



Study Guide to *Rare Catholic Stories*

By Lori Watson

As children read of heroes just like themselves who strive to be generous, truthful, and courageous, they will be drawn to imitate the virtues portrayed in those who are not perfect, but who give life—and God—their very best. The heirloom Catholic stories in this inspirational collection will touch the hearts of young and old alike. Thirty-one stories of faith, courage, and virtue.

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One Good Turn Deserves Another



Vocabulary

rascal—someone who makes trouble

procession—a group of people walking from one place to another together, usually to mark an important event

pious—devoted to God

dispersed—broke apart

cassock—an ankle-length gown-like piece of clothing worn by priests and some others in the Catholic Church

surplice—a robe-like piece of clothing worn over the cassock

severely—strictly or harshly

earnestly—sincerely; with deep feeling

chaplain—a priest or other clergy member who is hired to minister to a branch of the military or to another group

Comprehension Questions

1. What did the boy want to see?

2. Why did the boy need to climb onto the soldier's shoulders to see it?

3. After seeing, what group of children in the procession did the boy suddenly join?

4. When the priest spoke harshly to the boy, what did the sunlight coming through the stained glass window do?

5. What did the boy grow up to become?

6. In what way was the boy finally able to repay the soldier for his kindness?

Project Idea

1. The boy had to sit on the soldier's shoulders to see the Blessed Sacrament in the procession. Who helps you to see and understand your faith more clearly? Who guides you and teaches you? Write a thank-you letter to someone who guides you in your faith. In the letter, list the ways that this person helps you.

What a Dollar Bought



Vocabulary

twilight—the time just after sunset or before sunrise when there is very little light

orphan—a child who doesn't have his or her parents

“in her stead”—in her place

sexton—someone who takes care of a church, often ringing the church bells

comforter—in this story, a type of scarf

accordion—a musical instrument played by squeezing in and drawing back the instrument's sides and pressing buttons or keys

chum—a close friend or buddy

briskly—quickly

deserted—empty and lonely-feeling

heir—a person who receives something from someone when the giver dies

laden—full and heavy

Comprehension Questions

1. What gift did Father John give to Dick?

2. Did Dick still have his parents?

3. How often did Father John come to the little chapel?

4. Did the gift Father gave to Dick come out of Father's "extra", or did it take some sacrifice on Father's part to give it? How do you know?

5. Dick was trying to choose between a pair of skates, a sled, an accordion, and a pup. Of these four items, which one did he want the most? Why?

6. Why did the old, shabby-looking man need to see a priest?

7. Because Dick helped the old man, what was the man able to do before he died?

8. When Dick helped the old man, did he know that he would be repaid one day?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. Fold a large piece of paper (or a panel from a paper grocery bag) down the middle. On one side, draw a picture of Dick as a young boy. On the other side, draw a picture of Dick as an adult, surrounded by family near the Christmas tree. What do you think is the most important thing Dick had as an adult that he did not have as a child?

2. Was it easy for Dick to give up what he wanted for himself in order to help the old man? Ask a grownup or older brother or sister to help you divide a piece of paper into three sections the long way. On the left, make a list of people in your family. Then, in the middle section, list something each person is asked to give up for the good of the family. Do these little gifts have rewards, as Dick's did? What are the rewards? How do these sacrifices help the family? Write your answers in the third section.

A Daughter to Be Proud of



Vocabulary

fashionably—in keeping with the latest styles in clothing

scornful—showing a lack of respect for someone or something

shabby—worn out and ragged

flush—a pink tone passing over one's face, often due to embarrassment

Comprehension Questions

1. Why did Mr. West want Mr. Lent to come dine with him?

2. Did the fashionably-dressed girls show love for the poor children?

3. Jesus told us to love each other as He has loved us. Did Sara follow this commandment?

4. Why were Danny and his sister on their way to Central Park?

5. What did the little girl say that made Sara so good to them?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. Cut several box shapes (to represent gifts) from wrapping paper. Find gifts that Sara gave the poor children in the story. (Remember that all gifts are not things we can touch; anything that cheers the heart or helps someone can be a gift.) For each gift, glue one wrapping paper “box” to a larger piece of paper. Beneath the box, name the gift the box represents.
2. Mr. Lent and the four girls were the only ones to see the way Sara treated the poor children. Are there times when you do right and no one except God sees? Think of something you could secretly do to help someone you know, and then do it.

Little Beginnings



Vocabulary

bazaar—an event where things are sold

parlor—a living room

splendid—magnificent; excellent

remnants—leftover pieces or scraps

grandam—a grandmother or old woman

protégée—in this story, a person who receives help and support from another

Comprehension Questions

1. For what did Winnie want to use the money from the bazaar in the beginning of the story?

2. What did Winnie's mother encourage her to do with the money instead?

3. How much did the girls earn with their first bazaar to help the poor?

4. Later, after the mothers and other ladies got involved in the bazaars, how much did they eventually bring in?

5. To whom did Mrs. Madden give the credit for the success of the later bazaars?

Project Idea

Cut six flower petals and a center from colored paper. On each of three petals, write the name of one of the girls in the story. On the other three petals, write a name or description of someone the girls helped with the bazaar money. In the center, write "Jesus". Glue the pieces to a larger piece of paper in a flower shape. Do you think that, by giving up some of the things they wanted so they could help others instead, the girls made a pleasing offering to God?

