

Small Wonders

Take Care

*The Toys have an afternoon of making things.
Then they learn a hard lesson.*

Lesson Link: Created in love and taking care of God's creation.

God the Creator has entrusted many gifts to us: talents, money, our families and neighbors, and even the world around us. We often love what He's given us but become negligent when it comes to sustaining and caring for those gifts. Thankfully, God Himself is not so negligent and continues to show His love and care for what He has created.

Granna the Rabbit announced to the Toys that they could come to her cottage that afternoon to be creative.

The Toys were very excited, even though they didn't know what she meant by "be creative."

Granna said, "To 'be creative' is to make things up."

"Like stories?" asked Tell-Tale the Mouse.

"Yes," Granna said. "Or you could make up a song or write a poem. You could draw a picture or paint a painting. You could carve or sculpt or build whatever you imagine."

The Toys were excited and began to think about ways that they could be creative.

That afternoon they went to Granna's cottage, which was always cozy and comfortable. She had set up a big table with pencils and crayons and paint and paper and wood and clay.

That day, the Toys were very creative.

Overbite the Beaver carefully carved a small boat out of a piece of wood.

Pinnetti the Puppet tenderly shaped the clay into a figure that looked like a small version of himself.



Pencil-Neck the Brachiosaurus used paint to make his footprints on paper look like flowers.

Brambles the Porcupine used the different-colored crayons to make circles on a piece of paper. She said, "They might be cup rings on the top of a table. Or maybe raindrops in water. Or they might really be colorful circles on a piece of paper."

Percy the Possum penned a poem about how smart possums are. He even rhymed "possum" with "awesome" several times.

Tell-Tale the Mouse painted a picture of birds flying over the park in the middle of the Kind Garden. Tell-Tale sometimes wished she could fly.

By the end of the afternoon, everyone was proud of what they had made.

"Take your work home," Granna said. "We'll do a big show in the park tomorrow so the other Toys can see what you've done."

On the way home, Pencil-Neck the Brachiosaurus stopped in the woods to chew on some leaves in the high branch of a tree. He put his painting on another branch while he ate and left without it. He went home with the nagging feeling that he had forgotten something important.

A few minutes after Pencil-Neck left, a squirrel named Frantic found the painting in the tree and took it back to his nest. He tore it up into little pieces and made a bed out of it.

Later that night, Pinnetti got distracted by a fly crawling on the wall of his house. Pinnetti didn't like flies. So he grabbed the first thing he could lay his hands on and swatted at it. He missed. The fly flew away. Then he saw that he had swatted at the fly with his clay figure. The figure was now bent out of shape and the arms and legs had fallen off.

Percy the Possum decided to nail his poem to the door of his home. But a blast of wind tore it off and sent it flying far away.

Overbite the Beaver put his carved boat on the stream next to his dam. By the time he woke up, the boat had floated off. He searched all over but couldn't find it.

It came time for the big show in the park. But there wasn't much to show.

Granna listened as each Toy told what had happened to their projects.

She slowly shook her head.

Then Brambles the Porcupine arrived. Everyone hoped she could show her drawing of the colorful rings. But Brambles was in tears. She said she couldn't find her drawing *anywhere*.

Granna laughed and said, "It's right here." Granna plucked the paper from the points on Brambles' back.

Brambles sniffled. "Oh, I must have rolled on it!" The paper now had so many holes in it that the circles were hard to see. "It's ruined," Brambles said, then began to cry again.

Tell-Tale the Mouse proudly hung up her painting of the birds, but it now looked like a lot of smears and smudges.

"What happened?" asked Granna.

"I spilled a glass of water on it," Tell-Tale explained with a small pout on her face. "I tried to wipe it up with a cloth."

The Toys looked sad.

"I loved what I made," Percy said.

The rest of the Toys said the same thing.

Granna gathered them around and said in a very kindly way, "If you love something, you'll remember to take care of it."

She saw they were still sad.

"I'm sorry you don't have all the beautiful things that you made yesterday," she said. "Let's go back to my house and see what we can make today."

Questions:

1. ***What can we learn from this story about taking care of the things we make or have been given?*** (We need to be careful and put them in safe places. Too often we neglect the gifts that God has given us, forgetting to take care of, protect, or nurture them.)
2. ***Does God ever forget about His creation?*** (No.)
3. ***Why do we like to make things?*** (As children of the Creator, we are also creative. God has instilled in us the spark of creativity because we are created in His image.)