

## SHARING

**Objective:** To realise that happiness comes when we give freely to others

**Key Words:** sharing, beauty, irrigate, butterflies, buttercups, reflected, mischief, selfish, meadow, blossom, weebegone, depressed, investigate, haunt, errands, anticipation

### QUOTATION/THEME FOR THE WEEK

AS LOVE GROWS IN YOU, SO BEAUTY GROWS



FOR LOVE IS THE BEAUTY OF THE SOUL

*St. Augustine*

Discuss what you think St. Augustine meant when he said this.

### SILENT SITTING

Step 1 (See page 40 of the introduction)

Steps 2, 4 (optional)

Step 5: As you listen to the music, imagine in front of you is a beautiful country lane  
See the trees and hedges on either side ...  
The sun is shining and there is a gentle warm breeze ...  
If you feel like it, you can take a stroll along this lovely lane ...  
It is very beautiful and you feel happy and contented ...  
Look at the bright shining corn in the field beyond the path...  
From the corn comes the flour which is made into bread and other important foods ..  
Everything we need to live is around us ...  
Let us take care of the things we have and share them with others. When we share  
there is plenty ...  
When we hoard, we create poverty and feel poor too ...  
Look again at the beautiful field of corn which provides us with food. It is like a great  
golden field of love ...  
You too are lovable and beautiful and so are the others around you. Seeing the  
beauty of the corn, you feel happy ...

Step 6.

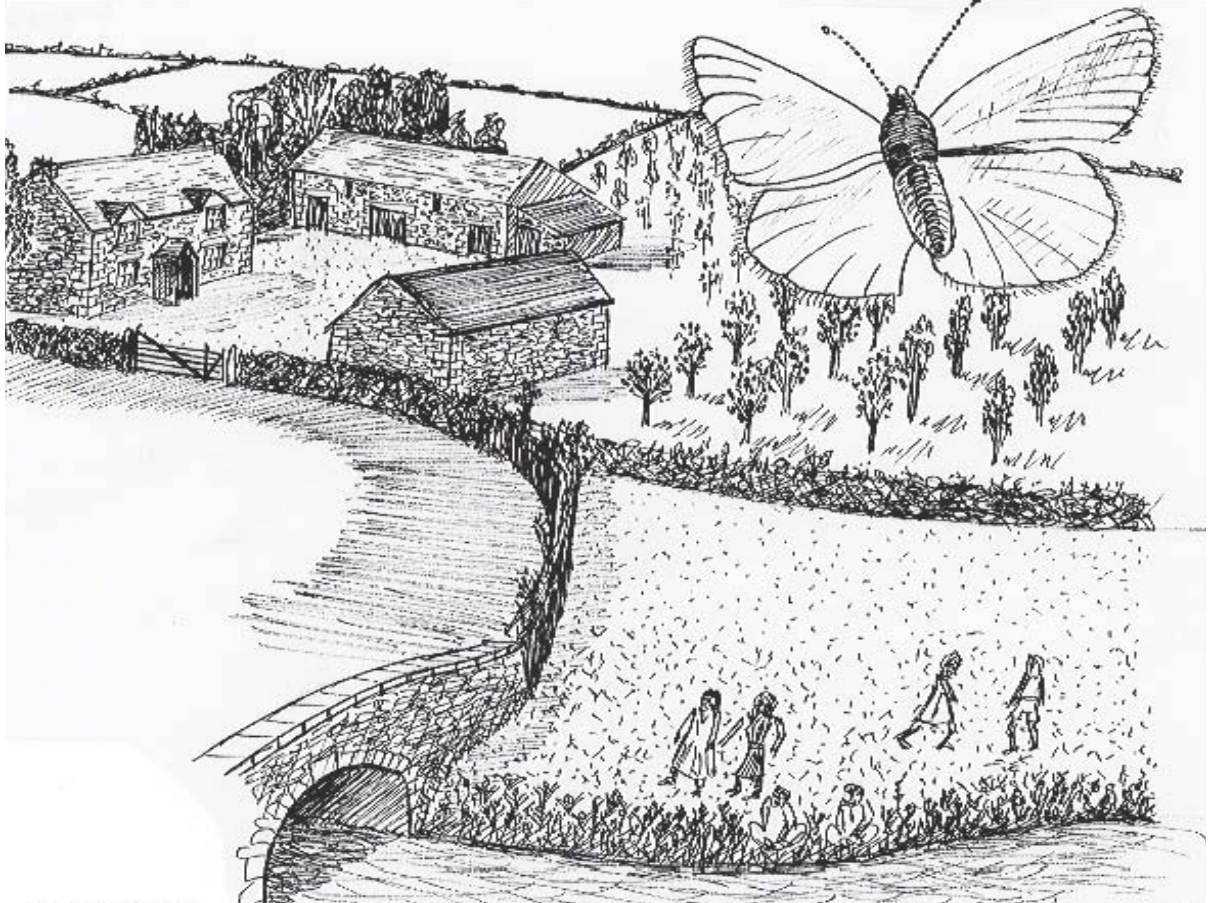
## STORY TELLING

### THE SELFISH FARMER

*by Carole Alderman (adapted from a traditional story)*

The children enjoyed playing near the little farm at the end of the lane. There was a pretty little stream which the farmer used to irrigate his fields. In the summer, butterflies flitted amongst the wild flowers. The children would gather buttercups and hold them up to each other's chins to see if the bright yellow reflected on to their skins so they could laughingly declare, 'Oh, yes, you like butter!' For who didn't?