Little Joseph's Letter



Vocabulary

trousers—pants

rouse—in this story, awaken

pale—having little or no color

ungrateful—not thankful for one's blessings

envy—to be jealous of something another person has

Comprehension Questions

1. Was Sergeant Peter really hard-hearted and rough? What did he do for little Joseph that lets us know?

2. To whom did little Joseph want a letter written?

3. For what did little Joseph want to ask in the letter?

4. What had caused little Joseph's mother to pass away?

5. What did Joseph grow up to do?

Project Idea

Why are your parents a blessing to you? Write a prayer to Jesus thanking Him for the gift of your parents and asking Him to help you be good to them. Pray the prayer each night.

That Red Silk Frock



Vocabulary

delay—a wait

errand—a short trip made to do business, especially for someone else

wretched—hopelessly inadequate

reproachfully—with disapproval

penalty—a punishment

forbid—to say that one is not allowed to do something

idly—without doing anything

frock—a dress

aghast—shocked and horrified

contrite—feeling deep sorrow for one's sins or mistakes

Comprehension Questions

1. Did Annie obey her mother's directions the day her mother went shopping?

2. Just before Leaving Lucy's house, what did Annie do with the red silk frock?

3. After arriving home, when Annie sank to her knees to pray, how did she feel?

4. Was Lucy angry with Annie after Annie returned the frock and apologized?

5. Which Sacrament helped to lighten Annie's heart in the end of the story?

6. If Annie had not disobeyed her mother, would she have been in the situation in which she was tempted to steal the frock?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. Can you think of a time when Jesus lightened the load on your heart in the Sacrament of Penance, as He did for Annie in the story? Write a note thanking Him.
2. Take a few minutes to examine your conscience well. Then pray the Act of Contrition.

Faithful in Little Things



Vocabulary

circular—in this story, a piece of paper that advertises products

comrades—friends

shod—a form of the word “shoe”. A horse that has been shod has horseshoes on its hooves.

lame—unable to walk with one’s normal level of strength and motion

keen—sharp

Comprehension Questions

1. What was Leonard’s father going to buy him?

2. Did Leonard spend much time with his father? How do we know?

3. What did Neil want to go do on the Fourth of July?

4. Whose father was the man Neil found lying near the railroad station? What was his job?

5. If Neil hadn't made the small decision to have the horse shod, would he have been in the right place at the right time to save his father's life?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. Neil's father had higher standards for him in some areas than Leonard's father had for Leonard, and in the end of the story we see that Neil is really better off because of it. Has there ever been a time when your parents wouldn't let you do something that your friends' parents allowed them to do? Can you see a way that their high standards really helped you? Thank them for this.
2. Say a prayer to the Holy Spirit asking Him to be with you and always help you to see what needs to be done to help others.
3. Cut a horseshoe shape from paper. On the front, around the inside of the horseshoe shape, list three virtues Neil showed in the story. On the back, in the same way, list three rewards Neil received for his virtue.

A Miser's Gold



Vocabulary

miser—usually someone who has enough money to live comfortably but lives in a very poor way instead to avoid spending money.

principal bread-winner—the person who earns most of the household income

mercantile—related to the selling of goods

Providence—God's way of providing what His children need

rheumatism—severe pain in the joints or muscles

verdict—a conclusion or judgment

frugality—the quality of spending as little as possible; thriftiness

Comprehension Questions

1. How was it that eighteen-year-old Bernard became the principal bread-winner and head of the family?

2. What disease made Mrs. Farrell unable to begin typing again?

3. When Mrs. Farrell cried out, “Oh! Why does God not help us?”, Bernard reminded her that their house was easily heated. What was it about the amount of coal they still had that made him think it took very little coal to heat their home?

4. What did Mrs. Farrell think Stingy Willis was doing when she heard him stumbling around in the cellar?

5. What was Willis really doing in the cellar?

6. What lessons did Mrs. Farrell and Bernard say the experience with Stingy Willis had taught them?

7. Did Willis really have a great deal of money?

Project Ideas

No matter how little we have, there is always something we can give to help others and show Christ-like love. Work with your parents to choose one project to complete:

1. Select some of your toys, books, clothes, or games that are in good condition and that you would be willing to donate to a local charity. Then donate them to brighten a child's day.
2. With a parent, go through your kitchen pantry or cabinets to find canned or boxed food items that your family can spare. Take them to your local Catholic Charities or other charity that helps to provide food for the poor.
3. Give a little of your time by visiting a nursing home. You can read a book out loud or just visit and talk with the residents. They will appreciate the visit!

