

Small Wonders

A Big Question

The Toys discuss where they came from.

Lesson Link: God the Father and Creator, who created all things in love. Everything came from somewhere, and there are many theories about where we originally came from. But everyone agrees that everything came from somewhere. The limited knowledge of scientists and philosophers offers a few suggestions. As Catholics, we believe that God created us out of His great love for us.

Tell-Tale the Mouse liked to walk sometimes. Other times Tell-Tale liked to think. One day Tell-Tale was walking *and* thinking at the same time.

While she walked, she thought about the Toys and their homes and the beautiful trees and the stream and the flowers and the little jar at home where she kept her cheese.

Then a question came into her mind. She knew it was a question because when she thought it, there was a question mark at the end instead of a period. Her question was, "Where does everything come from?"

Just then Brambles the Porcupine rounded the corner of the path.

"Hello, Tell-Tale," Brambles said.

Tell-Tale said, "Hello," but in that distracted way you might say "hello" when you're not paying attention.

"What's wrong?" Brambles asked.

"Nothing," Tell-Tale said. Then she explained how she had been walking and thinking at the same time and also wondered where everything came from.

Brambles laughed and said, "Everyone knows the answer to that."

"I don't," Tell-Tale said, sure that she was one of the "everyone" Brambles had just mentioned.



Brambles explained, "Everything comes from the Big Room."

"What Big Room?" asked Tell-Tale.

"The Big Room where everything comes from," said Brambles.

"Oh," said Tell-Tale. "But where did the Big Room come from?"

Brambles frowned in a prickly way. "I don't know. Maybe the Big Room didn't come from anywhere."

"But everywhere must have come from somewhere," Tell-Tale said.

Brambles frowned. "Maybe you should walk without thinking at the same time," she said, then shuffled off.

Tell-Tale stood for a minute and thought and stood and thought, and then she heard a rustling sound somewhere above her. She looked up and saw Stern the Owl sitting on a branch.

"Hello, Stern," Tell-Tale said.

Stern looked at Tell-Tale and said, "No time to talk. I'm in a hurry."

"Oh," said Tell-Tale. "I'll ask you some other time."

"Ask me now. There may never be another time," Stern said.

"Where did everything come from?" Tell-Tale asked.

Stern the Owl did not have to think about his answer. He said, "Everything came from a magical box called 'This Side Up.'"

"A box?" Tell-Tale exclaimed.

"Heavy cardboard, in fact," Stern the Owl said and then suddenly flew away.

Tell-Tale sat down on a little tree stump. She thought, *We came from a Big Room? A box? Maybe we came from a box sitting in a big room?*

Pinnetti the Puppet and Overbite the Beaver were walking past just at that moment. They were good friends because Pinnetti was made of wood and Overbite liked wood.

Tell-Tale asked them both her question. "Where did everything come from?"

Pinnetti said, "I think it's common knowledge that everything sprung up from the ground, just like trees."

Overbite the Beaver laughed at him. "Don't be silly, you pinhead. Everything came from the stream and gets caught in the dam that the great beavers-of-old built. I now own a hat, a plastic fork, and a big yellow ball because of that stream."

Pinnetti said Overbite was the one being silly. "You found it in the stream, but it came from somewhere else," he said.

"Maybe so," said Overbite. "But a plastic fork didn't grow out of the ground like a tree."

"How do you know that?" Pinnetti challenged him.

The two friends got into a big argument about the ground and the stream and plastic forks.

Stout the Pig came to see what the fuss was about.

Tell-Tale explained why Pinnetti and Overbite were arguing.

Stout the Pig snorted and said, "They're both wrong. Everything came from a place called a 'Catalog.' I think it's far away."

Percy the Possum showed up and said he had read a book by someone named Phil O'Sophy that said, "We did not come from somewhere else. We've always been here."

Tell-Tale watched as all the Toys argued. She felt more confused than ever.

Kevin the Duck waddled up and listened to the arguments. Then he said to Tell-Tale, "Remember your Instructions? They came from the Toymaker because the Toymaker made everything."

The rest of the Toys became very quiet and looked at him.

"Oh, that's right," Tell-Tale said as she remembered what Granna had once told her. "The Toymaker made everything because he loves us."

"Oh yeah," said Pinnetti.

"I forgot," said Stout.

"We should've known," Overbite said.

With that question answered, all the Toys left Tell-Tale standing where she was and went about their day.

"Now I don't remember what the question was," she said.

Questions:

1. **Where do you think human beings came from?** (Answers may vary.)
2. **What does the Bible tell us about where we came from?** (God created us out of His great love for us.)