At other times they would gather daisies and make little daisy chain necklaces to take home. In the early Autumn, they would sometimes gather blackberries and the older girls and boys would get their mothers to teach them how to make jam.



But one day, the farmer looked out and saw the children playing. He did not see their faces radiant with the joy of life. He was angry because he had recently had a row with his brother over what crops he should grow next year.

“They’re playing too near the farm! I don’t trust them. They’ll be causing some mischief, I’ll be bound, given half the chance,” he grumbled to himself. And so he shouted at them. “Clear off! Find somewhere else to play! I’m not having you lot around here.”

The children pleaded with him and asked to be allowed to stay as there was no other place nearly as suitable for them to play, and they were not doing any harm. But the selfish farmer chased them away and very soon mended the fence, so as to prevent the children entering the little meadow by the stream where the butterflies danced in the sun. So the children played hop-scotch in front of their cottages, but they sadly missed the meadow by the stream. Then they noticed the beautiful butterflies flying around amongst the flowers in their little front gardens.

“You don’t have to play here, little butterflies,” they sang out. “Go back to the meadow by the stream where you’ve more space and scented flowers. The farmer can’t stop *you* playing there.”

“We miss your singing and happy laughter”, the butterflies seemed to whisper back. “So do the other insects and birds on the farm.”

The farmer’s fruit trees did not blossom that spring and come summer, he had no fruits, nor did anything on his farm thrive that year. The place looked sad and woebegone and the farmer was very angry and depressed. Soon he became ill and decided to go and spend some time with his sister, leaving his brother to keep an eye on things.

\* \* \* \*

After some considerable time he returned home and was surprised to hear faint laughter and singing. He went to investigate and saw that the children had climbed the fence and were playing in their favourite haunt. He was just about to shout at them when he noticed little white blossoms floating around and looked up to see most of his fruit trees and other shrubs and bushes were laden with blossoms. He realised how much he had missed the farm during his illness and his heart softened a little. “Perhaps I was a bit hard on them,” he thought. “After all, they didn’t do any harm. The trees certainly seemed to be in mourning when they left. It was just like winter!”

He called out to the children. “All right, I don’t mind you playing there.” He realised he had been selfish in preventing the children from playing. Seeing him, the children ran over to say hello. He saw the love in their eyes as they smiled at him and asked if he wanted any errands doing.

The farmer smiled back at them. He suddenly felt very happy. “I’ll put a gate in the fence for you tomorrow. I’ve got quite a crop of strawberries too, in the kitchen garden. You can come and pick some if you like and take them home for tea.”

The next day, one of the mothers came with food for the farmer and enquired after his health. He came to realise the benefits of sharing the joys of creation. And then he noticed a strange thing in his life .... **the more he gave, the more he got.**

He soon became a healthy man again and his farm thrived better than ever before. The children were delighted to be able to play by the stream again without having to climb the fence and the farmer began to listen for their distant laughter and singing with pleasant anticipation.

QUESTIONS:

- 1 What name shall we give this story?
- 2 Say what part of the story you liked best and why.
- 3 Why did the farmer send the children away?
- 4 Was it fair of him to do this?
- 5 Where did the children play afterwards?
- 6 How did the children feel?
- 7 What happened to the farm and the farmer?
- 8 Why did the farmer allow the children to play in the meadow by the stream again?
- 9 How did you feel when you heard this story?
10. Can you explain this: The more he gave, the more he got?

**GROUP SINGING**

HAPPY ARE THEY  
*(A Jewish round)*

Happy are they  
Who in friendship  
Willingly work together.

Happy are they  
Who in friendship  
Willingly work together.

\* Happy are they  
Who in peace united  
Work together

Willingly work together.

*\*When singing as a round, second group starts when first group has reached this point.*

## GROUP ACTIVITY

### 1. HAPPY HANDS

*(This activity aids self-esteem. The teacher needs to ensure that all the children are writing positive comments on the drawings.)*

Give each child a long piece of paper.

Ask them to draw around one of their hands and arm to the elbow then write their name on the hand.

The drawing is then passed to the person sitting next to them who writes on the end of the arm something they like about that person and then folds it over and passes it on.

As the hand drawings are passed to every child, each one writes on them something they like about every child in the class.

The teacher can be the last to write a comment on the drawings and can check to see that all the comments are positive.

Eventually every child will get back his own hand drawing with a positive comment from each member of the class written on it.

The children can take their own hand drawing home to keep and to read later.

### 2. *Give each child a copy of the picture of the Dolphins on the next page.*

Discuss with the children the values related to love

*(see the picture on page 21 and the list on page 28 of the introduction).*

Ask the children to imagine how love and the values related to it can be spread throughout the world if we practise certain ways of behaving.

What values do we need for there to be love in ourselves and in the world?

Ask them to write in the waves some of the values related to love.

Then colour the picture.

### **Extension exercise/Links to Other Subjects:**

The children draw a big heart and write inside the names of all the people, animals, plants, creatures and things that they love.

Taking a second sheet of paper, they draw a big smiley face, and inside they write down all the skills they have to offer the world.

The head, heart and hand is placed together and children look at their whole being and discuss the future contributions they can make to the world using a combination of their head, heart and hands.

Visitors (including parents) are invited to the class to share with the children how they use their head, heart and hands to carry out their jobs in day-to-day life.

*Note: the teacher could invite a wide range of visitors, covering a variety of professions, ethnic groups and both genders.*



# THE DOLPHINS