Coals of Fire



Vocabulary

sullenly—gloomily or glumly

malice—a wish to do harm to someone

rubbish—worthless things; in this story, worthless feelings

kindle—to cause a fire to start burning

Comprehension Questions

1. Who had given George the boat?

2. Before talking with Herbert, how did George intend to repay Frank for damaging his boat?

3. What kind of treatment did Herbert mean when he spoke of “coals of fire”?

4. How did Frank feel when he realized that George had been kind even though he'd suspected him of wrecking the boat?

5. When the captain and crew of the boat met to sail it, what did they find Frank doing?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. Memorize this Bible verse: "Do not be conquered by evil: but conquer evil with good." (Romans 12:21) Look for chances in your daily life to put this verse to good use.
2. Remember that on the Cross Jesus prayed for those who had beaten and crucified Him by saying, "Father, forgive them; they know not what they do." Say a prayer to Jesus asking Him to help you to have a heart that is as forgiving of wrongs as His is.

Suzy's Dragon



Vocabulary

tiresome—causing boredom or weariness

sufficient—enough

penetrating—having the ability to see hidden things

horrified—feeling intense horror or shock

perplexing—difficult to understand; confusing

procrastination—the act of putting off a chore or task until later

Comprehension Questions

1. Whose fault was it that Suzy got a bad mark in Latin?

2. What did Suzy change at the end of the story so that she would be better able to do her schoolwork?

3. What does legend say St. George's greatest achievement was?

4. What does the story say “slaying the dragon” symbolizes for us now?

5. What is Suzy’s “dragon to fight”?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. We all have “dragons to fight”—sins or weaknesses that we struggle with on the road to holiness. What is the greatest “dragon” you fight? List a few steps you can take to help yourself overcome it.
2. How can the sacrament of Reconciliation help us to fight our “dragons”? Talk with an adult about the ways that this Sacrament can help you fight your battles against sin.

The Prize Winner



Vocabulary

oppressed—held down or held back; burdened

swift—fast; quick

queer—strange or unusual

calico—a type of cotton fabric, usually with a bright print on it

Comprehension Questions

1. Why did the man who had given half of all he owned to charity fail to win the prize; what did he want in return?

2. Why did the king regret offering a prize?

3. Did the little girl want a prize to use for herself?

4. What did the little girl want?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. In the story, when the man said that he had searched all day for some great thing worthy of a prize, the king cried out, “How foolish! Do you not know that you can reach the great only by way of the little?” There are little sacrifices we must make each day, and in these little things are the seeds of saintliness. Can you think of some little things in life—little tasks and chores—that you could do more willingly? Write them down, and say a prayer to Jesus to ask Him to help you to be more accepting of these small crosses. Then practice doing these things more cheerfully.
2. In the story, the king grows to realize “that good deeds are often done only for the sake of a reward”. What is one thing you could do for you parents today without their asking and without a reward? Decide what to do, and then do it.

Potato



Vocabulary

horrid—very bad or unpleasant

plaguey—irritating or annoying

liveried—wearing a certain type of servant’s uniform; it can also refer to something having to do with horses

finery—clothing or jewelry that is dressy and showy

Wisha!—an Irish word used for expressing surprise

Childer—an Irish word meaning “children”

cultivate—to tend something so that it will grow

sportive—playful

Comprehension Questions

1. What word did each girl say to remind the other to practice virtue?

2. What important member was missing from Minnie’s family?

3. Why did Mamma have the “two dresses for school, and one for Sunday” rule?

4. What did Lucy and Nell do to help the poor?

5. What did Minnie give up buying in order to help the poor?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. Illustrate a scene from the story.
2. Memorize the following Scripture verse: "...I assure you, as long as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Taddeo the Cripple



Vocabulary

quivering—shaking or trembling

buoyant—in this story, cheerful and lighthearted

sculptor—an artist whose creations are three-dimensional

consented—agreed

lofty—very high

Comprehension Questions

1. What did Julius bring Taddeo in the beginning of the story that made Taddeo happy?

2. What gift did Taddeo make for his mother?

3. Besides his tools, what helped Taddeo to make such a beautiful statue?

4. What did Taddeo want to do on the Feast of the Annunciation?

5. By whom did Julius first say the pillar nearest Our Lady's altar was to be carved?

6. What name did Taddeo carve among the lilies?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. Because of his physical weakness, Taddeo knew he needed God's help if he was to make something beautiful. Sometimes God uses our weaknesses to show us how much we need Him. Say a prayer to God asking Him to use your weaknesses to bring you closer to Him.
2. When we pray to the Blessed Mother, she brings us closer to Jesus. Pray a Hail Mary, asking the Blessed Mother to bring you closer to Jesus and to help you to be more like Him.

