

A Field of Stars

A little boy heard that the farmer who lived at the edge of his little town had a field of stars. The little boy really wanted to see the stars, so he asked his mom if he could go visit the farmer. His mom knew the farmer, so she said, “Yes, if you will be careful, look both ways when crossing the street and be polite.”

The little boy hurried to the farmer’s house, gently knocked on the door. The farmer opened the door.

“Yes?” said the farmer.

“I hear you have a field of stars”, said the little boy.

“Oh, yes. I do,” said the farmer.

“May I see them?” asked the little boy.

“Of course,” said the farmer. “Just go down this road to the corner, turn to the right and look on the left. There are the stars.”

The little boy was so excited. He ran down the road, turned to the right and looked on the left. He looked up, down, and all around. He didn’t see any stars.

The little boy went back to the farmer’s house. He gently knocked on the farmer’s door.

“Yes?” said the farmer.

“I didn’t find the stars,” said the little boy, disappointed.

“Well,” said the farmer, “after you turn to the right at the corner, just walk through that gate on the left and into that field.”

“OK,” said the little boy, very excited.

The little boy ran down the road again, turned the corner to the right, went in the gate on the left. All he saw was trees. He looked up, down, and all around. He was so disappointed.

He ran back to the farmer’s house and gently knocked on the door again.

“Yes?” said the farmer, “Did you see the stars?”

“No!” said the little boy, “and I think I went just where you told me to go.

“Well,” said the farmer. “May I just go with you?”

“Yes!” said the little boy. “Please go with me.”

So the farmer and the little boy walked down the road, because most farmers don’t run. As they were walking, the farmer told the little boy that you can’t see some of the good things in life—you just have to believe. You have to believe in yourself. You have to believe in the good of your family and friends. And you have to believe in the good.

Well, when they got to the corner, turned to the right and walked through the gate on the left, they walked into the field and right up to a tree. The old farmer pulled an apple from the tree, took his pocket knife out of his pocket (because all farmers carry a pocket knife), and he carefully cut the apple in half. Sure enough, there were two stars.

Apples are not a recognized agricultural commodity in Oklahoma. There are not enough orchards that sell to the public to be included in the gross cash receipts of agricultural products sold in our state. Apples do grow in Oklahoma, though, and many people have them in their yards.

Bring an apple and a knife to class. Before telling the story, explain that the apple is the same shape as the earth, a sphere, and has a north pole and a south pole. In order to reveal the stars, you will be cutting the apple on the equator as you tell the story.

1. How many stars would the farmer have if he had 10 apples on one tree?
2. How many stars would the farmer have if he had 10 trees with 25 apples on each tree?
3. How many stars would the farmer have if he had 6 trees and each tree had 26 apples?

Science question:

How many times could you cut the same apple and still find a star?