

Contents

Story Title	Theme	Page
Signs of Autumn	The Seasons - Autumn	1
Autumn Leaves	The Seasons - Autumn	3
If at First You Don't Succeed...	Perseverance/Determination	6
Helen's Harvest	Harvest	9
Mrs Plumpton's Motor Car	Helping/Good Samaritans	12
The Boastful Tree	Modesty is the best policy	15
Joseph's New School	Coping with change	17
Freddie's Forgetful Friday	Concentration	19
Don't Mess With Fireworks	Firework safety	22
A Foggy Day	The natural world/Weather	25
It's Photograph Day!	School photographs	28
Barry's Bad Lunchtime	Dinnertime behaviour	31
Every Dog has its Day	Caring for pets	34
Cat in the Cold	Caring for pets	37
Twin Trouble	Responsibility/Good organisation	40
The Grumpy Giant	Everyone feels better for a smile	43
It Wasn't Me!	Honesty	46
Leroy's Lies	Honesty	49
A Dozen Cream Cakes	Greed	52
The New Teacher	Appearance can be deceptive	55
Teamwork	Teamwork	57
The Bridge	Teamwork	60
Lucy's Snowman	The Seasons - Winter	63
Winter Days - Lazy Ways	Healthy lifestyle	66
Broken Wings	Consequences/Honesty	69
The Nativity Play	Christmas	72

A Windy Day	The natural world/Weather	74
Our Team's the Best	Loyalty	77
A Faithful Friend	Loyalty	79
Goodbye Mrs Thomson	Loyalty/Retirement	82
Gone Fishing	Managing time	85
Pete's New Friends	Friendship	88
Saving Charlie	Bravery/Courage	91
A Family Day Out	Compromise	94
The Miserable Elf	Be thankful for what you have got	97
Mirror, Mirror on the Wall	Vanity/Learning from mistakes	100
The Two Brothers	Responsibility	103
The Birthday Present	Responsibility	106
The Hare's Revenge	Cheating/Honesty	109
The Day the Rain Came	Water	112
Down on the Farm	Giving and taking advice	115
Danger - Keep Out!	Playing in dangerous places	118
Watching Jenny Wren	The Seasons/Birds in spring	121
Skip to be Fit	Healthy living	123
A Helping Hand	Bullying	126
Too Helpful Harry	Giving help when needed	129
Who Will Help the Lion?	Compassion	132
Teddy Bears Picnic	Teddy bears/Raising funds	135
George and the Ladder	Common sense	137
Butterfly Summer	Butterflies/Nature	140

Joseph's New School

Theme: Coping with change

Introduction: Tell the children about something from your experience that you were not looking forward to but that did not turn out to be as bad as you thought. For example, it could be a visit to the dentist, a stay in hospital or even an OFSTED inspection! Ask the children for their own experiences. Ask: 'Has anyone ever worried about moving up into a new class or about meeting a new teacher?' Explain that the boy in today's story was worried about moving to a new school - but, with the help of a few kind people, he soon settled in and began to enjoy the experience.

Joseph stood at the school gate and stared with trepidation into the crowded playground. It was his first day at St. John's Primary School and he was feeling really nervous. He had forced some breakfast down but now his stomach was churning and he was beginning to wish he hadn't bothered. He had waved goodbye to his mum at the bottom of the street. She had wanted to deliver him into the playground but there was no way he was going to let the other children see him arrive at his new school holding his mum's hand. He was in Year 5, after all! What he didn't know was that his mum was still waiting, just out of sight around the corner, determined to see that he got into school safely.

Why did he have to move school? It was his father's fault! He had got promotion at work but it meant that the family had to move area and it was just too far for Joseph to travel to his old school. He had been so happy at Hutton Street. He had been coping well with his lessons, he had lots of really good friends and he had even come on as a substitute for the school football team on a couple of occasions. Now he would have to start all over again. He didn't know anyone and he was worried that he might not have covered the same work as the other children. Joseph looked around forlornly. He was beginning to wish that his mum was still with him.

A football thumped against the school gate and a boy with fair hair and freckles ran across to retrieve it.

'Are you the new boy?' he asked, picking the ball up and staring at Joseph. 'Mrs Harris said a new boy was joining our class.'

'Well, I am starting today,' stammered Joseph, doing his best to smile. 'I'm going into Year 5.'

'That's our class,' confirmed the fair haired boy. Two of his friends had strolled across to join him. 'My Name's Josh,' said the boy, opening the gate. 'And this is Daniel - and this is Stephen.'

Joseph stepped into the playground. He was feeling a little more relaxed



and confident. 'I'm Joe,' he said. 'I don't really know anyone around here.'

'Just hang around with us,' said Daniel. 'You'll soon settle in.'

A group of Year 5 girls wandered across to take a look at the new boy. A couple of them pointed and giggled.

'Take no notice of them,' said Josh. 'You stick with us and you'll be all right.'

'Are you any good at football?' asked Stephen. 'We could do with another good player for our team.'

'I played for my last school team a couple of times,' explained Joseph. 'Only as a substitute, mind you.'

'Great!' said Josh, kicking the ball into the air. 'Let's see what you can do, then!'

By the time the bell rang to mark the start of the school day, Josh was feeling much better. His mum was also feeling better. Seeing him playing with a group of friends, she had wandered off to do some shopping. The children lined up and the duty teacher came out into the yard to supervise the classes walking into school.

'That's Mrs Harris, our teacher,' whispered Daniel, who was lined up alongside Joseph. 'She looks a bit fierce but she's all right really.'

'I heard that, Daniel Moore!' snapped the teacher, glaring along the line. 'Still, I suppose it's nice to know I'm all right, really!' She walked along the line and stopped next to Joseph. 'You must be Joseph?' she said, in a softer voice. 'I see you've made a few friends already.'

'Yes, thank you, Mrs Harris,' replied Joseph, a little nervously.

'Well that's good,' said Mrs Harris, clasping her hands together. 'We want you to feel at home nice and quickly. There are a lot of lovely children in our class and I think you'll really like it at St. John's School.' She beamed down at Joseph for a few seconds and then returned to the front of the line. 'Now then, Year 5! Move in quietly, please!'

'Yes, I think I am going to like it,' thought Joseph as he made his way into school. 'I really think I am going to like it here!'

Prayer: Lord, give us confidence and determination when we are faced with a new challenge. Sometimes we may feel nervous when we have to face a new situation. We all have to face changes in our lives but we know that you are alongside us, that you are there with us, guarding us and guiding us. Amen.

Follow up: Ask the children to try and imagine how Joseph must have been feeling as he waited outside the school gates. Write down the words or phrases that the children give you. Discuss how they would feel if they had to move to a completely new area. What would they miss? Remind them what they should do if a new pupil joins the school. Stress how important it is to make anyone new to the school feel really welcome.

