

Treasure Hunt Story

There once was a little boy who lived in a log cabin in the middle of the woods, at the end of a very long driveway. Along the side of the driveway was a line of many many evergreen trees. His parents planted these trees along the driveway when they built the cabin in the woods many years ago. Over the years the trees had grown big and strong just like him. His parents had chosen evergreen trees because they would hold onto their needles all year long, and in the winter they would be able to help protect the very long driveway from big snowstorms, so the family could still come and go from their house.

The trees helped the family and also were a great place for the little boy to play! There were so many of them. In the summer the little boy could sit below them in their shade and stay cool from the hot sun. He could play hide and seek behind them because they were so big and tall. He could also play his favorite game of treasure hunt! In this game he would hide a piece of treasure for his friends or family to try and find. There were so many trees to hide treasure in, either on the ground below or in their branches. But when this game first started, the little boy would sometimes forget where he hid his treasure. It could take hours for him to search every tree and find the lost treasure. So he came up with a way to remember more easily. He gave each of the trees names! And then when he hid a treasure, he would say to himself, "I hid a gold coin at the bottom of my tree friend Brenda."

And then he would never forget where the gold coin was hidden! The little boy realized that he could use this strategy anywhere. Whenever he would go for walks in the woods behind his house, or hikes at the mountain, or walks near the pond, he would pick out landmarks to give names to. And this made it much much easier to remember where he had been and to not get lost on his way back. When he would walk by a very large boulder he would say, "There is Roger Rock!" When he walked by a patch of wildflowers he would say, "There are my friends the Smiths!" When he saw a birds nest he would say, "Ah there is the Golden Kingdom! "And so on and so on. And the little boy used this trick everywhere he went and it was lots of fun.

One day, his friend Bob the Chicken said, "You know what, I've been hearing about your amazing treasure hunts. I'd love to do one but I am not sure how I can figure out where the treasure is. Have you ever thought of making a map?"

"Oh", said the boy, "That's a great idea!" Instead of going all the way inside to find a pencil and paper to draw a map, he decided to make one using natural materials he found outside. He made a map of his yard, showing the long driveway with small rocks, and the evergreen trees growing down the side with fallen bundles of needles. He made his log house out of sticks. Once his 3D nature map was finished, he dug around inside his pockets and found a small piece of yarn, that he used to mark where he would hide the treasure from his friend Bob the Chicken. The little boy

went to his garden and picked a few fresh strawberries, which he knew were both his and Bobs favorite snack, and hid them as the treasure.

“OK Bob”, said the little boy, “Are you ready to go on one of my amazing treasure hunts?”

“Of course!” said Bob, “I can’t wait to see what the treasure is!”

Bob studied the map that the little boy made very carefully. He could see all of the big landmarks from the boys yard clearly shown on the map, and saw the yarn marking the spot where he could find the treasure. Suddenly Bob yelled, “I’ve got it!”

And he took off, the boy followed close behind. The Chicken led them to the tree closest to the house, and when they got there, Bob discovered the pile of fresh strawberries.

“Ahoy matey I’ve found the treasure!” He said. (Bob loved to talk like a pirate!) “And yummy! Strawberries are my favorite.”

The boy and the Chicken sat down and enjoyed the yummy snack together under the evergreen tree, making a plan for where to make the next treasure hunt!