

JOHNNY AND WILLY THE WORM FIND A CARROT.

One day, Johnny the centipede was crawling lazily through some clumps of earth, wondering what he was going to do today. It was a sunny morning in autumn. The bean plants were all gone; the people had dug them under with a spade one day because they wanted the place where the beans had been, to put new strawberry plants in, which they did. When Johnny crawled through the ground these days, he often came across a bit of bean plant that had been dug under.

He was just sort of thinking what strawberry plants were good for when Willy the worm wriggled out of the soil and said to him "Hello, Johnny!". Johnny said "Hello Willy" back and then suggested that they go for a little walk.

"Or for a little wriggle, as the case may be" answered Willy, who was, as you know, a worm, and therefore had no legs and had to move around by wriggling. He wasn't unhappy about this because he didn't mind getting dirty and also he never had to clean any shoes.



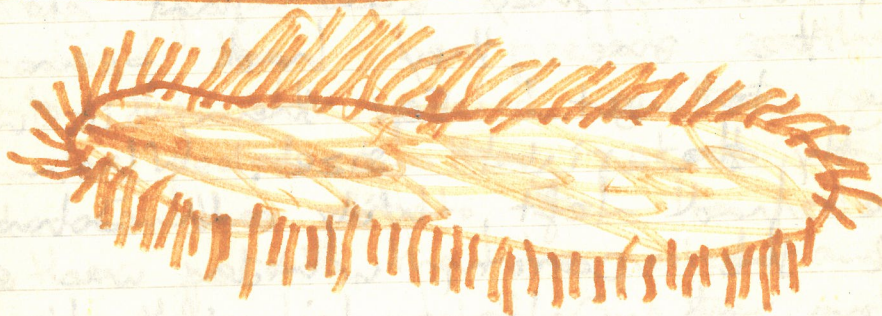
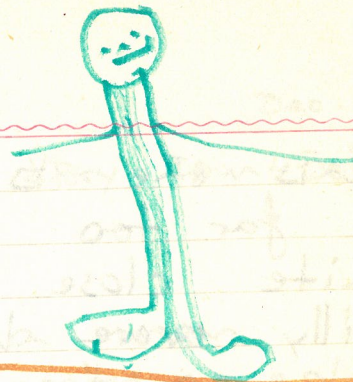
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So they left, Johnny using his many legs, still wondering how many and also wondering why he had so many when his friend Willy was alright with none - and Willy moving along wriggling. After some time there were no more strawberry plants and no more left-over bean plant bits in the soil and they were on an empty bit. When they got across this they were in a little forest of carrot plants, looking very nice and fresh green. Johnny wondered how he and Willy could get one out to take home. They pulled and pulled at a little plant, but the carrot refused to come out.

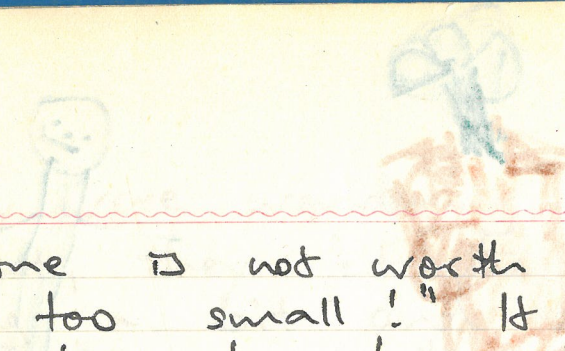


As they were wondering what to try next, they felt the ground shaking a bit and a big shadow fell across them and the carrot. Suddenly, a giant hand reached down and grabbed the leaves of their carrot, and pulled hard at it. A human was trying to pull the carrot out! But all that happened was that the leaves and stalks gave a loud "SNAP" and broke off, leaving the carrot still sitting in the ground.





The next thing they saw was a spade coming down, and the earth being turned over. A lot of carrots fell down, out of the soil at last! The person with the spade picked them all up, but after looking at them, threw one down again, saying



"This one is not worth eating. It is far too small!" It landed quite close to where Johnny and Willy were hiding behind the rock, and they saw that it was just the one they had been trying to get! For them, it was exactly the right size. When the people had left, Willy and Johnny pulled the carrot, which was about as long as Johnny himself, home. Willy and Johnny's family lived off this carrot for a whole week.