

TO TEASE A BUMMBLE

A story of how teasing causes pain and suffering

A hot breeze oozed through the Bog now brown and rusty,
No rain for weeks had left it all crunchy, dry and dusty.
The weather had been stifling for far to long it seemed
And critters all were tired of going out and getting steamed.

This summer in the Bog had been the worst it'd been for years,
With tempers flaring hotter than the temperature which sears
Plants and critters all alike, causing them to gasp and sputter,
As they crowd in and round the drying pond in exhausted critter
clutter.

"Heaven help us, I don't believe it can possibly get worse,"
Said Mrs. Bumble, Rumbly's mom, reaching deep into her purse
To get her son some lunch money as she walked with him to
school,
Leading him through the willow woods in order to stay cool.

Bumbles are a different sort with their awkward, ambling gait,
They teeter and they totter, often getting places late,
Because they're always running into things as they weeble and
they wobble,
Staying scraped, bruised and dizzy, often listing as they hobble.

To make the very best of their situation which was jarring,
They laughed, pretending with great zeal that, "We're only
bumper car...ing.
Not everyone was kind though in their assessment of the
Bummbles,

"Can't they watch where they are going?!" was a favorite critter grumble.

As Mrs. Bumble and Rumbly careened closer to the school,
Certain critters started teasing them, breaking the timeless
Golden Rule.

"Treat all others as you wish to be treated," was the truth of this
simple law,

And if everyone would do just that, it would destroy the fatal
flaw

Of selfishness that simply says, "I can do and say as I please,
I can laugh and joke at another's expense...it's O.K. to be a tease!"

Well...At the edge of the Bog; lay a pasture full of sheep,
They belonged to farmer Rutabaga, giving wool in exchange for
their keep.

Most of the flock was a docile bunch, content to chat and graze,
But there were three young maddening sheep seized by a teasing
craze.

"Settle down ya silly twits!" the older sheep would moan,
"I can't wait for these young'uns to get some sense!
Let's hope they get it before they're grown!"

But...Pinky, Pete and Punky were full of sass and condescension,
Unnerving those they'd taunt and tease, causing hurt and
apprehension.

"Awwwww...lighten up!" the threesome scoffed, "we're only having
a little fun!"

"Yes...at another's expense!" the flock shot back, "and that's
something you should shun!"

There'll come a time when you'll wish that you had listened to our advice!

What you say and do will come back to you...and when it does, it'll not be nice!"

"Baaaaaa...baaa...blah...blah," the threesome yawned then smirked, "Come on guys...Rumbly's coming, let's make fun of that Bumbly jerk!"

They scampered to where Rumbly was wobbling, through the gate to the school,
He bounced off the post, then crashed through a bush...the sheep laughed thinking him the town fool.

"Stumbly Rumbly Bumble, he crashes and he tumbles,
over everything in site then he cries just as he crumbles!"
The mean little sheep sang the mean little song till they broke down Rumbly's pride,
He wobbled up the schoolhouse steps, sat down and out and just cried.

"Wh...wh...why are they being so mean to me Mom?" Rumbly spoke through tears to his mother.

"I don't know dear but I'll get someone who does though, I'll get Hartlie our dear Christian brother."

Rumbly wiped the tears from his face, went inside trying to act very brave,

This teasing had gone on for such a long time and he was tired of being its' slave.

It made him feel awful and very alone when they name-called and made fun of him,

He sure hoped Hartlie could get through to those sheep but the chances he thought looked grim.

Back in the Bog, Rumbly's mom found Hartlie, telling him all about the mean teasing,
"Let's go back and talk with those sheep," said Hartlie, "I'll let them know their behaviors not pleasing!"

The sun was high in the Bog sky by now and the heat made their energy fade,
But Hartlie resolved to give truth to those sheep, so he took hold of her hand and they prayed.
Dear Heavenly Father, would you give me the words to get through to those obnoxious sheep...
Please give them a heart that is softened by love, so they'll no longer make poor Rumbly weep."

So...off they went to confront the three sheep, Hartlie pouring out Biblical truth,
He quoted from Titus, Ephesians and Proverbs how God is angered by the mean and uncouth.
But...they laughed and they snickered, it was all a great lark, they couldn't care less they'd hurt Rumbly,
As they got a big kick out of watching him walk, because he was clumsy and stumbly.

"Well...I've tried giving you truth," Hartlie said with displeasure, "which should stop all this terrible teasing,
But now you must learn from the Master Himself, as it's God you must now be appeasing.
Just remember...
Sticks and stones may break your bones and turn you black and blue,

But words can either heal a heart or break that heart in two."
"Baaaaa...baaaa...blah...blah," the foolish sheep rudely bleated,
They'd already forgotten Hartlie's clear warning and were back
teasing those they'd mistreated.

Well...because they were young and so foolish, thinking everything
would just stay the same,
They were quite unaware they were in for despair with some
ridicule and perhaps shame.

The long hot summer finally ceased; some rain and chilled nights
now in place,
Winter was now just a few days away, turning rain into crystalline
lace.
So Hartlie decided to check on the sheep, as things were
suddenly still,
He hadn't heard of any teasing going on since the weather had
taken a chill.

He set off to get little Rumbly and walk with him to school,
To see if his prayers had been answered, concerning the sheep
and the Golden Rule.
But...as they drew up close to the pasture, poor Rumbly got sick
from his nerves,
Which made his steering that much worse, causing gigantenormas
swerves.
He held on to Hartlie's hand so tight that it cut off his
circulation,
He couldn't bear to look at those ornery sheep, for fear and
extreme trepidation.

"Well...mercy me," Hartlie gently whispered, as he stared at three
naked sheep,

They were blue and their teeth chattered violently, they were to cold to make even a peep.

They shivered and shook, they teetered and tottered they even weebled and wobbled,

They jumped up and down trying to keep themselves warm as they clumsily stumbled and hobbled.

"Well I guess that's one way God can get you to hush," said

Hartlie regarding the teasing,

"You'd forgotten about giving your fine wooly coats to the farmer and now you are freezing."

Hartlie and Rumbly stood there amazed at how artfully God taught His rules,

To those three ornery sheep, who up until now had behaved like three stubborn mules.

They stumble humbly back to their flock, their once pink bodies now blue,

They would never forget how you treat another, will always come back to you!

The end... or could it be...? THE BEGINNING!

THE BEGINNING

Scriptures from the Holy Bible that help us not to tease others

1 Peter 3:8-9 Live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but blessings with blessing, because of this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Proverbs 12:25 An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.

Luke 6:31 Do unto others, as you would have them do to you.

Proverbs 13:3 He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.

James 2:8 If you keep the royal law found in the scriptures, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

Galatians 6:10 As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him would not perish, but have life everlasting.

This series was written in an effort to help children understand that nothing can overcome us if we are walking close to Jesus, trusting in His love and obeying His commandments.