Better than Riches



Vocabulary

poky—slow

scurried—scampered; moved quickly

dire—severe or serious

grimace—a twisted facial expression that shows pain or disgust

anguish—extreme pain or distress

heedlessness—carelessness or thoughtlessness

mavourneen—an Irish word meaning “my darling”

interposed—interrupted with a remark or comment or intervened in a situation

equilibrium—balance

Comprehension Questions

1. What prayer did Ellie’s mother say over her each morning as she said good-bye?

2. How did the orange and rose make Ellie feel? How can you tell?

3. What gift did Katy want to give Ellie?

4. Was it easy for Katy to buy this gift for Ellie? Why or why not?

5. Who helped Katie to keep the doll set aside for Ellie?

6. What gift did the Rose-Lady secretly have added to the box?

Project Ideas

Please choose one project to complete:

1. The family in this story has many things that truly are “better than riches”. Can you list a few?
2. When people show Christlike love to others, it can cheer hearts and work miracles! In what ways did the Rose-Lady show Christlike love for Katy and her family? List as many as you can find.

Letters of Recommendation



Vocabulary

- promptly*—readily, quickly, or immediately
- modest*—in this story, having a humble nature
- jet*—very black

Comprehension Questions

1. When the boy gave up his seat, what did it show the gentleman about the boy?

2. What did the gentleman call all the good things he noticed about the boy?

3. Which were more important to the gentleman—the politeness, cleanliness, and thoughtfulness he saw, or the recommendations of others?

Project Idea

1. Write a letter to Jesus recommending someone you know for sainthood. Be sure to explain all about the things you see in this person that make you think he or she should be a saint.

The Broken Flowerpot



Vocabulary

sterner—more serious and showing greater disapproval

grieved—caused to feel sorrow or anger

shilling—a coin once used in early America and in England

sixpence—an old English six-penny coin

workmanship—the skill used in crafting something

Comprehension Questions

1. Before the boy admitted pushing the flowerpot out on purpose, how did his mother think it had happened?

2. When the boy admitted the truth, why did his father bless God?

3. What did the boy's father say mended bad actions?

4. How did the boy feel when he showed his mother the new geranium and flowerpot? Was he sad because he no longer had his domino box?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. Memorize the Scripture verse “Wherever your treasure lies, there your heart will be.” (Luke 12:34) Where was the boy’s treasure in the story?
2. Think of a prized possession of your own. Then list at least three people or ideals that mean more to you than the object you chose.

The Philosopher and the Boatman



Vocabulary

philosopher—the study of some basic areas such as truth, reality, knowledge, values, and logic

astronomy—the study of space and the universe—especially the stars, moons, and planets

Comprehension Questions

1. The boatman was not familiar with algebra, metaphysics, or astronomy. How much of the boatman's life did the philosopher say was lost due to this?

2. What did the boatman know how to do that the philosopher did not?

3. At the end of the story, what did the philosopher say he would gladly do if it would help him to know how to swim?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. At the end of this story, the philosopher was humbled. Say a prayer asking Jesus to help

you to always be humble and merciful to others.

2. Cut a boat shape from paper. In the boat, list several virtues that you have for which you are grateful to God. Glue the boat to a larger piece of paper and draw water below the boat. In the water, list things or traits that you have that are unnecessary or harmful to your soul—the things you could “throw overboard”.

Nina's Trial



Vocabulary

reprovingly—in a way that is intended to correct
despised—thought of as worthless and disliked strongly
edified—in this story, made better with some type of knowledge (especially moral or spiritual knowledge); uplifted
resigned—showing a calm acceptance of something unwanted
incredulously—with difficulty believing something

Comprehension Questions

1. What did Nina often say she intended to become some day?

2. Were Nina's sins often big ones, or did small faults usually cause her to fall?

3. When the girls started the club, what kinds of rules did Nina think they should add? Why?

4. When Nina held the baby for her mother, the story says that the baby received impatient shakes. This story was written a very long time ago, and the author probably meant that Nina gave the baby little bounces to try to distract him from crying. We know now that babies should never be shaken. If you were watching a baby who was crying, what would you do?

5. If Nina had thought of the club rules before the visitors at the door left, what could she have done with her quarter instead of using it to buy candy?

6. What did having the most black beads make Nina realize about herself? What virtue did this knowledge increase in Nina?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. Which small sins are the hardest for you to conquer? Sit down with a parent and list a few sins or faults that you struggle with. Say a prayer asking the Blessed Mother to lead you closer to her Son so that He can help you win the battle against these weaknesses.
2. Gather the materials you will need to string beads the way Nina did. List a few sins or faults that you battle often, and string one bead each time you lose the battle. At the end of each week, see how many beads you have had to string. Say the Act of Contrition and ask God to help you to string fewer beads the next week.

