



The Broken Window



Boots liked to collect rocks. Wherever he went, he brought home pretty rocks that he had found. Today Mother had taken the children to the park. They played on the swings and the slide and explored along the trail around the park. Boots found three pretty rocks. They were black and white with a silver line through them.

That afternoon while Kitty and Mitten were taking a nap, Boots got his three rocks and went in the back yard to play. "I wonder how far I can throw these rocks," Boots thought. He threw one of the rocks. It almost touched the neighbor's fence, which made Boots feel very proud of himself. Then he threw another rock even a little bit harder. Boots threw the last rock as hard as he could. It went over the fence, but it hit the window on Mrs. Hodges's shed. Crash! The rock broke the window!

Boots was afraid, so he went to his room. He thought of Daddy and how disappointed he would be. When Daddy came home from work, Boots did not meet him with a hug like he usually did. He stayed in his room.

Daddy went into Boots's room. Boots started to cry. "I'm sorry, Daddy, I didn't mean to do it."

"Didn't mean to do what?" Daddy asked.

"I broke Mrs. Hodges's window. You told me not to throw rocks, but I threw them anyway and I broke the window."

"Well," said Daddy, "you will have to go tell Mrs. Hodges." Daddy and Boots walked over to their neighbor's house and rang the doorbell. When Mrs. Hodges opened the door she saw a little boy with a very sad face.

"I . . . I'm sorry that I broke the window in your shed," said Boots.

"If it is all right with you, I'll measure it for a new piece of glass and fix it for you this evening," said Daddy.

"That will be fine," said Mrs. Hodges.

When Boots and Daddy got home, Daddy told Boots that he would have to use his own money to fix the window. "But I was saving the money for a new ball," said Boots.

"I know, Boots," said Daddy. "But when you break something that belongs to someone else, you need to fix it."

Boots cried, but he knew that Daddy was right. "I'm sorry," said Boots.

"I know," said Daddy, "but we must do the right thing." Boots and Daddy went to the hardware store and bought a piece of glass. Boots stayed with Daddy the whole time he fixed the window. "Daddy, I am sorry I disobeyed you and threw the rocks. Will you please forgive me?"

Daddy reached down and put his arms around Boots. "Boots," he said, "I was sad that you disobeyed me, but I love you and forgive you." Daddy held Boots's hand as they walked back home.

Ask these questions:

1. What did Boots throw? *a rock*
2. Who had to pay for the new piece of glass? *Boots*
3. Did Daddy forgive Boots for disobeying? *yes*