

# Going For Goals

## Lesson 1

I know the skills and attributes of an effective learner.  
I can try to develop these skills.

Today, we will look at a story called The Fourth Son

One stormy night, far, far away, a woman gave birth to four healthy sons. She wrapped them up and laid them in a row next to her. What would happen to them? She prayed to the magic spirit of her family. There was a flash and a beautiful spirit appeared.

The spirit looked at the first baby. Out of her golden bag she drew a shiny purple stone and sang, 'You will be a talented musician.' To the second baby she gave a green stone and sang, 'You will be a fantastic farmer.' To the third baby she gave a red stone and sang, 'You will be a talented artist.'

When she came to the fourth baby, she drew out of her bag six ugly brown pebbles. 'And you will be a good learner', she sang. There was a fearful bang and a flash of light and the spirit disappeared. 'What did she mean?' the woman asked herself.

She looked at the pebbles. 'It can't be very important', she thought. Even so she carefully put the pebbles in a small bag and hung them round the baby's neck.

As soon as the first three sons could walk they showed their talents. People always asked to hear the first son sing. If one of their animals was sick, they brought it to the second son and he immediately knew what was wrong. The third son drew pictures so beautiful that when he was still young people asked him to decorate their houses and clothes.

When the woman looked at the fourth son she kissed him on the forehead and smiled, and thought that it was a good job he had such talented brothers.

The fourth son looked at the six pebbles and wondered what they meant. He was very proud of his three brothers. He wanted to be like them, so he looked carefully at what they did. He asked them questions and listened carefully to what they said. He thought about what he saw and heard. He imitated what they did and when it didn't work he didn't give up, but learned from it. The brothers loved him dearly and, because he was so helpful and good to be with, they spent lots of time with him.

When the four sons were nearly grown up the woman said to the first three sons, 'Go off and make your fortunes. You have all the talents you need.' They left the farm. The fourth son asked if he could go too but the woman said, 'You haven't any special talents so perhaps you had better stay here. What have you got to offer the world?'

That evening she was feeling sad. 'I wish someone was here to cheer me up,' she said. The fourth son opened his mouth and sang a song. It was beautiful - as beautiful as the songs of the first son.

The next day, one of the animals was sick. The fourth son looked at the animal and knew what to do. The next day it was better, just like the animals that the second son had looked after.

When the woman woke up the next day she saw a lovely new picture on the wall, as beautiful as the pictures painted by the third son.

She took the small bag from round fourth son's neck and looked at them. She remembered what the spirit had said: 'And you will be a good learner.'

# Task one

Read the following questions about the story and write a sentence or two providing an answer to each one:

- What happened in the story?
- Which son would you like to be best? Why?
- Which son had been given the most useful present from the spirit? Why?
- What might be written on the six pebbles in the story.  
What did the fourth son do, and what skills did he use, as a good learner?

# Task two

- Look at the 'six pebbles template' on Class 4's page.
- If you were to have six pebbles like the characters in the story, what skills would you write on them?
- Have a think and then complete the template by writing down six skills that you think are important to you as a learner.
- These might be skills that you use regularly or you may choose to mention and describe a skill that you are building and improving on to hopefully use more in the future.
- If they are skills that you are improving, what goal could you set yourself to get to a point where you are comfortable in using that skill? Could you set yourself a time where you want to be confident in that skill by?