Honesty Rewarded



Vocabulary

sou—an old French coin of little value

crown—an old English coin

bribery—the offering of money or another reward to try to get someone (often someone in a public office) to do something they would not otherwise do

Comprehension Questions

1. How much did Jean charge Mr. Cenani for the cloth at first? How much was it marked?

2. Did the merchant encourage Jean to be honest and correct the mistake?

3. What did Jean lose as a result of his honesty?

4. Were Jean's parents disappointed in him for losing his job? Explain how they felt.

5. How did Mr. Cenani reward Jean? How did this help him in later life?

Project Ideas

Pray the Fatima prayer: “Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.” Pray especially for the conversion of all who are involved in dishonesty.

The Heart of the King



Vocabulary

maimed—injured badly

admonished—expressed disapproval while correcting someone

totter—to move shakily side-to-side while walking

Comprehension Questions

1. Who was Father James' Best Friend?

2. What did Evelyn ask Father to do for Jesus' hands and feet when she saw the statue of the Sacred Heart?

3. What gift did Evelyn bring Jesus each day?

4. Who became Evelyn's Best Friend by the end of the story?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. What can you bring Jesus, your Best Friend? Do you have flowers in your yard? Can you paint or color Him a picture? Do something out of love for Him, and then offer it to Him with a prayer. You will bring comfort to His heart!
2. Start the habit of writing a little letter to Jesus when something good or bad happens to you. Tell Him about your daily joys and sorrows.

The Countersign



Vocabulary

sentinel—a guard

stealthy—quiet and sneaky in an effort to avoid being noticed

sentry—another word for a guard

grievously—seriously or gravely

Comprehension Questions

1. Did the stranger know the countersign?

2. Did the sentry want to let the stranger go? Why?

3. What had the sentinel been ordered to do to anyone who attempted to enter the camp without giving the countersign?

4. What was the countersign on the night of the story?

Project Ideas

Remember that when you make the Sign of the Cross, you are bringing yourself into the presence of all three Persons of the Holy Trinity. Make the Sign of the Cross very slowly, paying attention to each word.

Pollie's Five Dollars



Vocabulary

feigned—pretended

retaliated—got even with someone for saying or doing something hurtful

exultation—extreme joy

anglers—people who use a line and hook to fish

fête—a large party

disconsolately—so sadly that one can't be comforted

sallies—Either side trips or remarks that are witty or clever.

rogues—mischievous children

niggardly—not generous; stingy

trice—a very small amount of time

Comprehension Questions

1. Soon after Papa gave Pollie her birthday gift, what did Mamma say was the surest way to be happy?

2. Why did the Tyrell family celebrate Pollie's birthday on the Feast of the Birth of Our Lady?

3. When Maggie ripped between the skirt and the lining of the dress, what did she find?

4. Had Maggie wanted to spend most of the money on herself, or on others?

5. What did Pollie do with the money?

6. When Pollie reached the door to the sitting-room at the end of the story, how did her family greet her?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. When Pollie helped meet the Cronin family's needs, she made herself happy, too. Say a prayer to the Holy Spirit asking Him to help you see ways you can help those in need.
2. The next time you are offered a small treat, pass it by and offer your little sacrifice up to God with a prayer for those who are in need.

No!



Vocabulary

coward—someone who is disgracefully fearful

after-life—in this story, the years after the story took place

Comprehension Questions

1. Which word did Father say was the most difficult to pronounce?

2. Did the children agree with Father?

3. What dangerous thing happened to George when he went onto the ice?

4. If George had said one little word, it would have saved him his struggle in the icy waters. What word should George have said?

5. At the end of the story, what happened as George practiced saying the word “No”?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. Illustrate a scene from this story.
2. Which words or phrases are the most difficult for you to say to your friends? List some things that you sometimes have to say for your good or the good of your friends but find difficult. Then say a prayer asking God to always help you to say these things when that is what is best.

Mary's Sacrifice



Vocabulary

zither—a stringed musical instrument

affected—artificial

affectation—in this story, affectation could mean attempts to make people think the family had things they didn't; it could also mean affection or fondness.

correspondence—written letters

forebodings—feelings that something bad would happen

Comprehension Questions

1. Who had taught the children that if they were contented and good, poverty made no difference?

2. Had Mary been able to wear her beautiful white gown yet?

3. Why did Anna want a white dress?

4. Who had more of a heart for helping the poor—Alice or Mary?

5. There was one person who would be especially disappointed if he did not see Anna in her white dress after her First Communion. The thought of disappointing this person brought Anna to tears. Who was this person?

6. Were Mary's parents pleased with her sacrifice?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. Memorize this Scripture verse: "God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)
2. In this story, Mary reminded Alice that Jesus and the Blessed Mother were poor. List five things that your family owns that Jesus and the Blessed Mother would not have had. Talk them over with a parent.

The Blacksmith of Ragenbach



Vocabulary

blacksmith—a craftsman whose job is making and repairing things made of metal, especially iron

rabid—having rabies, a disease that is usually transmitted by a bite and causes death

desolate—deserted and hopeless

Comprehension Questions

1. What thought made the blacksmith resolve to save the people in the tavern?

2. Why did the blacksmith say he was the only one who could hold the beast?

3. What did the blacksmith have to give up to save the lives of the others in the tavern?

Project Ideas

How was the blacksmith's sacrifice for the townspeople like the sacrifice Jesus made for us?
Talk it over with a parent.

