



## Tommy and the Tools

“It’s impossible!” a strong lament called out. Some keen ears within hearing distance picked up the moanful cry of despair.

“Hello, might I be of some assistance?” Berry Beary Kind kindly offered. He had swiftly come to the side of Mrs. Elderberry and her small grandson who were looking despondently down a road drain.

A little ashamed for her cry of discouragement, Mrs. Elderberry tried to put on a brave smile and explain to Berry Beary Kind the dilemma that she and her grandson were in.

A little toy, just the size to fit through the grate on the drain had done just that.

They had tried everything they could do, as hard as it was, to try to get it up and out again. They didn’t really have too many ideas or tools to use.

She certainly wasn’t going to call on some rescue worker to help, as it was much too trifling of an issue to trouble busy hard workers, working for the safety of the towns folk to stop what they were doing to help a child retrieve a toy.

The hot sun, the thirst and tiredness they both felt, and the lack of success had worn away their joy it seemed.

One moment before it happened all seemed to be going alright. They had just come back from a stroll at the nearby park, and now everything that had been fun seem to be forgotten as the focus was on the little coloured piece of rubber—a small bouncy ball.

Thankfully, Berry Beary Kind had just what was needed. But caring for the people involved was his first concern. He knew that Mrs. Elderberry wasn't particularly strong and needed rest.

"I think I've got just the way to get that ball up and out again. So don't worry about it. And if I can't get it, I promise you I'll find you a new one. But first, please, come and sit on the bench over here under the shade of this beautiful tree," Berry Beary Kind invited, helping to lead them over.

When they were sitting, and the boy had dried his crying eyes, Berry Beary Kind offered them some fresh cold water. There was a drinking fountain nearby, and Berry Beary Kind had some cups in his back pack that he filled to bring the water to them.

"Look what I've got here in my tool pouch!" Berry Beary Kind said. Today he happened to have his tool pouch strapped on as he was on his way to do some fixing-up of the neighbour's lawnmower—the one that lived right near the park, whose job it was to help mow the grass and keep the little park looking nice. Berry Beary Kind seemed to have a particular skill in lawn mower fixing. And it was good he was on his way to do just that, as he was well equipped for the moment's needs just now.

"Some things might look completely impossible—but with the right tools and a bit of time, and a good bit of help from the Lord, you'll be happy to know that rarely, if ever, is something actually impossible. So it's wiser never to think that.

“If something should happen, and needs to happen, instead of feeling at a loss and at the point of despair when facing something that looks very difficult, you can actually be excited. It’s fun to see things work out!” Berry Beary Kind said, while offering the lady and the boy a second cup of water, and a cloth that he got wet for them to wipe their hot and sweaty foreheads with.

Then Berry Beary Kind spread out some of the tools on the grass for the boy, Tommy, to look at.

“Tommy,” Berry Beary Kind said, “Which of these tools would you think might help us to do this job?”

Tommy looked and saw that different ones could be used in different ways.

“Maybe the hammer could pry away the grate, so we could reach down inside to grab the ball... Or maybe some wire could be lowered down and wrapped around the ball, so that a magnet can be lowered in to pick it up... or maybe ... Oh, I don’t really know.” Tommy tried to think creatively.

“Those are all very good ideas. Some might work more easily than others. What about this tool, the screw driver? Did you notice any screws holding the grate in place?” Berry Beary Kind asked.

Tommy couldn’t remember, so he ran over to look, and came back with the report.

“Yes, I did see some! And I was glad! But then I noticed that there was a chain and lock on it too. I think the grate is like a door that can open. But a key is needed to open the lock first.” Tommy explained.

“Very good. You have checked out the situation. Well, we could use this screw driver to take it all off. It would get the job done, but would take more work and effort and time. If that is all that we had, this would help us. Maybe you should go and try to see if you can get one of those screws loose,” Berry Beary Kind said and offered Tommy the screwdriver.

Tommy was glad to try out a real man’s job—after all he did want to be like his uncle, Berry Beary Fix-it, one day.

While Berry Beary Kind watched on, he noticed that the screws were rusted and it was going to be a very tough job.

