

The Three Students



Long ago, children used to study in residential dormitories and had to go to a learned rishi's or sage's place. They had to stay with him and learn, but these schools were away from their homes.



There was a famous sage called Vishwashrut. One day, three of his students asked permission to return home as their studying was over. Sage Vishwashrut permitted them as he felt that he needed to test them whether they were ready to leave.



As they were packing their belongings, the sage secretly spread thorns all over the path of the three boys and waited to see what they would do.



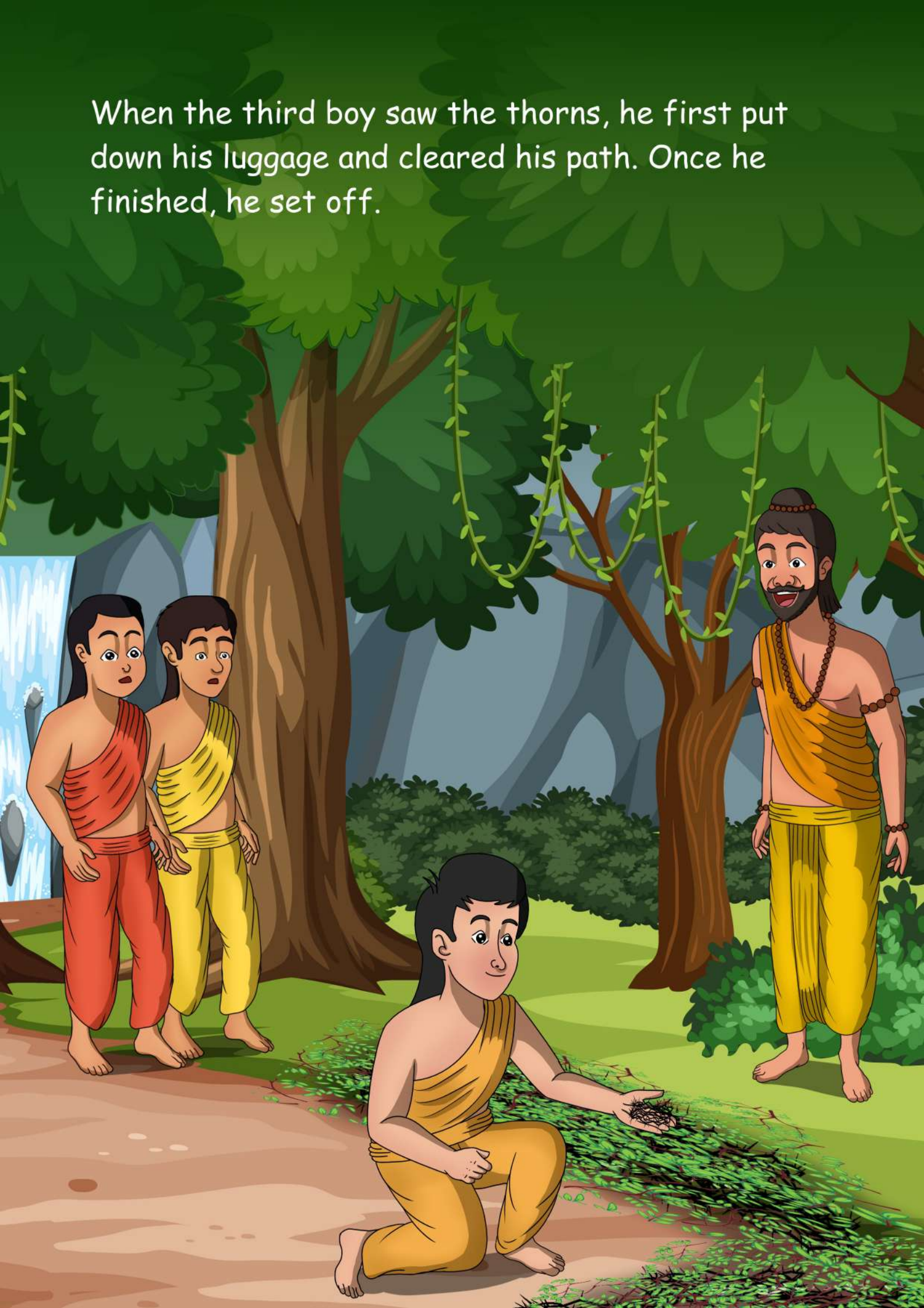
When the first boy saw the thorns, he hopped across and somehow reached the other side.



When the second boy saw the thorns, he tried hopping for a little while but turned back.



When the third boy saw the thorns, he first put down his luggage and cleared his path. Once he finished, he set off.



The sage let the third boy go, but called the first two boys back.

"You have a lot more to study."

said the Sage Vishwashrut.

"Learning teaches us to remove the thorns from our path and the path of others. You did not do this. You gave in to the thorns. Stay back and learn a little bit more about life."



When you study,
you also learn
about life.

