

The Man With the Coconuts

LISTEN to
your child read
this story aloud.

One day a man went out to gather coconuts. He found a great many, so he put a heavy load of them on his horse and started home.

On the way he met a boy. The man said, "How long will it take me to reach my house?"

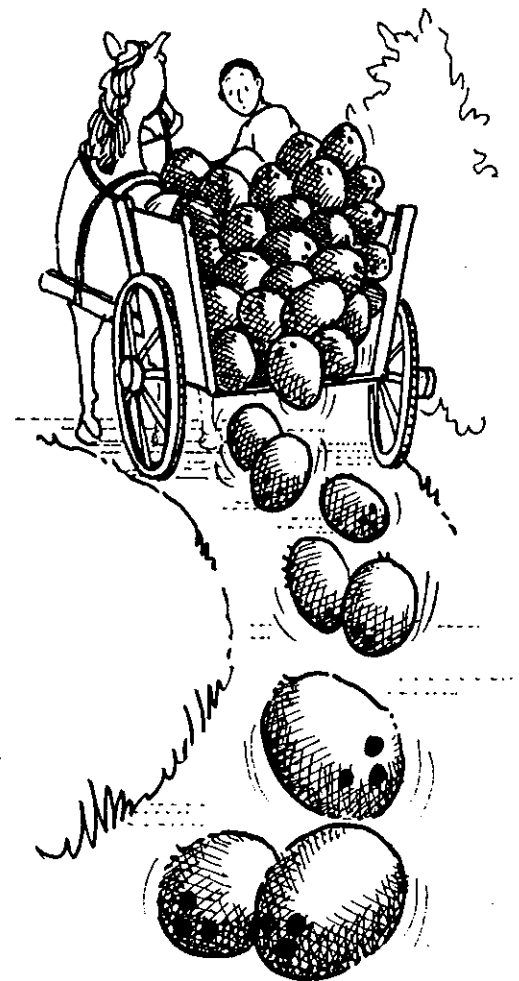
The boy looked at the heavy load of coconuts on the horse. Then he said, "If you go slowly, you will arrive very soon, but if you go fast, it will take you all day to reach your house."

The man thought over this strange speech, but he could not believe the boy. So he began to hurry his horse. The coconuts fell off, and he had to stop to pick them up.

Then the man hurried his horse all the more to make up for the lost time. Again the coconuts fell off. Again the man had to stop and pick them all up.

Then he hurried his horse more than ever to make up for more lost time. Again and again the coconuts fell off. Again and again the man had to stop to pick them up. Again and again he hurried his horse more and more to make up for all of the time he had lost.

When at last he reached home, it was night. He thought of the boy's speech, but it did not seem strange to him anymore.



By Mabel Cook Cole