



CHARACTER BUILDING LESSONS

CARL SOMMER

NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW

About the Book

Teased by their friends that "No one will ever know," Johnny and Janie squirrel ignore their parents' warnings about the big, bad wolf. Wanting big, delicious acorns, they lie to their parents and sneak out one night to Mr. Smith's farm. Their delightful meal suddenly ends when they are chased by a very hungry wolf.

Barely escaping with their lives, the young squirrels learn that disobey is wrong even when you think no one will ever know.

This adventurous and thrilling story by Carl Sommer shows the importance of honesty, respect for parents, and trust.



Main Virtues

**Honesty/Respect for Parents/
Trust**

Other Virtues

Caring, Compassion, Integrity, Obedience to Parents, Respect for Elders, Respect for Law, Responsibility, Safety, and Trust



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Choosing Friends

One day some older squirrels stopped by. “Why do you kids stay here eating those small acorns?” yapped the big squirrels rather roughly. “We know a special place that has the biggest and most delicious acorns you have ever tasted.”

The big squirrels showed them some giant acorns. When the big squirrels told them they found them at Mr. Smith’s farm, Johnny moaned, “We can’t go there.”

“Why not?” asked the big squirrels. “No one will ever know.”

Be careful whom you choose as friends. Johnny listened to his new friends and got into trouble. Your friends will often determine what you will become. Choose bad friends, and you’ll do things that are bad; choose good friends, and you’ll do good things. Many children get into trouble because they weren’t wise about choosing their friends. Be wise—choose your friends carefully.

Imitating Friends

Johnny wanted to be like the older squirrels. He spun his cap around and said to Janie, “Why don’t we go there just once?”

This began Johnny’s downfall. He wanted to imitate his new friends. Wise individuals are strong and will not follow others when they are doing things that are wrong. The path of failure is littered with those who chose to do evil because of their friends.

Respecting Parents

Johnny said, “Why don’t we go there just once?”

“And disobey Dad and Mom?” Janie asked. “That’s not right.”

“If we don’t tell anyone,” Johnny argued, no one will ever know!”

Johnny and Janie didn’t honor and obey their parents. In spite of their father and mother’s warnings, they decided to go to Mr. Smith’s farm. This decision led them into big trouble. In contrast, if they had respected their parents by obeying them they would have avoided all their trouble.

Telling the Truth—The First Lie

At last it came—the night of a bright, full moon. Johnny and Janie ate very little for supper that evening.

“Why aren’t you eating?” asked Mom.

“Uh, well...we’re not hungry,” Johnny lied.

He and Janie did not want to eat too much. Tonight they were going to fill their tummies with big, delicious acorns.

Johnny and Janie decided to disobey their parents. Then when Johnny was questioned on why he wasn’t eating, he lied about it. Notice how when someone lies another lie follows.

The Second Lie

Mr. Owl was surprised to see the young squirrels out so late.

“Whoa!” said Mr. Owl. “Do your parents know where you are?”

“Y-y-yes, of course,” Johnny lied. “They said we could go to Mr. Smith’s farm.”

Johnny had lied to his mom, and now to Mr. Wise Owl. Once you tell one lie, it’s much easier to tell another lie.

Fun and Disobedience

The young squirrels laughed and talked about how much fun they were going to have eating those big, delicious acorns. They were especially glad for the two older squirrels who had told them about Mr. Smith’s farm.

Yes, they were going to have fun, lots of fun; but wait and see what happens to them.

Teasing

“Don’t be afraid,” laughed Johnny.

Teddy giggled. “That’s just an old owl.”

They tiptoed under the tree. And sure enough, there he was, Mr. Owl, quietly sitting on a limb.

“See!” teased Johnny and Teddy. “We told you!”

When we tease others, we want to annoy or make fun of them. This is the opposite of love. Love wants to encourage and help others. Kind people don’t tease.

Enemies

The chubby squirrels did not realize it, but all their whooping and hollering had stirred someone from his sleep. Now that someone was hungry! And he was creeping up on them.

As the slow-going squirrels reached the open field, out from the bushes sprang the big, bad wolf!

“W-w-wolf!” Janie yelled. “The big, bad wolf!”

Off they ran, as fast as their little legs could take them—which was not very fast since their tummies were so full.

The squirrels scattered in four directions. Since the wolf could not chase all of them, he ran after the closest one—Johnny!

Johnny ran as fast as he could—but tonight the wolf was faster. Johnny ran toward the nearest tree. The wolf drew closer and closer.

