

# LITTLE GROWLING BIRD - WINDEGO LAND



Last week you were told how the Play-Store was built and how Little Bear and Aundak came to trade without having any money to pay for the goods they wanted. They did a very wicked thing, indeed, when they STOLE the maple-sugar and the corn, and ran away into the woods with it. And they did not come back until they had eaten it all up! When they DID come back there was a great surprise in store for them! Big Bear had built a strong cage of sharp sticks while they were away, and as soon as they came sneaking around trying to make friends, he grabbed them both and shoved them inside, fastening them in securely. They spent the night in the little jail and all they got the next morning for breakfast was dry bread and water! Yellow Hair wrote on a strip of birch bark, "This is a jail for THIEFS!" and fastened it to the cage.



Little Bear and Aundak were in deep disgrace and they felt very guilty, indeed. They said they were sorry and would never do it again, and offered to do chores to pay for the things they took if Nokomis and the children would forgive them and let them out. Nokomis was a very kind-hearted Grandmother, and she soon thought of a way out of the trouble. She went to the Birch-Bark Trunk (where all the nice presents were kept) and brought out a lot of pretty glass beads, also a string of Wampum "beads," made of round pieces of clam-shell. She lent the Wampum to Little Bear, and the glass beads to Aundak, telling them to take them and pay what they owed at the Play-Store. Then Big Bear broke open the "jail" and set them free while the children went off, hand in hand, to open the store for business.



Little Bear carried the Wampum to the Play-Store and paid for the maple-sugar he had "hooked." Like all little bears (and MOST little BOYS) he then asked for "Shum-eh-nuh"—a small present—for paying what he owed. Although he didn't deserve it, Little Growing Bird was kind enough to give him a funny Jumping-Jack to encourage him to be honest. Now, Nokomis had put the glass beads in Aundak's drinking pan, which he took in his beak and carried toward the Play-Store; but, before he quite got there, he stopped to look over and admire them. They looked so smooth and bright, he thought it would be a pity to pay them ALL out for a single ear of corn. "I'll pay HALF and keep HALF! That's fair enough!" he said. So he began swallowing one after another of the pretty beads, pretending to count them. Well—



After Aundak had reckoned up to FIFTEEN he lost count and, of course, had to begin all over again! And so he went on, picking up the beads and swallowing them, one by one, until only a few were left. His crop was now so full and heavy that he lost his balance and tumbled over headforemost. Little Bear was so happy playing with the Jumping-Jack and licking the paint off it that he didn't notice the trouble that Aundak was in. But there was another kind of trouble brewing! The sky suddenly began to darken and a clap of thunder burst loudly overhead! Big Bear called out to the children to run to the Wigwam, as a rain-storm was coming. But Growing Bird was not afraid of the thunder, and, besides, he wanted to stay in the Play-Store and see if the rain could get in and spoil the goods.



As the big rain-drops began to fall Yellow Hair noticed that there was something wrong with Aundak. She ran out and picked him up and carried him inside the Play-Store. And Little Bear, too, was badly frightened when he heard the peal of thunder and the rush of the coming rain. He dropped his "Jump-up Man" and scrambled wildly to get into the little Play-Store. You see, the Bear People are afraid of the roar of UH-NEME-KE, the THUNDER SPIRIT. They think it is the growling of the GREAT "NAKED BEAR," who lives in the Medicine Caves of the Windego Mountains, and who is so large and terrible that he could eat up all the rest of the bears in a couple of mouthfuls! So when they hear the growling and snarling of UH-NEME-KE they think he is angry, and hide themselves until he goes back to his cave. Well—



Nokomis was glad to see the warm spring rain. She knew that "April showers bring May flowers!" And Growing Bird—HE guessed, when he saw how Aundak's chest was all "puffed out," where the bead-money had gone. He turned Mister Crow upside down and squeezed his crop until all the beads ran out of his mouth! Because birds have no teeth, they must swallow small stones to grind their food—but Aundak had rather overdone it! Anyway, he paid his debt without the trouble of "doing sums"! And, ever since then, the Crow People—and their cousins, the Ravens, and the Magpies—like to steal pretty shiny things! What they cannot swallow, they carry off to hide in their nests, or in other secret places. They are called the "Bird Mice"—because they make no use of their treasures. But, then, they have no Play-Store to trade in. A. T. C.