Apples, Ripe and Rosy, Sir



Vocabulary

wares—goods for sale

tarry—to wait somewhere

meself—myself

faltered—paused uncertainly

indade—indeed

shrewd—in this story, shrewd probably means clever in a sneaky sort of way

doggedly—today, this word means “stubbornly”. When these stories were written, though, it could also mean sadly and snappishly, like a snapping dog, and this is the more likely meaning in this story.

hunkey dory—slang for “fine” or “good”

Comprehension Questions

1. Who helped the Widow Barry to carry her supplies?

2. Did the Widow Barry seem to have much money?

3. Who had probably led Tom into stealing the money from his home?

4. The Widow Barry gave up the money from Tom's large purchase. What blessings did she receive later?

5. Later, what did Tom tell a friend the Widow Barry had proven to be to him?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. Memorize this Scripture verse: "...for he who fears God behaves accordingly, and his friend will be like himself." (Sirach 6:17) How were the Widow Barry and Tom alike? Talk it over with a parent.
2. Pay special attention to this sentence from the story: "Tom was easily led, and therein rested the possibilities of great good or evil." How can this one trait hold the possibility for both great good and great evil? Talk it over with a parent.

The Evil Advisor



Vocabulary

depot—a station where goods and passengers are loaded and unloaded

menagerie—wild animals kept in a collection for showing

rummaging—searching through something wildly

Comprehension Questions

1. What did Thomas have to do to get in to see the animals for free?

2. When Frank came out of the menagerie, what did he discover about the letter?

3. What important item was inside the letter?

4. How did Thomas want Frank to handle the situation with his father?

5. What did Thomas call Frank for telling his father the truth?

6. In the end, what order did Frank's father give Frank about Thomas?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. Memorize this Scripture verse: "The path of the wicked enter not, walk not on the way of evil men." (Proverbs 4:14)
2. Have there been times when others have pressured you to do something you knew was wrong or made fun of you for doing right? Talk it over with a parent.
3. Say a prayer to God asking Him to always give you the strength to do what He would want, even if others are pulling you in the wrong direction.

Tilderee



Vocabulary

ammunition—in this story, items that are used to charge or fire from guns

vexed—annoyed

consternation—terror, amazement, or disappointment so strong that one can't think properly

transgressor—rule-breaker

lass—girl

strove—tried very hard

Comprehension Questions

1. What made Joan so angry that she scolded Tilderee harshly?

2. What happened to Tilderee and Fudge that made Mother frantic and Joan cry as though her heart would break?

3. Did Tilderee intend to run away?

4. What did Tilderee do just before going to sleep beneath the shelter of the rock?

5. What thought bothered Joan most the night Tilderee was gone?

6. Who led the old scout to Tilderee?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. Say a prayer to your Guardian Angel asking him to protect you from harm, especially when you are away from home.
2. Choose someone in your family. Then write down at least four reasons why you are grateful that this family member is in your life. If there is a family member that you disagree with often, this is the person you should choose.

George White's Ten Dollars



Vocabulary

resolution—a decision to behave a certain way or do a certain thing

tenement—a building divided up into apartments to be lived in by families who were usually poor

Comprehension Questions

1. What did George want to buy for himself in the beginning of the story?

2. What kind thing did George plan to do with his new toys when he wasn't using them?

3. Why had Mr. White come to visit the suffering family?

4. What did George buy with his ten dollars?

5. Did George buy these things sadly because he was losing the toys he wanted, or did he buy them cheerfully?

Project Ideas

In Sacred Scripture, Jesus says: “The king will say to those on his right: ‘Come, you have my Father’s blessing! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me....as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.’” (Matthew 25:34-36, 40) What kind of reward do these verses tell us George White is earning? Draw a picture of George receiving his reward.

Happy-Go-Lucky



Vocabulary

onsettled—unsettled

jingo—an English oath

yer'll—you'll

'praps—perhaps

stoically—without emotion

gamins—boys who roamed the streets and were often homeless

filchin'—stealing, usually items of small value

audacious—daring, risk-taking, and fearless in going against laws or offending people

peccadilloes—small offenses or sins

sagacious—knowing and wise

Comprehension Questions

1. What had happened to Lucky's father and mother?

2. Which of the boys tried Annie's patience and saddened her the most?

3. When Annie said to Lucky, "God loves you...and wants you to be good," how did Lucky respond?

4. What had Lucky been doing when Father Neville gave him the medal?

5. Did Lucky feel sorry for his sins in the end?

6. When Lucky asked whether Baptism would make his hands white, what was Father Neville's response?

7. Annie helped Lucky to go to Heaven. What effect did Lucky appearing to her in a dream have in Annie's life?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. In Sacred Scripture, God says, "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you...plans for your welfare, and not for woe! plans to give you a future full of hope." (Jeremiah 29:11) Lucky was involved in a sinful life, but God still had a plan for him! Do you know of someone so deep in a sinful life that they think God has given up on them? Say a prayer that

God's promise to him or her in Jeremiah will become clear to that person.

