

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Investigation 4: Growth and Change

Read the following story with your child. Then have him or her write an ending to the story, or dictate an ending for you to write.

Once upon a time there lived a poor family who worked hard every day. Papa would go to town and look for jobs. Peter would go to the nearby farms to milk cows, and his mother would mend clothes. Everyone worked hard to put food on the table for the evening meal. Everyone, that is, except Henry. Henry was too young to help Papa with his jobs, too afraid of cows to help his brother, and didn't know how to mend clothes.

One day Henry was sitting by the road to town when a farmer passed on his way to market. "Hello, Henry," called the farmer. "What are you doing sitting alone by the road?"

"Oh, hello," mumbled Henry. "I'm wishing I could help my family. Everyone works so hard so we can buy food for our supper. Everyone but me. I'm too young to help Papa, too afraid of cows to help my brother, and I don't know how to mend clothes with my mother. I'm afraid I'm rather useless."

"Now, Henry," replied the farmer, "no person is useless. We all have ways to help. Sometimes it is difficult to discover how." The farmer reached into his wagon and pulled out a small sack. He handed the sack to Henry and said, "Sometimes all we need is some help getting started and a little creativity. See what you can do with these to help your family. Good luck, Henry." The farmer continued on his way to market.

Henry looked into the sack. He saw a potato, a carrot, and a handful of seeds.

"How will one potato, one carrot, and some seeds help me or my family?" Henry wondered. "It's not much of a meal." But as Henry sat and thought, and thought and sat, an idea began to form in his head. As the idea grew, so did his excitement.

"I know what I'll do with these!" exclaimed Henry, as he jumped up and ran home.

What will Henry do?

How will it help his family?