

Small Wonders

Pinnetti Has a Problem

Pinnetti has a problem, and Manifold does something special to fix it.

Lesson Link: Baptism. Jesus gave us the Sacrament of Baptism to cleanse us from our inherited sin of Adam and Eve, and Confession to forgive us of our sins that we commit after Baptism.

One morning Pinnetti the Puppet woke up to a terrible itchy feeling. He looked in the mirror and saw that his beautiful red and green paint was chipping. Even his cap had a few nicks in it.

“What is this?” he asked.

He took a few steps and thought he would fall down.

“Oh no! It’s time to take me to the Garbage Dump,” he said.

He went to the other Toys to ask for help.

“It’s a rash,” Kevin the Duck said. “I once had a rash and lost some feathers.”

“Can wood have rashes?” asked Pinnetti.

“*Everything* can have rashes. And cavities. And belly aches. And clogged drains,” Kevin said.

“I never liked those two colors,” Percy the Possum said.

Brambles the Porcupine said, “This wouldn’t happen if you had quills like me.”

Overbite the Beaver said to ask Granna about it.

Pinnetti went to see Granna at her cottage. But even she had to admit she didn’t know what was wrong, nor could she think of a way to help him.

“Have you asked Manifold the Robot?” Granna asked.

“What would a robot know about wood?” Pinnetti said.

“You might be surprised,” Granna said.



So Granna walked with Pinnetti to find Manifold. The Toys were never sure where he might be. He had no home that they knew of, and he often walked around the Kind Garden to help whoever needed it. Sometimes he was found sitting in a meadow, deep in thought. Though, how a robot could be deep in thought or even *look* like he was deep in thought was more than anyone could explain.

They found Manifold with Pencil-Neck the Brachiosaurus on Chimney Hill. It was called Chimney Hill because it was a hill with a chimney on top. The chimney was part of a house a long time ago. The Toys didn’t know where the house had gone.

Pencil-Neck was trying to look into the top of the chimney. "I'm exploring," he said.

Pinnetti told Manifold about his problem.

Manifold's big round eyes glowed like sunshine. He walked around Pinnetti one way and then back the other way, and said, "You have termites."

Pinnetti gasped. "What are termites?" he asked.

Manifold explained that they were little insects that ate wood.

"Can anything be done?" Granna asked.

"There is hope," Manifold said. "Follow me."

"I'll stay here and explore," Pencil-Neck said. He had soot around his nose.

Manifold led them to the barn where Percy lived in the attic and Tell-Tale the Mouse and Trifles the Kitten lived in a cozy corner. Along another wall was a work table and old tools and a large tub. There was also a pipe with a faucet sticking out of the wall.

Manifold filled the tub with water.

He asked Pinnetti to get in.

The tub was large enough for all of Pinnetti to stretch out. He kept his head above the surface.

"Will the water drown the termites?" asked Granna.

"Normal water won't, but I'll make this water special," Manifold said. "Then it will wash him clean."

Granna decided to make tea and took Pencil-Neck to her cottage to help.

Manifold put his right hand in the water again. This time he stirred it in a circle once, then twice, then a third time. A moment later there was a whirring sound underneath the surface. The water rippled and then bounced like waves and then bubbled up.

Pinnetti laughed. "The bubbles tickle."

Manifold cupped his right hand and poured water over Pinnetti's head. "We want you to be clean all over," he said. He did it again. And again.

After a few minutes, Manifold asked Pinnetti to get out of the tub.

Pinnetti got out. He looked at his hands and arms and legs. All of the paint was gone. "What happened?" he asked.

"You're washed completely clean," Manifold said. He checked Pinnetti from head to toe. "Let's fix the parts the termites ruined," he said.

Manifold went to the table and went to work on pieces of wood there. He sawed and sanded and shaped an arm and a leg and even fingers and toes.

Pretty soon, Manifold had replaced all the parts of Pinnetti that needed to be replaced.

Pinnetti danced around the shed. "I'm better than new," he said happily.

Manifold told him to stand still and gave him fresh coats of paint. "Thank you!" exclaimed Pinnetti.

Pinnetti and Manifold walked to Granna's cottage for tea. The other Toys saw how wonderful Pinnetti looked and followed them.

"This is a celebration!" Pinnetti said.

"I'm going to need more tea cups," Granna laughed when everyone crowded into her door.

Questions:

1. **How was Pinnetti's bath like Baptism?** (He was washed in water and made clean. It fixed what was broken. Jesus gave us Baptism to wash away our sins and gives us grace to make us new.)
2. **Why was everyone at Granna's house at the end of the story?** (Because they were celebrating how wonderful Pinnetti looked.)