Packrat’s Perfect Treasure

by Guy Belleranti

Packrat jumped out of bed.
"Yippee! Today is treasure hunt day!"

He munched a fast breakfast then dug through his nest. First, he found his favorite hat. He plopped it on his head. Then, he found his favorite sunglasses. He stuck them on his snout.

"Lovely treasures here I come!"

Packrat scampered past spiny cacti, but he didn’t see any treasures.

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"Tortoise! I didn’t know you were a rock."

"I’m not," Tortoise said, giggling again.

"Oh."

Packrat blinked. "Tortoise! I didn’t know you were a rock."

"I’m not," Tortoise said, giggling again.

"Oh." Packrat frowned. "Too bad, because you would’ve made a perfect treasure."
"Maybe you can find a perfect treasure if you keep searching," Tortoise suggested. "I'll be happy to help. I've never hunted for treasure before."

"Let's go!"

So go they did. But not fast because Tortoise had only one speed. SLOW.

They passed several big boulders and tall saguaro cacti with arms but saw nothing that looked like a treasure.

Soon they came to a small hole in the ground. "Eureka!" Packrat cried. "We'll widen the hole and find my treasure!"

But before he and Tortoise could start digging Tarantula's hairy, scowling face peeked out of the hole. "What's with the racket? Can't a spider get some sleep around here?"

Packrat sighed. "Oh, dear me, it's you, Tarantula. Why couldn't you have been a treasure?"

"What do you mean?"

"I mean I'm on a treasure hunt and even though Tortoise is helping I still can't find any treasure."

"Maybe you need more eyes? I have eight of 'em. Let me come along and we'll be sure to find treasure. And I'll get to stretch and exercise my eight legs at the same time."

"Let's go!"

So go they did. But not fast because Tarantula and Tortoise had only one speed. The same speed. SLOW.

They passed more cacti, more boulders, more shrubs and more trees, but saw nothing that looked like a treasure.
Then, they felt a gust of wind. And behind the wind was more wind in the shape of a swirling dust devil.

"I bet my treasure's in the middle of that," Packrat yelled. "Let's duck behind this bush until it spins to a stop."

They didn't have long to wait. For out of the settling dust stepped…

"Roadrunner!" Tortoise gasped.

"What a strange treasure," Tarantula said. They didn't have long to wait. For out of the settling dust stepped…

"He's not a treasure," Packrat grumbled. "And we're having no luck at all," he moaned. "Three times I thought I had found my treasure. And three times I've been wrong. I've struck out in my treasure hunt! Wah-wah-wah!

"Dear me!" Roadrunner said. "Here, take a swig from my water bottle before you cry all your tears out."

Packrat drank from the bottle. Then he drank some more. And some more.

"Oh no," Tortoise said. "Packrat's really upset. He's going to drink so much he'll turn into a hairy water balloon and pop!"

But Packrat didn't pop. He handed the water bottle back to Roadrunner and smiled. "Thank you, Roadrunner. Thank you everyone. That much needed moisture got..."
my brain working right again. I've realized I have found my perfect treasure. Three perfect treasures, in fact."

"You have?" asked Tortoise.

"What are they?" Tarantula asked.

"Tell us quick," added Roadrunner.

"Friends," Packrat said. "Friends like you, Tortoise, and you, Tarantula, who helped me search. And a friend like you, Roadrunner, who gave me water so I wouldn't dry up and blow away in the wind. Friends like you three are the best treasures of all.

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1) What lesson do we learn from Packrat’s treasure-hunt story?
   a) We sometimes forget to experience the treasure we have and chase other big ones which don’t exist.
   b) We must always strive for better things in life no matter how happy we are.
   c) People should never be content about their current possessions.
   d) Life is an endless journey and the search for good never stops.

2) Why did the writer specially choose to introduce the three friends in the story?

3) Complete the words and use them in sentences of your own.
   scam _ered
   scu _ied
   gi _ed

4) Do you think Packrat went hunting for treasure again?

5) ‘May be you can find a perfect treasure if you keep searching for it.’ is taken from the text. What does the writer mean by this?
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2) Why did the writer specially choose to introduce the three friends in the story?
   The writer chose to introduce the three friends to make it clear that help often comes from where it is least expected.

3) Complete the words and use them in sentences of your own.
   scam ered
gi led
scu ied
scampered
scurried
giggled

4) Do you think Packrat went hunting for treasure again?
   No, because he had already found the true treasure, his friends: the Tortoise, the Tarantula and the Roadrunner.

5) ‘May be you can find a perfect treasure if you keep searching for it.’ is taken from the text. What does the writer mean by this?
   Answers may vary.