Johnny almost made it. But just as he reached the tree, the wolf jumped at Johnny with his big jaws open wide.

“O-u-c-h!” screamed Johnny.

There are enemies who want to destroy you. For example, drug dealers will sell you harmful drugs in order to make money. That is why it is

important to listen to teachers and parents who want to protect you.

Consequences of Disobedience

Dad jumped onto a limb and spotted a scared little squirrel sitting on a branch—shaking and crying.

“Johnny!” shouted Dad.

Johnny ran to Dad and cried, “The wolf bit off my tail!”

Johnny was fortunate he only lost his tail. When we disobey, there are often serious consequences.

Respecting Parents

As Johnny’s mom was bandaging his tail, he groaned, “Ohhh...! If only I had run faster, this never would have happened.”

Dad said, “No Johnny. If only you had listened to us, this never would have happened.”

But Johnny still was not listening. He was mad at himself for not running faster.

How many problems children would avoid if they would only learn to trust and obey their parents. Be wise—listen to your parents.

Trusting Parents Brings Happiness

Mr. Wise Owl came to visit Johnny. “I’m sorry to hear what happened,” he said.

“Well,” mumbled Johnny, “That’s one time I should have listened to my dad and mom.”

“Johnny,” answered the wise owl, “you should always listen to your dad and mom. They love you and they know what’s best for you.”

“But it doesn’t always seem right,” said Johnny.

“You need to trust them,” explained Mr. Owl. “You will find it’s always best to obey.”

Johnny thought for a while. Suddenly his eyes lit up. “Now I understand! If I trust them, then it only makes sense to obey!”

If Johnny had trusted his father and mother, he would have listened to them and avoided losing his tail. Then he would have lived a much happier life.

Path of Disobedience—Trouble

Notice the path of disobedience leads to trouble.

Johnny listened to others instead of his parents.

Johnny’s new friends teased him and those with him about staying in their little yard and eating their tiny acorns.

Johnny wanted to be like the older squirrels who had encouraged him to disobey his parents.

Johnny wanted to go to Mr. Smith’s farm just once, even though his

parents had forbidden him to go there.

Johnny told his sister Jamie that it is was all right to disobey Dad and Mom, for if they didn't tell anyone, no one would ever know.

They tried to figure out how they could sneak away from their parents to go to Mr. Smith's farm.

Johnny lied to cover up his disobedience. He said he wasn't hungry when his mom asked him why he wasn't eating.

They talked about how much fun they would have eating those big delicious acorns. They didn't expect any trouble.

Then Johnny lied to Mr. Wise Owl saying that his parents knew he was going to Mr. Smith's farm.

They had great joy for a short time while they were eating the delicious acorns.

The big bad wolf had bitten off Johnny's tail. Disobedience often has serious consequences.

Johnny, instead of learning to listen to his parents, complained that he would not have gotten caught if he had only run faster.

Path of Obedience—Happiness

One never knows how many evil things are avoided when one decides to do what is right. If Johnny had listened to his parents, he would have kept his tail and remained the fastest squirrel.

It always pays to do what is right, even when we don't always see the benefits. Often the path of disobedience has its short-term pleasure, but it often leads to a path of pain and suffering.

When the older squirrels told him, "No one will ever know," Johnny should have immediately said, "We don't disobey our parents."

Johnny should have ignored the older squirrels when they teased him, saying, "Go ahead! Stay in your little yard and eat your tiny acorns."

If Johnny had followed the right path and listened to his parents, he would never have had all this trouble. It always pays to obey your parents, even when you think that disobeying them will give you greater pleasure.

Questions

1. Who was the fastest squirrel at playing tree tag?

Johnny was the fastest squirrel.

2. What did the older squirrels show Johnny and Janie and their friends that got them so excited?

The older squirrels showed them a giant acorn.

3. What was the squirrels' favorite food?

Acorns were the squirrels favorite food.

4. A. What did the big squirrels say when Johnny moaned, "We can't go

there”?

The big squirrels said, “Why not? No one will ever know.”

B. What were the older squirrels encouraging Johnny to do when they said, “No one will ever know”? *The older squirrels were encouraging Johnny to disobey his parents.*

Be careful whom you choose as friends. Johnny listened to his new friends and got into trouble.

5. Whom did Johnny want to be like?

Johnny wanted to be like the older squirrels.

This began Johnny’s downfall, he wanted to imitate the older squirrels.

