that her pantry had a doorway just like the one that Trifles was looking at now. He remembered, too, that the doorway led to Granna's kitchen just like this doorway did. And that's when he saw Granna herself putting icing on a tray of cupcakes.

"Hello," Trifles said in a small voice.

Granna turned to him and said, "Hello, Trifles," warmly as if she'd been expecting him. "Where did you come from?"

Trifles looked at the cupcakes and thought about how delicious they must be, but he struggled to keep his mind on the reason he was at Granna's. So, in a burst of words that spilled out and tumbled all over the place, Trifles told her about the hike to find better weather and getting lost in the forest and being stuck in the dark cave because Pencil-Neck's body was so much bigger than his head and neck.

"Oh dear," Granna said. Then she said something about Trifles finding the old rabbit warren and that must be how he came to her cottage.

Trifles wasn't sure what a warren was but skipped asking because the cupcakes still looked and smelled very tasty, and he hoped he would find out if they tasted tasty.

But Granna said, "Trifles, you must lead me back to them."

Trifles thought about the dark passage and the dark tunnel and then the dark hole and felt like he never wanted to go into them again.

"Our friends need you," Granna said gently. "Will you go?"

Trifles remembered how it felt to be brave enough to go into the dark hole in the first place. He also thought that being with Granna would make the journey less scary. So he said, "Yes, I will."

Granna brought a lit candle and followed Trifles back through the pantry to the passage and the tunnel and the hole and, funny, it didn't feel like it took as long going back as it did coming the first time.

Granna stopped at the hole and said, "I'm too big to crawl up that. But I know where the cave is now and can tell you how to get home." And she did.

"Guess what I found!" Trifles said like a big surprise to the others when he came out of the hole into the dark cave.

"Snakes!" shrieked Pencil-Neck in a wild panic, then backpedaled his legs frantically until there was a loud *pop*, and he was outside again.

When he saw Trifles, he blushed as much as a brachiosaurus could blush.

"I know how to get home," Trifles said.

"*You* should lead us," Brambles said.

And that's exactly what Trifles did.

Questions:

1. ***How did Trifles' saying yes save the other Toys?*** (He found a way out of the hole.)
2. ***How was Trifles a good leader?*** (Even though he was afraid, he did a brave deed to save his friends.)