

The Rose Thief

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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

Mom was worried. All the roses in her garden were being stolen! She loved her garden very much and it made her very sad to see all the roses gone. Why! Just this morning she lost six of her most beautiful roses! She was almost in tears. She grew them specially for Granny. It was Granny's birthday two days later and there were only a few buds left.

"We might have to buy flowers this time for a bouquet for Granny," said Mom unhappily.

"Don't worry Ma! May be we can still have some flowers from our own garden!" said Mittu consolingly.

That night Mittu, Sunny and Bunny

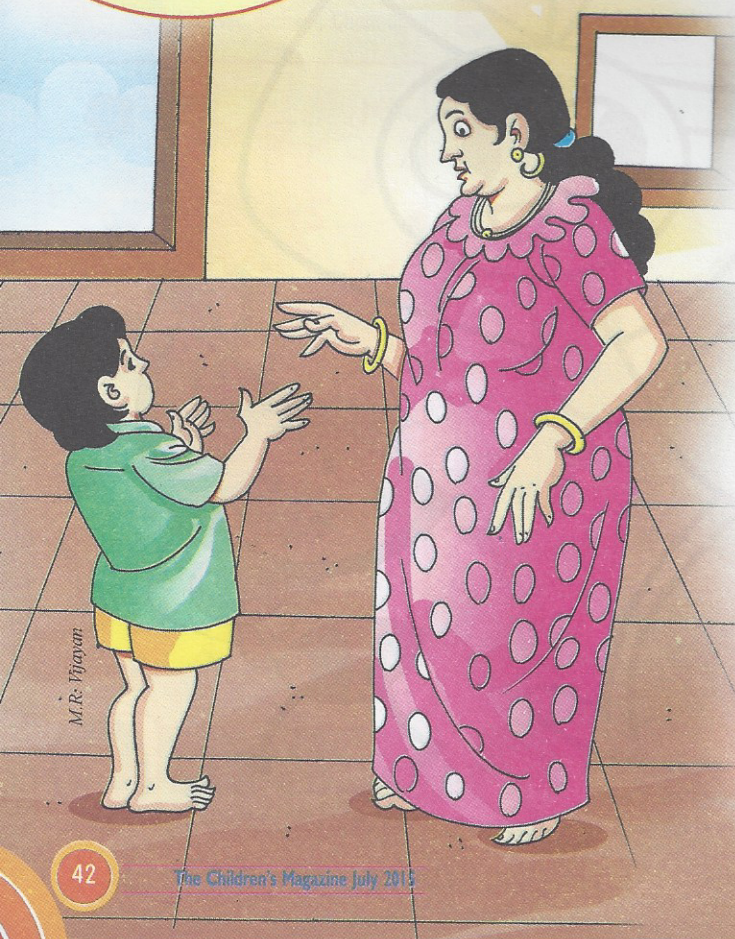
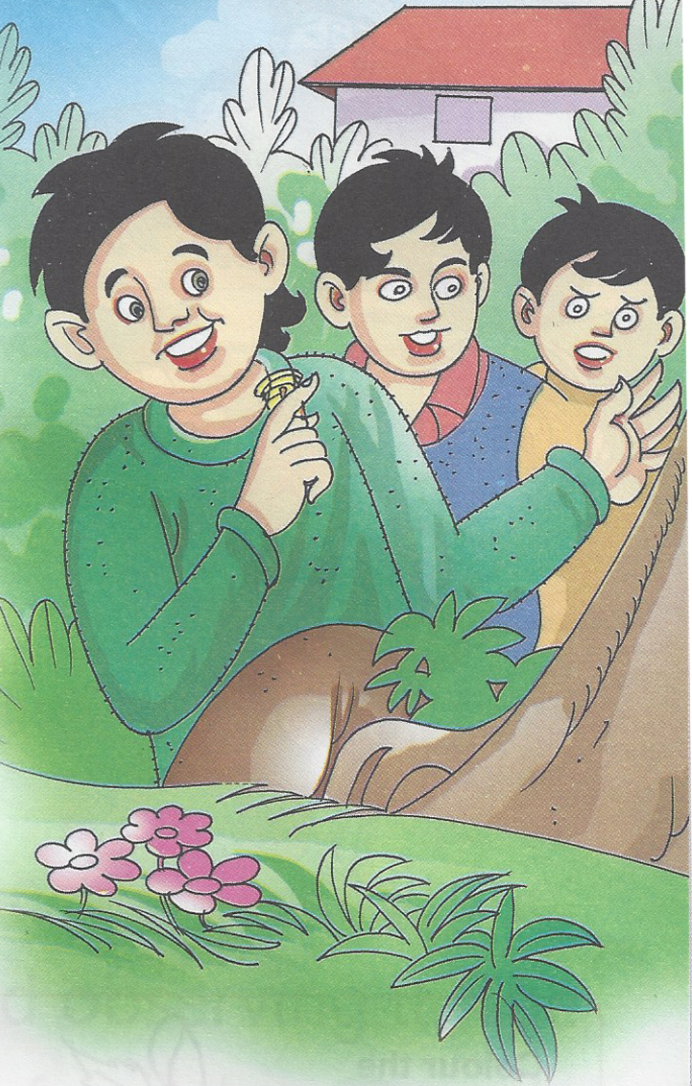
decided to stay awake and keep a watch at the garden gate. The kids wore their sweaters, took their pocket torches and some snacks, for the night watch. They waited till Ma fell asleep and stealthily crept into the garden and sat behind a big mango tree and began their watch.

