

The Enormous Turnip

Early one morning Farmer Giles woke up, got dressed, brushed his teeth, had tea and toast for breakfast, put on his Wellington boots and set out into his farmer's fields.

It was 6 o'clock in the morning and the sun was beginning to rise.

After a short walk he reached his turnip field. He bent down and pulled at the huge turnip, which he had noticed the night before. He pulled and he pulled but it would not budge. He pulled it to the left and he pulled it to the right, but still it would not move.

So he called his wife, Mrs Giles, and together they pulled at the turnip. They pulled and they pulled but still it would not move.

So they called their son and their daughter to help. Once again, they all pulled. They pulled it to the left and they pulled it to the right, but still it would not move.

So they called their dog Bones to help them. They pulled and they pulled, but the turnip was not for moving.

So they called their cat Nipkin to help them. They pulled and they pulled and they even pulled some more. But try as they might, the turnip would not move!

The pig, the rooster, the sheep, the cow and the goat were all called, but the turnip would not budge!

It was 6 o'clock in the evening and the sun was beginning to set.

Finally, a tiny mouse came to help.

'If all of us can't move this turnip Mr Mouse, what good will you do?' crowed the rooster.

'We will see,' squeaked the mouse.

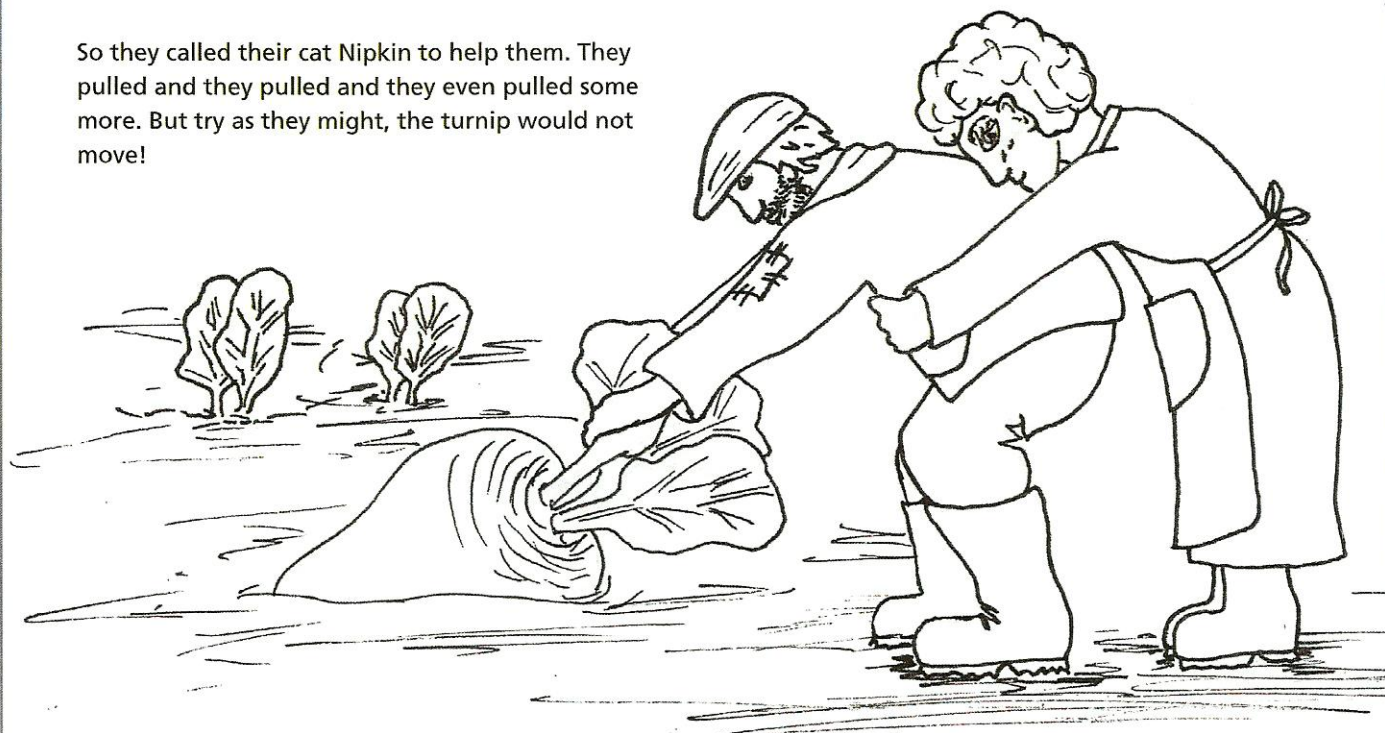
It was late. Everyone was tired and hungry. So they decided to give it one last try.

They heaved and they heaved and suddenly.....

POP!

The giant turnip popped out of the ground.

Happy that they had all worked well together, they all set off back to the farmhouse and had turnip soup for their supper.



Date:

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1) Do you think the story is set in a town or the countryside? Why?

2) Do you think he goes to his vegetable plot alone or with someone?

3) Do you think the turnip is big or small, heavy or light? Why?

4) Which word in the title means 'very big'?

5) Find any other words in the story that mean the same thing.

6) What phrase means the turnip 'would not move'?

7) Why do you think Farmer Giles puts on his Wellington boots?

8) Does the rooster think the mouse will be able to help? Give a reason to explain your answer.

9) What will everyone feel like when they get back to the farmhouse?

10) On a scale of 1 – 10, how hard do you think it was to pull out the turnip? Circle your answer.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11) In your opinion what is the moral of this story? Circle your answer.

Farmers have a tough job / Never think you are too small to help / By working together you can achieve

12) Name all the animals in this story:

13) Why do you think the writer chose these animals for the story and not others?

Write another question about this story:
