

Netaro and the Sandals

Once upon a time, there lived a very lazy boy named Netaro. He would sleep and sleep and never helped his parents. His father would get angry with him, but Netaro just ignored him. One day, he asked his father to build him a boat. His father asked him why he wanted a boat, but Netaro wouldn't tell him. His father became angry but decided to build him the boat anyway, if only Netaro promised to sail the boat and stop being lazy.

Netaro agreed, but only if his father also promised to fill the boat with new sandals. His father thought he might be crazy instead of lazy, but he agreed. After the boat was built and filled with new sandals, Netaro sailed to a far-away island famous for its goldmines. Netaro told the people there that he would trade them his new sandals for their old ones.

The people thought he was a little crazy, too. But the new sandals look very comfortable, so they gave Netaro their old, worn sandals and put on the new ones. Netaro filled the boat with all the old sandals and sailed back home.

When he reached home, his father asked what he planned to do with all the old sandals. Netaro asked his father to wash the sandals first, and then he would tell him. His father became angry, but he was so used to his lazy son that he took a bucket and washed the old sandals without thinking.

As soon as his father had finished washing all the sandals, Netaro walked over to him and, without saying a word, drained the water from the bucket. There, at the bottom of the bucket, was a large mound of gold. The gold from the mine had been stuck to the old sandals!

With the gold, Netaro made his family very rich, and his father never called him lazy again.

(317wds)