

Small Wonders

Signs and Stories

The Toys learn about remembering.

Lesson Link: Remembrance and sacraments. God has given us many things to help us remember him, his love, and what he has taught us.

One day, as the weather began to turn colder as it often did at that time of year, Tell-Tale the Mouse decided to take a walk. "Sometimes a walk is very pleasant when the air is cold, but you feel toasty in your heavier coat," she explained to Trifles the Kitten, who was in his bed and only half-listening because he'd been playing very hard already that day.

Tell-Tale put on her black coat with a gold collar and gold edging around the sleeves. Funny, she didn't remember that coat having gold edging before. She stepped out without knowing where she was going. The gold on her sleeves made her think to turn left, and so she did.

Pencil-Neck the Brachiosaurus was out that day, too. He had been searching for trees that hadn't lost their leaves yet. He found one behind the shed. He was surprised to see how green and lush it was. Then he noticed the place where he'd broken the large water pipe. The pipe was still broken, but painted black. On top was a sign with a big word on it. Pencil-Neck couldn't read very well, so he sounded out the word slowly. "Re-Mem-Ber," he said and walked on.

Percy the Possum was at home drawing little pictures. He stuck them to the wall when he was finished and was about to go out when he froze. The wall was covered with his pictures. When had he drawn so many?

Some of the drawings were of Manifold the Robot. Others were of a log cabin in the woods somewhere. Others were of an open door with a bright light. The most peculiar one of all was of some kind of room with large windows and a board with writing on it



and what looked like small windows and chairs. Sitting in the chairs were small creatures that looked like Manifold, only rounder looking.

Percy suddenly felt like he was remembering a beautiful place he had forgotten and was now looking forward to seeing again. He felt warm and happy. He went for a walk.

Granna was in her cottage looking over the Scrolls from the Toymaker when a white bird landed on her window sill. "Now what do you want?" she asked, smiling. She put on a coat and

went outside. The bird darted from the window sill to the fence and then a tree branch.

"You want me to follow you again," Granna said.

Pinnetti the Puppet was washing a tea cup in his sink. There was something about the basin and the water that reminded him of Manifold. He looked out of his window in time to see Overbite the Beaver walking toward the woods. Pinnetti grabbed his coat to catch up to his friend.

"Where are you going?" Pinnetti asked Overbite on a path in the woods.

"Where are *you* going?" Overbite asked Pinnetti.

They laughed because they didn't really know.

Stern the Owl flew overhead.

"How about *that* direction?" Pinnetti said, as he pointed at Owl.

In another part of the Kind Garden, Percy strolled along with no particular place in mind. The bright sun made him think of the golden eyes on Manifold.

He looked around and was surprised to see Granna walking up ahead. Tell-Tale the Mouse was coming from a different direction. Behind her walked Pencil-Neck. And there was Pinnetti and Overbite. And he saw Brambles the Porcupine just as Stern the Owl landed on a branch nearby. Waddling along was Kevin the Duck. All of the Toys were going in the same direction.

Curious, he thought.

He suddenly recognized where they were: the woods with the path that led to the Garbage Dump. This is where they saw Manifold after he'd come back from that awful place. Percy pushed on.

The Toys were all together on the path now, looking at the same thing.

A tall golden post stuck out of the ground where Manifold had stood that day.

"Who put it there?" Brambles asked.

"*He* did," said Granna, meaning Manifold.

Tell-Tale looked at her sleeves. It was the same color gold as the post.

The Toys each told why they had gone for a walk at the same time.

"Re-Mem-Ber," Pencil-Neck said, quoting the sign he'd seen on the pipe.

Percy said, "'You'll have reminders all over the place, if you look for them.'"

The other Toys looked at him.

"Where did you hear that?" asked Stern the Owl.

"Manifold said it," Percy explained. "That was the day I followed him. He showed me that we're a story within one Great Story. I had forgotten until now."

"I love stories," said Tell-Tale.

"Let's tell some," Granna suggested.

So the Toys sat down and told stories about when Manifold was with them.

As they did, Granna looked up at the branches of the trees overhead. White birds covered them all.

Questions:

1. ***What kinds of things help you to remember people you love or things you've done?*** (Answers may vary, but can include pictures, letters, stories, and happy memories.)
2. ***What has Jesus given to us that reminds us that he is with us always?*** (The Eucharist.)