

Read Write Inc.

An inclusive literacy programme by Ruth Miskin

The jar of oil

Blue Storybook 6

Story by Gill Munton
Illustrated by Tim Archbold



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The jar of oil

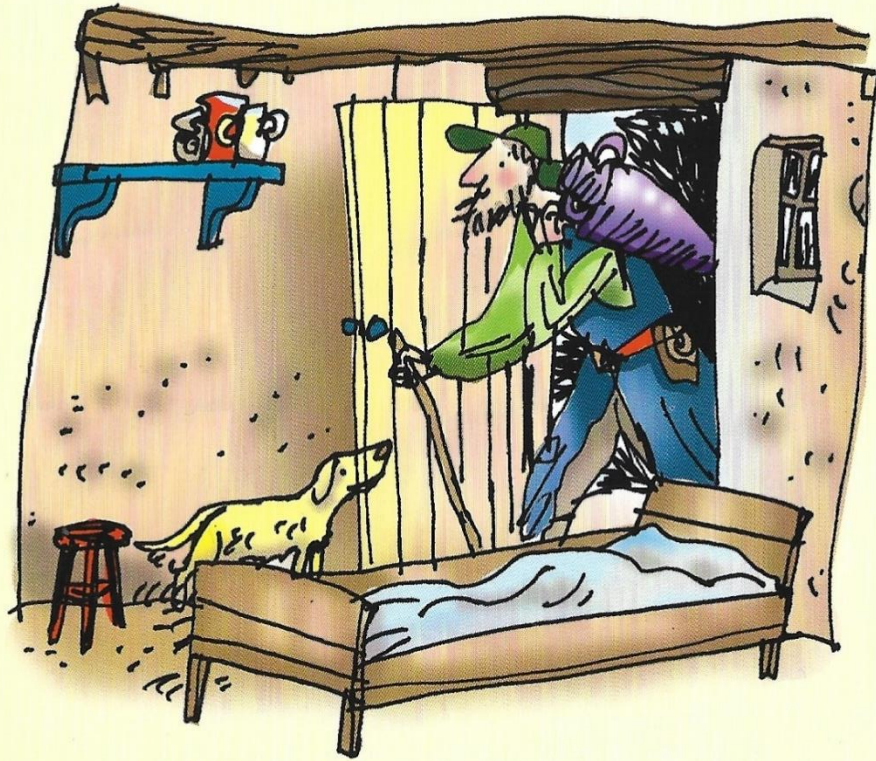
Once there lived a poor man who was employed to do odd jobs for a prince.

One day, he had toiled so hard in the royal gardens that the prince presented him with a gift - a big jar of scented oil.



"Thank you, Your Royal Highness," said the poor man.

He hoisted the jar of oil on to his back and took it to his little house. He had just one room, with a three-legged stool, a wooden cot and a shelf for his food.



He put the jar of oil on the shelf.

"I will sell it," he said to his yellow dog, pointing at the jar of oil with his stick.



"I will sell it for a jar of gold coins.
Think of all the good food I can enjoy
when I am a rich man. Oysters, boiled
goose, and big joints of lamb.
Hot bread fresh from the grill.
Sweet milk puddings, and banana jelly.

I will ask a rich girl - maybe a princess - to join me. We will marry, and live in a grand house - maybe a palace - with soft carpets and bright woollen rugs.



My princess will have the best embroidered dresses, with splendid rings on her fingers and gold around her neck.

Our garden will be full of green plants and tall trees. I will grow lemons, and mangos. And I will appoint a poor man, to do all the odd jobs.

We will have a strong,
handsome son. His hair will be
as black as midnight, and his
lips as red as a sunset.

He will sleep between cool
satin sheets in a carved bed,
with the softest pillows.



This boy will have lots of books and toys, but I will not spoil him.
He will be as good as gold, and will bring us much joy.

We will play together as dad and son. We will play fight with pointed swords and sticks like this! Oi! Oi!"

And he swished his stick through the air, crashing it on to the floor.



But he had knocked the jar of oil off the shelf!

The jar was smashed to bits. As for the oil, it ran right across the floor and out of the house, sinking into the soft soil by the door.



A poor man - and a foolish one. With one blow, he had destroyed the jar of oil - and all his grand plans as well.

Questions to talk about

Re-read the page. Read the question to the children. Tell them whether it is a **FIND IT** question or **PROVE IT** question.

FIND IT

- ✓ Turn to the page
- ✓ Read the question
- ✓ Find the answer

PROVE IT

- ✓ Turn to the page
- ✓ Read the question
- ✓ Find your evidence
- ✓ Explain why

Page 9:	FIND IT	Why did the prince give the poor man the jar of oil?
Page 10:	PROVE IT	How can we tell that the man is poor from the description of his house?
Page 11:	FIND IT	What does the man plan to do with the oil?
Page 12:	FIND IT	What will the princess wear?
Page 13:	PROVE IT	What does the man imagine his son will be like?
Page 14:	PROVE IT	What happens when the man swishes his stick around?
Page 15:	PROVE IT	What happened to the man's grand plans when he knocked over the oil?

Questions to read and answer

(Children complete without your help.)

1. Why did the prince let the old man have the oil?
2. What did the old man want to get with the gold coins?
3. What will he grow in his garden?
4. What will his son have?
5. Why is the old man foolish?