

Fable Series

The Pig and the Cage

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<http://eltforward.com/index.html>

Hey, hurry up, Toto, you are late for school again! Mama and Pinko, Toto's elder sister, squealed almost in unison.

It was a lovely Pig family of five – Mama, Papa, Pinko (elder sister), Jello (elder brother), and Toto, the youngest son.

The Pig family lived near Green Forest, which was full of colour in early spring. Yet for a few years, rain never fell. Except in irrigated areas, a dusty brown had settled onto everything during the drought.

Unexpectedly, the drought broke, and a year's worth of rain was dumped on the parched land. The hill turned green, and a host of wild flowers and fragrant fruits sprang to life!

Toto would usually walk with his sister and brother to school through Green Forest. The fun part was he would sniff, smell, forage on the fresh grass and plants and anything that caught his eye.

The abundant supply of food had, however, attracted unwelcome visitors – wolves! They would attack pigs and kill them for food. The pig families around Green Forest were worried. The young pigs had been warned not to go out at night.

One morning, as usual on his way to school, Toto was searching and sniffing. He was so happy that all wolf warning was forgotten. Suddenly, something crashed onto him. He heard a click, and soon found himself trapped in a CAGE! He screamed.

Pinko and Jello, who had walked a few metres ahead, spun round and saw in horror their brother in captivity, fears and tears swirling, tsunami-like.

Pinko and Jello kept pounding on the cage, and shook it as best as they could, to no avail. Then they raced home to break the news to Mama and Papa, who in turn told the school and other Pig families to stay alert.

It was later discovered that the cage was set up by the Wolf, the wicked “intruder” who would kill and eat pigs. He alone had the key to unlock the cage.

Toto’s family and school mates grew increasingly worried as the clock ticked by. His best friends and his teacher went to the cage to see if there was any chance of breaking it open and bringing Toto back. Although they pleaded with the Wolf for the cage to be unlocked, the iron bars never yielded.

Toto’s principal also went and argued, *“Toto is really a nice Pig, although a little headstrong at times. Given time, he will mature. Let him out, please !”* The cage remained stubbornly shut against all their voices.

Finally, Toto’s mother came; she did not beg for his release. Quietly, and with a strange catch in her voice, Mama said to the Wolf, *“Let me in.”*

Immediately the cage door swung open upon its hinges. Mama walked home with Toto in her arms.

Moral of the Story:

Love in action is powerful. It melts stony hearts, brings light to darkness, turns despair to hope. That’s what we are asked to do: to Love.

Pause and think. Share your thoughts with your classmate or teacher:

1. Draw a picture of a happy family. What is a happy family to you?
2. Describe your best friend. What makes him or her your best friend?
3. Have you ever seen a wolf? How do you feel about it? Explain.
4. Why didn’t the Wolf open the cage when Toto’s best friends, teacher and principal pleaded with him?
5. What makes Mama Pig’s plea different?
6. Would you do what Mama Pig said she would do? Explain.
7. If someone you knew was in danger, what would you do?