

THE MONEY IN THE POT OF BUTTER

Ghana

Coffie had to go on a long journey. He felt ill at ease as he was sure thieves would come and steal his money while he was away so he decided to hide his coins in a pot of butter. He took the pot to his neighbour, Afi, and said, "Please keep this pot of butter for me till I come back."

A week passed, two weeks passed and then a month passed but Coffie did not return. Afi thought, "I'm afraid the butter in the pot will become rancid." So Afi began eating the butter until, to his surprise, the money was revealed at the bottom of the pot. He took out the money, wiped it clean, replaced the coins with many small stones and packed fresh butter on top of them.

Eventually, Coffie came back to the village and immediately went to Afi's to retrieve his pot. With a sly smile, Afi handed it over. Coffie thanked him and took the pot home. Once there, he scooped out the butter but to his horror he only found the stones at the bottom. He was very angry to be so deceived by a neighbour who he had trusted.

Just then, his friend, Kwasi, came to visit and was concerned to find Coffie in such distress.

"Oh, I am a foolish man! I've been swindled!" wailed Coffie and he told him the story about the pot of butter, the money and the small stones. Kwasi thought long and hard for a response to Afi's treachery and then, with a click of his fingers, he knew what Coffie had to do...

The next day, Coffie set off into the jungle with a net, trapped a monkey and brought it home. Then, with a spring in his step, he went to Afi's house.

Afi was a little flustered at Coffie's arrival but his neighbour just smiled at him and asked, "Can your son come with me to the market to help me carry my bags home?"

Afi was relieved and, still eager to act the selfless neighbour, he agreed to Coffie's request. Coffie took the boy home and locked him in a cupboard then, after a while, he returned to Afi's with the monkey.

"Afi, here is your son," he said amiably, pointing at the monkey.

Afi was baffled but then he was filled with fury. "Take that filthy beast away and bring me back my beloved son!" he cried out.

"Why, this is your son, Afi!" exclaimed Coffie with a mischievous grin, "Without a doubt, if money can turn into small stones then a boy can turn into a monkey!"

Afi leapt out of his skin! His dishonesty had been discovered and he was filled with remorse. He fetched the money and gave it to Coffie who returned home to release the boy, laughing all the way.

That evening, Coffie was taking a stroll with Kwasi, thanking him for his help. He wanted to reward him with some of the money but his friend would not accept it.

"We are friends, are we not?" Kwasi said, "Friends should always help each other but never take money for it!"

	TASK					
MONDAY Vocabulary development and Familiarisation	Skim the text. Can you quickly find the following words? <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>rancid</td> <td>deceived</td> <td>treachery</td> <td>amiably</td> <td>remorse</td> </tr> </table> Write down each word followed by its definition and at least one synonym. Can you write sentences that include these words?	rancid	deceived	treachery	amiably	remorse
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WEDNESDAY Word Attack	Answer the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does the phrase 'ill at ease' mean? 2. Find a word that means 'cheated'. 3. 'Afi leapt out of his skin'. What kind of reaction does this describe? 4. Find a synonym for the word 'confused'. 					
FRIDAY Focused Comprehension Skills	Answer the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why do you think Coffie 'immediately' went to Afi's to get his pot of butter back? 2. Why does Coffie have 'a spring in his step' when he returns to Afi's house? 3. Afi was 'flustered' when Coffie comes to his house but then 'relieved' when he asked if his son could help him at the market. What might Afi be thinking during this part of the story? 4. What does the phrase 'eager to act the selfless neighbour' tell us about Afi's character? 					