After trying for as long as he wished to, Tommy gave the screw driver back to Berry Beary Kind.

“I think I’m ready to try something else. It seems too hard. It’s been there for too long without being turned around and moved. Now it’s all corroding and hard to move it even a little bit,” Tommy expressed while they walked back to the bench.

“Yes,” Berry Beary Kind said. “It’s been sitting in inactivity for far too long to be moved easily now. But perhaps there is an even easier way!”

Berry Beary Kind picked up a set of keys that he had.

“See these? Do you think there is a chance these could help us?”

Tommy had seen them, but didn’t think there was any chance that those keys would have fit that padlock that closed the metal grate door. It seemed too easy, so he didn’t even mention it.

“Well, why don’t we try?” Berry Beary Kind suggested.

With a look of hope in his eyes Tommy reached out and grabbed the keys and walked over to the lock.

He put them in and click! They worked!

A large smile on his face shone as he looked over to his grandmother, who was smiling now too.

With careful hands Tommy removed the padlock and handed it and the keys back to Berry Beary Kind—who was right there with him. It was one thing for a ball to fall down, but no one wished for a boy to fall down the four or five feet that it was to the floor of the drain pipe.

Berry Beary Kind opened up the metal grate door, and the ball was both in plain view and seemed easy to get.

Hardly a moment later Berry Beary Kind hopped down in it, picked up the ball, and climbed up out again, using the built in ladder on the side of the drain.

“Here you go!” Berry Beary Kind said and handed the ball to Tommy, and then closed up the grate again good and safely.

Mrs. Elderberry made sure that Tommy remembered to say thank you—even though Tommy felt he had done some of the rescue mission himself, it was only because he had the kind and timely help of Berry Beary Kind.

Grandma always said, when teaching others about appreciation, “It’s easy to take the credit for doing something ourselves—but if we think about it, we couldn’t have done it without help and the right tools offered us, at the right time.”

This situation had proven that so true.

Berry Beary Kind got an idea, and jotted quickly in his notebook of ideas and to do's, that perhaps some screening could be put on this drain grate, ensuring that small toys and special things wouldn't fall down into it again.

Tommy and his grandmother got up to start walking home again, when Berry Beary Kind said: "You know I'm going to fix the lawn mower, right at that house there. If you both want to come, I don't mind showing you, Tommy, something about mechanics and fixing things.

"I think you might have a good knack for learning in that way—just need someone, or lots of some ones to give you some time and teach you a thing or two. If you'd like to come, you are more than welcome!"

Tommy's face lit up! Would he ever like that! Seeing men at work fixing machines is what he most enjoyed.

So it was agreed, that Tommy would sit on a stool right near Berry Beary Kind as he worked, and look and learn all that he could, while Mrs. Elderberry took a rest in her house, which was nearby. She would come back in about 45 minutes, and bring along a snack for all of them to share as well.

Thankfully the job was an easy one, and the mower was good to go soon enough. Berry Beary Kind then taught Tommy all he knew about each part of the mower and how it all worked. He showed him all the tools in his pouch and told him about some of the fix-it jobs he'd worked on that month.

"One of the most important things to know, if you want to be a fix-it mechanic, is to look—really look. To learn to be observant and notice things will help you in many situations.

“You can’t just look briefly over things, lose interest, and go away. You have to go slow, and listen to the noise things make, and see how they operate.

“Sometimes you have to give yourself time to walk away a bit to think and think and try to come up with the answer. But if you give up, or are going too quickly, you’ll end up with more broken things than things that are getting fixed.”

As Berry Beary Kind just finished his demonstration class, in to the courtyard walked his grandmother, pulling a little rolling bag. Just what snack was in it, Tommy didn’t know. But he was eager to implement his lesson of taking a good look, and finding out!

Quickly he jumped up and peered in the bag, and to his delight it was a big, fresh watermelon! –A tray, a knife and some plates as well.

Fun! Delight was on Tommy’s face. Everything had worked out well in the end—better than if the ball had never fallen down, in the first place.

Berry Beary Kind Series:  
[www.nurture-inspire-teach.com](http://www.nurture-inspire-teach.com)