

Small Wonders

A Mere Trifle

A new Toy arrives. The trouble starts when Tell-Tale gives him a home.

Lesson Link: Innocence; found and given a home (Adam and Eve). God created us and, like those who are lost, welcomed us to this temporary home on earth. He gives us rules and responsibilities—for ourselves and one another. Sometimes they may seem difficult, and sometimes they may get in the way of what we want. But He provides them out of His love, to keep us safe and to keep us close to Him.

Percy the Possum was strolling through the Brackenbury Forest with his paws clasped behind his back and a whistle on his lips. It was a good day for strolling and whistling. The sun shone through the trees in golden shafts of light.

Out of the corner of his eye, Percy saw something move. *There—it moved again!* In a small clearing, a small fuzzy creature was leaping and jumping from one spot of sunlight to another.

The small fuzzy creature was laughing in a small fuzzy voice.

Percy walked over and gazed at the small fuzzy creature. It had black fur, a white patch just under its neck, white spots on the tips of its ears, a nose that sniffed, whiskers that twitched, and a tail that swung back and forth. Percy said, “You’re a kitten!”

The kitten stopped pouncing and asked, “I am?”

“I am almost certain,” said Percy. “What is your name?”

The kitten said, “I think it’s on my collar, but I can’t bend my head far enough to read it. And I can’t read anyway.”

Percy knelt down and looked at the little silver tag on the black collar. “Trifles,” Percy read out loud.

“Look what I can do!” the kitten named Trifles said and raced toward a tree. With a jump, he caught the side of the tree with his claws and hung there to impress Percy.



Percy smiled to be polite. “Where do you belong?” he asked.

Trifles dropped from the tree. “Somewhere that isn’t here, I think,” Trifles said. He caught a blowing leaf in his paws, let it go, chased it, then caught it again.

“Well, we can’t have a small kitten lost in our woods,” Percy said firmly. “Come with me.”

“Okay,” said Trifles, but he kept chasing the spots of light.

“*This way,*” Percy said.

Trifles stayed in the clearing, pouncing on the yellow patches of light that shined through the trees.

"What am I going to do?" asked Percy. Then he remembered that he had a string in the left pocket of his waistcoat because one never knows when string might come in handy. That's why he also kept a rubber band in his right pocket.

He dangled the string on the ground.

Trifles raced from the spots of light to pounce on the string.

Percy used the string to lure Trifles to the park in the middle of the Kind Garden.

Because it was such a beautiful day, many of the Toys were in the park. They were lying in the sun or playing games with a big yellow ball that Overbite had found.

"Look what I captured," Percy announced as if he had been on a big hunt.

Tell-Tale the Mouse was the first to come over. She looked down at the kitten as it attacked the string. Trifles was the only Toy smaller than she was. "How cute!" she said.

Pinnetti the Puppet agreed—as did Brambles the Porcupine and the General with his big antlers and Pencil-Neck the Brachiosaurus. The only one who didn't agree was Lizst the Lion because he had found a very warm spot on the grass in which to sleep and couldn't be bothered to wake up.

Trifles looked very excited to be the center of attention. "Look what I can do!" he said and rolled over onto his back and clawed at the air.

Percy explained that Trifles wasn't sure where he came from and was probably lost. "We *can't* have a lost kitten roaming around," Percy said.

"He's adorable," Tell-Tale said. "Can I have him?"

None of the Toys wanted to take him.

"He's yours," Percy proclaimed.

Tell-Tale used her long tail to lead Trifles home.

Tell-Tale's house was a large bird cage that had been built as part of the park. It once had a sign that said "Aviary" until Tell-Tale took it down and turned it into a table. Parts of the cage were already covered with covery-type things. But Tell-Tale also put in walls made of branches and leaves until the cage was very cozy indeed.

"You're welcome here," Tell-Tale said. "*Except*, you must not climb to the top of the cage."

Trifles looked up. "Why? What's up there?" he asked.

"An old perch," Tell-Tale said. "The birds once used it."

With big eyes, Trifles gazed at the perch high above them. "Why can't I?" Trifles asked.

"Because you can't fly," Tell-Tale said. "And it's dangerous to climb that high. You'd have a very long fall. Do you understand?"

"I do," Trifles said. But he kept looking up.

"Make yourself at home," Tell-Tale said.

And that's when the trouble started.

Questions:

1. **Why do you think Tell-Tale decided to take Trifles the Kitten home?** (He was cute and Tell-Tale didn't want a little kitten roaming around with no one to keep him safe.)
2. **What do you think is going to happen next?** (Answers may vary but should include that taking care of kittens is a lot of responsibility.)