

happy little bunch who sang and danced and played all day long.

One day while they were playing, they found a hard, brown stone. It was thin and long and made a weird noise when shaken.

"Oh, what a lovely stone! It is so musical! I have never seen anything like it!" exclaimed the horse, who usually did not care about anything.

"I wonder how it tastes!" exclaimed the hen, who was a little greedy.

The pig, who was the hungriest of all put the stone in his mouth

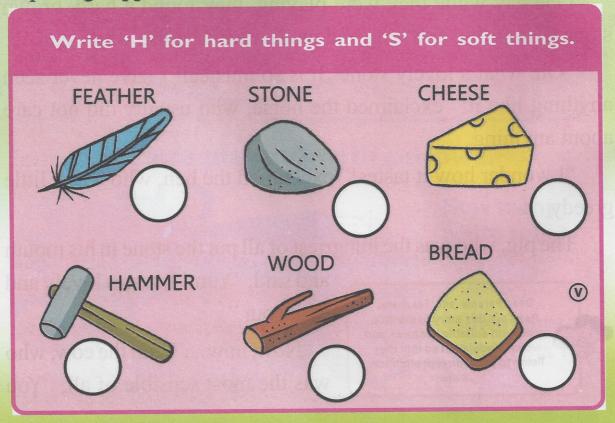
and said, "Yum! It tastes lovely and a bit sour."

"Now, now..." said the cow, who was the most sensible of all, "You

Dear Parents and Teachers, Read out this story to the little ones with suitable gestures and voice modulation so that they listen to you with rapt attention. -Editor



loved their little fish, so they went home and put the stone in the fish tank. The little fish jumped with joy at her new bed and enjoyed sleeping under it very much. Then one day, something most surprising happened. The little stone grew into a plant!



The fish flipped with surprise and called the hen and showed the plant. The hen, who was a little greedy said, "Little fish, can I peck at that juicy plant?"

"No," said the little fish and called the pig and showed the plant. The pig, who was always hungry said, "Little fish, can I eat your plant?"

"No," said the little fish and called the horse and showed the plant.

The horse, who usually didn't care about anything, said nothing about the plant.

The fish was disappointed with the horse and called the cow and showed the plant. The cow, who was the most sensible of all, said, "Oh...it is not a stone. It is a seed and a little sapling has come out if it! Let us plant it and see what grows out of it."

The fish, the hen, the horse and the pig all agreed and planted the little sapling just outside the fish's window. They worked hard and took care of the sapling well. They weeded it and watered it every day.

Slowly the sapling grew into a big and strong tree. The friends loved the tree dearly. They sat under it all day long and talked of all the lovely things in life. The little fish too was always at its window, talking and having fun with the friends.

By and by spring came and little buds appeared on the tree.

The friends waited anxiously to see what it would bloom into.

And one beautiful morning, little green some mangoes popped out of the flowers and covered the whole tree!

The friends were

thrilled! They had grown a beautiful mango tree in their garden all by themselves!

And then, the pig, who was always hungry had mangoes every day. The hen, who was a little greedy had mangoes every day too.



