

PBS Lesson Series

ELA, Grade 2, Lesson 14

Teacher Packet

The Legend of the Dipper was a legend about a little girl and her mother. The values this legend tried to teach the reader were to be kind, brave, and unselfish. The little girl showed evidence of all three of these values throughout the story. The first value was to be kind. The little girl was showed kindness to her mother by going to get her water when she was sick. She also showed kindness to a dog and a stranger when she shared her mother's water with them. The next value was to be brave. The little girl showed her bravery when she decided to go into the dark forest all alone to find her sick mother some water. The last value was to be unselfish. The little girl showed this when she shared her mother's water with others. She also showed this when she chose not to drink her mother's water even though she was tired and thirsty from traveling.

harrow and weed

harrow and weed – a farmer
uses a tractor to prepare the soil
by breaking up clods of dirt,
removing weeds, and covering
seeds

with

wither - to become dry and small

crop

crop - a plant that is grown and
harvested for food

insist

insist - to demand to do
something

commotion

commotion - noisy confusion

ripen

ripen - to become ready for
harvesting or eating

Beginning

Middle

End

Moral

Do What You Can

By Carolyn Sherwin Bailey

There was once a farmer who had a large field of corn. He harrowed it and weeded it with the greatest care, for he wanted to sell the corn and buy good things for his family with the money. But after he had worked hard, he saw the corn wither and droop, for no rain fell, and he began to fear that he was to have no crop. He felt very sad, and every morning he went out to the field and looked at the thirsty stalks and wished for the rain to fall.

One day, as he stood looking up at the sky, two little raindrops saw him, and one said to the other: “Look at that farmer. I feel very sorry for him. He took such pains with his field of corn, and now it is drying up. I wish I might help him.”

“Yes,” said the other, “but you are only a little raindrop. What can you do? You can't wet even one hill.”

“Well,” said the first, “I know, to be sure, I cannot do much; but perhaps I can cheer the farmer a little, and I am going to do my best. I'll go to the field to show my good will, if I can't do anything more. Here I go!”

The first raindrop had no sooner started for the field than the second one said:

“Well, if you really insist upon going, I think I will go, too. Here I come!” And down went the raindrops. One came — pat — on the farmer's nose, and one fell on a thirsty stalk of corn.

“Dear me,” said the farmer, “what's that? A raindrop!
Where did it come from? I do believe we shall have a
shower.”

By this time a great many raindrops had come together to see what all the commotion was about. When they saw the two kind little drops going down to cheer the farmer, and water his corn, one said:

“If you two are going on such a good errand, I'll go, too!” And down he came. “And I!” said another. “And I!” And so said they all, until a whole shower came and the corn was watered. Then the corn grew and ripened — all because one little raindrop tried to do what it could.

Retell the fable *Do What You Can* using key details and transition words. Write the lesson learned through the moral of the story.