

11

**Title: The Two Brothers**

**Beliefs: Secular**

**Themes: sharing, empathy, thoughtfulness**

Look at this special box.

This box looks like a present.

It has the present of a story inside it.

Stories are very precious.

They have been given to people, as presents, to explain some of the wonders of life.

This story has been given to us.

Let's look inside and see what story is there.

This story is important to people because it teaches them something. It's a secular story. A secular story doesn't belong to a particular religion.

### **Open the box**

Take out the yellow fabric and ask an 'I wonder' question:

'I wonder what this make you think of?' (Give time for thinking.)

(Children respond.)

In our story it represents the cornfields.

Take out the grey fabric/card and explain that this represents the barn.

Take out the sacks and explain that they are the grain harvest.

Take out the characters one by one explaining who they are:

This is William and this is Edward his brother and they are in our story.

We are now going to listen to a secular story.

### **The Two Brothers**

Once upon a time there were two brothers, William and Edward. The brothers were both farmers and all their lives they had been good friends. 'Glad to see you

brother William.' 'Glad to see you brother Edward,' they would say each day as they greeted one another before they started work.

Brother William lived on his own and brother Edward was married and lived with his large family. The brothers worked their farm together.

Together they ploughed, together they sowed their fields and when the harvest came they gathered it in together.

'Warm work, brother William,' said Edward.

'Warm weather it is, brother Edward,' said William.

Of-course the harvesting wasn't done in a day. When evening came they went home to bed. Next morning they were up early and soon at work again. They worked all through the day until evening when they slept again, and so it went on, working all day, sleeping all night, until the harvest was at last finished.

'Whew, hard work!' said William.' 'Indeed!' said Edward.

They put all the grain into sacks in their great barn.

'Now brother William,' said Edward, 'Let's divide our sacks into two equal piles: yours and mine, yours at one end of the barn and mine at the other.' 'Very good Edward,' said William, and so they divided their harvest.

When they finished it was very late. 'It's very late William,' said Edward. 'It is late,' said William. 'Let's sleep here in the barn and guard the grain until morning.' 'Good idea,' said Edward, and they settled down in the barn, content that the harvest was safely gathered in.

Because they were so tired they slept well, but before it was light William woke up and started thinking.

‘Do you know, I’m a very lucky man. I’ve had a good harvest: more than I need for just one, but my brother Edward has a family to support. I think I’ll give him two of my sacks while he’s still asleep.’

So very quietly brother William got up and took two of his sacks and added them to brother Edward’s pile and then went back to sleep.

Shortly afterwards Edward woke up. ‘Do you know, I’m a very lucky man. I’ve had a good harvest, I’ve got a family to share my happiness, but brother William is all on his own. I think I’ll give him two of my sacks while he’s asleep.’ So very quietly Edward got up and added them to William’s pile. Then he went back to sleep.

‘A good morning to you William,’ said Edward. ‘Good morning to you Edward,’ said William. ‘We’ve had a fine harvest,’ said brother William. ‘We certainly have,’ said Edward, and he started to count his sacks of grain. Then he looked perplexed. ‘Nothing troubling you is there Edward?’ said William. ‘I’ve got too many sacks!’ said Edward.

‘I shouldn’t worry, I’m sure all mine are here,’ and William started to count his sacks. ‘Well, that’s a stunner,’ said William. ‘Are you short of sacks William?’ said Edward. ‘No, I’ve got too many,’ said William.

‘Brother Edward, I gave you 2 sacks in the night, but I’ve got the exact number that I started with!’

‘Brother William,’ said Edward, ‘that explains it! You see I gave YOU 2 sacks in the night!’

‘That was mighty generous of you Edward!’ said William. ‘And it was mighty generous of you William!’ said Edward.

And that might be the end of the story except that they had another idea: if they each had enough grain to spare perhaps they could give it to someone who had NO grain and so they took those sacks of grain and gave it to those of their poorer neighbours and friends.

Ask ‘I wonder’... questions. You might want to choose from the list below:

- I wonder how the brothers felt when they knew they had both been generous?
- I wonder what the poor friends and neighbours said when they received the spare grain?
- I wonder what would happen in the world if everyone did this sort of thing?
- I wonder how people feel who live on their own?

**Creativity time:**

Either: Explain to the children that they are now going to make a picture or model or a poem about the part of the story of which they want to make an image: they can choose.

(Children choose to paint, draw, glue, write etc with the resources prepared round the room.)

After 15-20 minutes come together to share what has been made and place in the centre of the circle.

Or: Explain to the children that they are going to do a specific task such as writing a poem (using a poem ‘frame’ with sentence starters – it is available at [http://www.natre.org.uk/bigpicture/pages/kq2\\_organise\\_approaches.php](http://www.natre.org.uk/bigpicture/pages/kq2_organise_approaches.php)).