6. When did Tammy say they could go to Mr. Smith’s farm?

Tammy said, “We could go late at night after our parents go to sleep.”

7. What did Johnny say when Janie said, “But what about that b-i-g...b-a-d...w-o-l-f? He scares me”?

Johnny said, “We’ll be real quiet. I’m sure the wolf will be sleeping.”

Johnny and Janie didn’t honor and obey their parents. In spite of their father and mother’s warnings, they decided to go to Mr. Smith’s farm.

8. What did Johnny say when his mom asked him, “Why aren’t you eating”?

Johnny lied and said, “Uh, well...we’re not hungry.”

9. Why did Johnny lie?

Johnny lied because he and Jamie wanted to fill their tummies with big, delicious acorns.

10. What did Johnny and Janie do when their dad and mom were fast asleep?

Johnny and Janie quietly climbed out the window to meet Teddy and Tammy.

11. What were the squirrels talking about as they walked to Mr. Smith’s farm?

The squirrels talked about how much fun they were going to have eating those big, delicious acorns.

Yes, they were going to have fun, lots of fun. But wait and see what happens to them.

12. Who were the squirrels especially glad for as they were walking to Mr. Smith’s farm?

The squirrels were especially glad for the two older squirrels who had told them about Mr. Smith’s farm.

13. How many of the squirrels were scared when they first saw the two beady eyes glowing in the dark?

All the squirrels were scared and shaking.

14. What did Johnny and Teddy do and say when they saw it was Mr. Wise Owl quietly sitting on a limb?

Johnny and Teddy teased them and said, "See! We told you!"

When we tease others, we want to annoy or make fun of them. This is the opposite of being kind. When we are kind, we want to encourage and help others.

15. When was the next time Johnny lied?

The next time Johnny lied was when Mr. Wise Owl asked, "Do your parents know where you are?"

16. What did Johnny say when he lied?

Johnny said, "Y-y-yes of course. They said we could go to Mr. Smith's farm."

Once we tell a lie, it's easy to continue to lie. The secret of not becoming a liar is to always tell the truth.

17. Why is it a bad thing to be known as a liar?

It is a bad thing to be known as a liar because a liar can never be trusted.

18. How many acorns did the squirrels eat?

The squirrels ate, and ate, and ate...till their tummies could hold no more.

19. What enemy was waiting to catch them?

The big bad wolf was trying to catch them.

There are enemies who want to hurt us. Be careful. Listen to your parents and do what's right.

20. What did the wolf do to Johnny?

The wolf bit off Johnny's tail.

21. What did Janie say when Dad and Mom asked, "But where's Johnny"?

Janie said, "I don't know. I saw the wolf chasing him, and then I heard him scream, 'Ouch!'"

Remember the title of the book, "No One Will Ever Know." Now Dad and Mom knew. Watch who else finds out about what the squirrels did.

22. What did Dad say he was going to do?

Dad said, "I'm going to search for him."

23. Dad spotted something sitting on a limb. What was it?

Dad spotted a scared little squirrel sitting on a branch—shaking and crying.

24. What did Johnny say what happened to him?

Johnny said, "The wolf bit off my tail!"

When we choose the path of disobedience, we often suffer for it.

25. What did Dad do when Johnny ran to him?

Dad wrapped his arms around Johnny and held him tight.

26. What did dad say when Johnny said, "Ohhh...! If only I had run faster, this never would have happened"?

Dad said, "No Johnny. If only you had listened to us, this never would have happened."

Children can avoid many problems in life if they learn to listen and obey their fathers and mothers.

27. What are some of the things your parents have warned you about? Why are these warning important?

Various answers.

28. Why was Johnny the slowest in playing tree tag?

Johnny was the slowest in playing tree tag because with his short tail he could not balance himself well.

Sometimes our disobedience will get us into permanent trouble.

29. Can you think of some things that can cause permanent damage?

Doing dangerous things like: running in the street without looking, climbing tall trees, driving a bike through streets without slowing down, taking drugs, sniffing chemicals, sniffing glue, smoking, drinking alcohol, or having sex and getting venereal disease.

Be wise—always take care of your body. If you don't, one day you'll suffer for it.

30. Why is it important to obey and trust our parents?

Our parents are older and wiser, so it only makes sense to trust them, even if we think they are not right.

31. What did Johnny say to his forest friends that he was foolish for?

Johnny said, "I was foolish for listening to others."

30. What was Johnny glad to learn?

Johnny was glad to learn that to disobey is wrong, even when you think no one will ever know.