They waited and waited but nothing happened! Soon it was dawn.

The children were very tired at school next day. But then, they decided to keep watch again at night. After all, next day was Granny's birthday.

That night too they all clustered behind the mango tree and waited patiently. When it was almost dawn, they heard soft footsteps in the garden!

Mittu immediately sat up and strained his ears to find out where the noise came from. Just then, Sunny pointed to a figure moving and plucking the roses. He sprang up and ran after it. Bunny shouted "THIEF...!" and ran after Sunny. Mittu followed the other two. Finally, they pounced on the thief and held on tightly.



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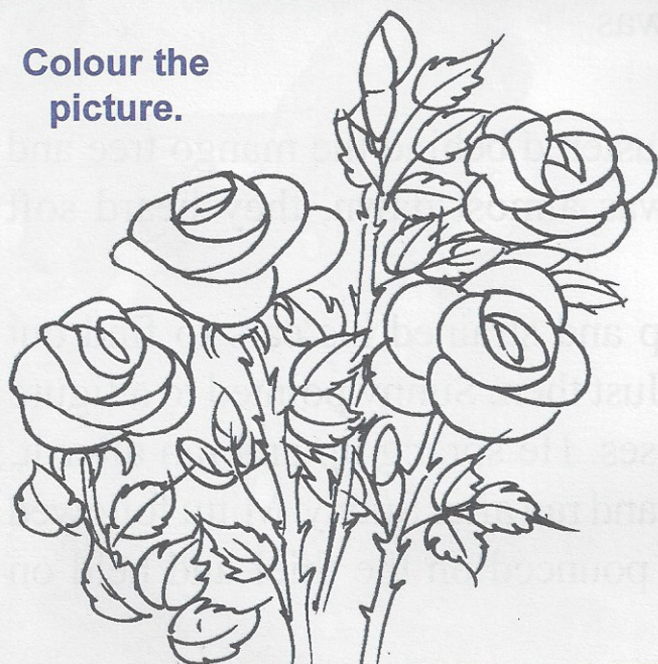
Mom heard all the din and switched on the garden lights. And in the light, the children were surprised at what they saw! It was Granny who was plucking the roses!

"What is all this?" asked Granny surprised.

Mittu grinned shyly. "Sorry Granny," he said sheepishly. "I did not tell Mom that you had called to inform that you would pick roses this entire week. Instead we had an adventure pretending to catch the thief."

Mom, Granny, Sunny and Bunny stood speechless for a minute and then burst into laughter. Little naughty Mittu and his love for adventure! He never left an opportunity to have one! What about you? ●

Colour the picture.



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