2. "Happy-Go-Lucky" is a story about God's great mercy. Annie was a channel through which God's great mercy for Lucky flowed. How can you practice being more merciful to others? List at least three ways.

3. Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet with your family.

Jack's Wood Pile



Vocabulary

locomotive—an engine powered by electricity, steam, or diesel, often used to push or pull the cars of a train

cord—a unit of measure describing a pile of wood four feet wide, four feet high, and eight feet long

dry-goods—fabric, clothing, and related items

Comprehension Questions

1. What did Jack plan to buy with the money from the extra wood?

2. After Jack told her the wood hadn't sold, what two virtues did Jack's mother tell him to have?

3. Who ended up needing Jack's wood?

4. Were Jack and his mother well-paid for their goods?

5. If Jack had been able to sell the wood and all the chickens in town, would he and his mother have been able to give the train's passengers what they needed?

Project Ideas

Choose one project to complete:

1. Illustrate a scene from this story.
2. Memorize this verse from Sacred Scripture: "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want."
(Psalm 23:1)

Answer Key

One Good Turn Deserves Another

1. the Corpus Christi procession
2. because the boy was too small to be able to see without help
3. the altar boys
4. It made a halo of gold around him.
5. a priest and a military chaplain
6. The soldier was wounded in battle, and the boy, now grown, carried him on his shoulders to the hospital wagon.

What a Dollar Bought

1. a dollar
2. No, he was an orphan.
3. twice each year
4. It took sacrifice on Father's part. We know this because Dick had noticed that Father had a hole in his cassock and two patches on his boots.
5. He wanted the pup most because it would "return his love."
6. because the man hadn't been to Confession in forty years and wanted to make his peace with Heaven
7. The man was able to meet Father John at his next stop and, later, die in God's peace.
8. No

A Daughter to be Proud of

1. so that Mr. Lent could meet Mr. West's daughter
2. No; they were cold towards them.
3. Yes, she did.
4. Danny was sick, and his sister wanted to see if the fresh air at the park would make him better.
5. The little girl said it was because Sara had a good heart.

Little Beginnings

1. sweets or a party
2. She suggested that each girl choose a poor woman to help.
3. thirty dollars
4. hundreds of dollars
5. the three children who had originated the plan

Little Joseph's Letter

1. No, he wasn't. He offered to write Joseph's letter for free, he made sure Joseph's mother was buried like a Christian, and he took Joseph in and adopted him.
2. to the Blessed Virgin
3. He wanted to ask her to wake up his mother.
4. She had given Joseph the last bit of bread they had and had starved to death.
5. He became a great writer who always wrote on the side of truth and right.

That Red Silk Frock

1. No; she went to Lucy's house.
2. She crammed it into her pocket.
3. She had a feeling of sorrow and felt humble and contrite.
4. No, she wasn't angry.
5. The Sacrament of Penance
6. No; she wouldn't have been at Lucy's house at all.

Faithful in Little Things

1. a bicycle
2. No, Neil told his father that Leonard kept out of the way until his father left and was always asleep when his father returned at night.
3. go berry picking with a group of boys
4. It was Leonard's father, who was the switchman.

5. No, he wouldn't have.

A Miser's Gold

1. Mr. Farrell had died of pneumonia.
2. rheumatism
3. They had gotten a ton two months before and still had some left.
4. She thought he was stealing their coal.
5. He was shoveling coal from his coal bin into theirs.
6. to beware of rash judgments and to look for the jewels, not the flaws, in the character of their neighbor
7. No; he was almost poor.

Coals of Fire

1. George's cousin, Herbert
2. by tripping Frank with a string to make him smash the basket of eggs he carried
3. kind treatment of one's enemies
4. Frank felt as if he would choke, and he couldn't stand facing George. His feelings were so painful that he walked off without saying a word.
5. trying to repair the damage he had done

Suzy's Dragon

1. It was Suzy's fault.
2. She took her work into a back room where she wouldn't be distracted by the other children.
3. slaying a dragon and freeing a princess from bondage
4. gaining victory over sin
5. procrastination

The Prize Winner

1. He wanted one of the king's palaces, and that would be worth a hundred times what he had given.
2. because he began to understand that good deeds are often done only for the sake of a reward
3. No
4. She wanted a little wagon for the baby to ride in.

