

A Stitch in Time

Proverbs
in six little stories
with room for your
own pictures

by Mrs. Janet Meier

The last straw
breaks
the camel's back

A farmer and his wife
had a big meadow,
where rich grass grew.
When the wind blew gently
across the meadow,
the grass rippled
like waves on the ocean.
One evening in midsummer
the farmer said to his wife,
“The grass in the meadow
is long enough.
If the sun shines tomorrow,
I'll mow it.”
“Yes” said his wife,
“it will make good hay.”
Next morning
the farmer's wife got up early.
The sun was shining brightly.
She woke her husband.

“Wake up!” she said.
“The sun is shining!
Let us mow the grass.”
“Oh!” said the farmer, “I’m tired.
I want to sleep a little longer.”
So he went back to sleep.
After a while the farmer’s wife
woke her husband again.
“The sun is shining!” she said,
“We must make the hay.”

Soon they had eaten all the grass.
The little goats began to cry.
“We want to go back!” they said.
“Back to the other side.
There the sun was sunnier,
the sky was clearer
and the grass was greener!”

Off they went again:

tritt trott

tritty trott

hoppetty skip

hoppetty hoppetty skip

all the way up to the top of the hill
and down again on the other side.

It was true!

They saw it with their own eyes:

The grass was much greener.

“We'll stay here,” said the goats.

After a short time
they had eaten all the grass.
One old goat said,
“The grass was greener
on the other side.”
So off they went once more -
jumping and skipping and trotting
up the hill and down again,
all the way up the hill
and down on the other side,
all the way up to the top of the hill
and down again on the other side.
So, to this very day,
the goats are still running
from one side of the hill
to the other -
and are never satisfied
with what they have ...

*... the grass is always greener
on the other side of the hill!*

A stitch in time saves nine!

SCENE 1: In the morning.

Daughter: Goodbye Mummy,
I'm off to school!

Mother: Put your gloves on dear -
it's rather cool.

Daughter: A tiny hole, oh dear me ...
but never mind,
no-one will see.

Mother: One little stitch
will do the trick -
here's a needle, fix it quick.

Daughter: This is too much work for me.
I think I'll do it after tea.

Mother: Dearest daughter,
don't be so lazy –
do it at once!
You're driving me crazy!

Daughter: I'm off to take the dog
for a walk.

Mother: When you get back
we'll have a little talk!

SCENE III: A little later

Daughter: Mummy, just look at this
great big hole!

Mother: Goodness gracious,
bless my soul!
I've been telling you
all the time:

*A stitch
in time
saves nine!*