

(5th Grade)

The Well of Truth

Long ago a goat, a rooster and a donkey decided to grow clover together. They pulled up the weeds, plowed the ground, and planted the clover seeds.

Soon the clovers began to grow.

“Is it ready now?” asked the impatient donkey.

“Not yet!” said the rooster.

“If we wait, it will taste nice and sweet!” said the goat.

After a few weeks, the clovers had grown bigger.

“Is it ready now?” asked the donkey.

“Not yet!” said the rooster.

“Just a little more time, and it will be perfect!” agreed the goat.

A few days later, they returned to the field, and decided that they will eat the clovers together the next morning.

But the donkey couldn't sleep that night. He sneaked into the field and took a bite of the sweet-smelling clover.

“Hmm, so good, so sweet, just one more bite.” Then he said to himself,

“Oh.... no one would notice if I take one more bite.”

The donkey couldn't help himself. It wasn't long before he had eaten the whole field of clover.

The next morning, the rooster and the goat knocked on the donkey's door.

"Wake up, donkey! It's time to eat our clovers," they shouted.

But the donkey had a terrible stomachache. He moaned, "I am not feeling well today! You go ahead and save some for me."

When the rooster and the goat got to the field, "Our clovers are gone!" cried the rooster.

"It must have been the donkey!" yelled the goat.

They rushed back to the donkey's house.

"We know you ate the clovers!" accused the rooster and the goat.

"It wasn't me! One of you must have eaten the clovers!" defended the donkey.

"Let's go to the well of truth," said the goat. "Anyone who tells a lie will fall in."

When they got to the well of truth, the rooster went first. He said, "To prove that I did not eat the clover, the well of truth I will jump over. If I do lie to one and all, into the well I'll surely fall."

The rooster jumped and easily made it over the well.

The goat was next. He swore the same oath, and he also jumped over the well with no problem.

It was the donkey's turn. He looked nervously at the well of truth. He spoke slowly, "To prove that I did not eat the clover, the well of truth I will jump over. If I do lie to one and all, into the well I'll surely fall."

Then the donkey jumped, and he fell right into the well of truth.