Potato

1. Potato
2. Minnie's mother had died.
3. because she did not approve of little girls thinking too much of what they wore
4. They mended their outgrown clothes to donate, saved their pennies for the poor instead of buying candy, and kept the daily virtues so that they could drop potatoes in the barrel.
5. a lovely silver pin that she had been longing for

Taddeo the Cripple

1. a set of small tools and some soft wood
2. a carving of the Blessed Virgin
3. his prayers
4. He wanted to receive Holy Communion.
5. a great sculptor
6. Mary

Better than Riches

1. "May Jesus and His Blessed Mother watch over you, mavourneen."
2. They made her very happy. We know because the story says her face beamed with delight.
3. a certain doll she had picked out especially for Ellie
4. No; Katy had to save her money to buy it, the doll was almost sold to another customer, and the doll got broken and had to be repaired.
5. the salesgirl named Julia
6. a second doll for Katy

Letters of Recommendation

1. It showed that he was kind and thoughtful.
2. He called them letters of recommendation.
3. The good traits he saw with his own eyes were more important to him than the recommendations of others.

The Broken Flowerpot

1. She thought it had been an accident.
2. He blessed God for giving him a son who spoke truth in spite of his fear.
3. good actions
4. He wasn't sad. He was proud and overjoyed.

The Philosopher and the Boatman

1. three-fourths
2. swim
3. The philosopher said he would gladly part with all his other knowledge if it would help him to know how to swim.

Nina's Trial

1. a saint
2. Small faults usually caused her to fall.
3. Nina said they should add some "really hard" rules because she thought there wouldn't be any glory in keeping the small ones.
4. Some suggestions might be to offer a favorite toy, play peek-a-boo, or sing a favorite song for the baby.
5. She could have given it to the beggars.
6. It made her realize that she had allowed the little things to conquer her all her life. This helped her to grow in humility.

Honesty Rewarded

1. He charged fifteen crowns per yard when it was only marked six crowns per yard.
2. No; the merchant praised him for the mistake because it had gained the merchant a larger profit.
3. his job with the merchant
4. No; they were proud of him for his honesty.
5. He gave him a position in his banking-house, and there Jean learned the skills he needed to have a successful career later.

The Heart of the King

1. Jesus
2. cure His hands and feet as he had done for her dollie
3. a rose
4. Jesus

The Countersign

1. No
2. He did want to let the stranger go. The sentry was a devout Catholic, and the stranger had asked him to let him go for the love of God. The sentry also believed that the stranger was speaking the truth.
3. He had been ordered to shoot them.
4. The Sign of the Cross

Pollie's Five Dollars

1. to try to make others happy
2. because when Pollie was about five, she had been very ill. Her mother had prayed to Our Lady for Pollie's life, and on that day Pollie had been pronounced out of danger.
3. Pollie's lost five dollars
4. on others
5. She bought an angel lamp for the Blessed Mother and used the rest to buy some of the things Maggie had wanted.
6. by cheering "Hurrah for Pollie! Hurrah for Pollie's five dollars!"

No!

1. "No"
2. No; they thought it was easy to say.
3. He broke through the ice and fell into the cold water below.
4. "No!"
5. It grew easier for him to say it; in time, he could say it without much effort.

Mary's Sacrifice

1. Mother
2. No
3. so that she could receive her First Holy Communion dressed in white
4. Mary did.
5. Anna's father
6. Yes

The Blacksmith of Ragenbach

1. the thought of how many families could be made desolate in a few minutes
2. because he was very strong
3. his own life

Apples, Ripe and Rosy, Sir

1. Tom
2. No
3. Ed Brown
4. Soon she was able to set up a genuine stand, with an awning to replace the umbrella. She had a thriving business there for several years.
5. a second Guardian Angel

The Evil Advisor

1. bring someone who paid
2. that it was gone
3. money for Frank's brother, Henry
4. Thomas wanted Frank to lie.
5. a fool
6. that Frank was not to associate with Thomas again

Tilderee

1. Tilderee had taken Joan's favorite doll and pushed the eyes in, and then the dog had gotten the doll and damaged it further.
2. Tilderee and Fudge disappeared.
3. No

4. She said her prayers.
5. the thought of the harsh way she had scolded Tilderee; Joan had said she wished that Tilderee didn't live there and that she wished she hadn't any little sister at all
6. Fudge did.

George White's Ten Dollars

1. a new sled and a pair of skates
2. lend them to Andrew O'Connor, whose mother couldn't afford to buy him such expensive toys
3. to relieve their misery and see for himself what were their most urgent needs
4. meat, bread, milk, and clothing for the children
5. He bought them cheerfully.

Happy-Go-Lucky

1. They had died.
2. Lucky
3. An expression of intense astonishment came upon his face, as if the words were a revelation.
4. Lucky had been taking care of a dying old man with remarkable devotedness.
5. Yes
6. Father Neville said, "Yes! Hands, and heart, and soul, my child, no matter how blackened by wrong."
7. She returned to the Church.

Jack's Wood Pile

1. apples, raisins, and extra comforts for his mother and brothers
2. faith and hope
3. the crew and the passengers on a train that was stuck in the snow near Jack's home
4. Yes
5. No