

Look After the Forest



There was once a boy who loved building shelters in the forest near his home. One time he had built an incredible shelter that he was so proud of, he wanted to sleep in it overnight. The only problem was the roof wasn't quite finished. He'd placed sticks across the top, but it wasn't enough to keep the rain out. He looked around the forest to see what else he could use and came across a plant with huge leaves. The large leaves were glossy and waxy and he noticed that the dew formed water droplets that just rolled over the surface of the leaves. The leaves were essentially waterproof. He thought to himself, "These are perfect for my roof!"



The plant had five beautiful leaves. He picked all of them and took them to his shelter. He used some string to tie the leaves to the sticks he had placed across the top. When he'd finished tying all five leaves into place, he stood back and saw that about half of the roof was covered. He was happy with the work he had done and decided to go home for the day.

The next day he headed back to the forest to finish the roof. He went over to where the plant had been to look for more leaves to use. But the plant was gone! He realized that he had killed the plant by taking all of its leaves the day before. He looked around and noticed there were no other plants with leaves as large and perfect for his shelter's roof. It had been the only one. He started to feel guilty that he'd killed the plant and also disappointed he couldn't finish off the roof of his shelter.

He wondered what to do, when he suddenly noticed a seed laying on the ground where the plant had been. It was a large seed about the size of a walnut with a glossy smooth coating. He decided to try to plant the seed in the hopes that it would grow a new plant to replace the one he had destroyed. As he did, he apologized to the plant and said he was grateful for the leaves it provided and was sorry he had taken all of them.

Look After the Forest



He left the forest and went home for the night. When he came back the next day he immediately went to check on the seed and, miraculously, there was the plant right in the spot he'd planted the seed, with five beautiful big leaves! He felt relieved that the plant had grown back and also excited that he could try to finish the roof of his shelter. But he realized that if he took all five leaves like last time, the plant would die again. He looked around and noticed there were no other seeds left to plant a new one...

He thought about what he could do and came up with an idea. He decided to take just two of the leaves this time. And as he did, he said thank you to the plant to show that he wasn't taking it for granted again. He took the two leaves to his shelter and tied them in just like he'd done the last time. Now his roof was about two-thirds finished! He was happy with his work and went home for the day.

When he came back the following day, he immediately went to check on the plant. And to his surprise, it had five leaves again! So he again took just two of the leaves, said thank you, and also gave it some water since it looked a little wilted from the sun. He attached the leaves to his roof and stood back to assess his progress. It looked like just another two leaves would finish the job! He went home that day hopeful that he would finish his roof the following day.

When he returned the next day, the plant again had five leaves, but this time it also had grown something else... a gorgeous, yellow, glossy flower! This made the boy really happy because he knew that flowers are what help plants to make seeds. This meant that soon the plant would have new seeds that could grow into more plants just like it, and it would no longer be the only one left in the forest.

So the boy carefully took two leaves from the plant, the last two leaves he needed to finish his shelter. He secured them to the roof and declared his shelter finished! That night he slept in it and the glossy, waxy leaves of the roof kept him perfectly dry from the rain.

When he woke up in the morning he smiled, feeling very proud with what he had accomplished. It had taken him much longer to finish his shelter than he'd thought it would, but he realized that the more he had taken care of the plant, the more it was able to provide him what he needed. From then on out he promised to always take care of the plants in the forest.

The End