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READER 8: The strangest thing happened to Stanley last April. In fact, it was so odd I fear you won't believe the story even after you've heard it.

READER 2: All we ask is that you keep an open mind. Who knows, it might happen to you someday.

READER 1: The first of April was a beautiful day. It was bright and sunny. Stanley didn't have anything special to do, so he went down to the stream.

READER 7: He loved it there. The water ran fast and made a gurgling noise as it passed. There was an old apple tree beside the stream just right for climbing and a big rock at the water's edge.

READER 1: Stanley was sitting under the apple tree without a care in the world.

4/STANLEY: I think I'll whittle a nice sharp point on that stick.

READER 2: He reached in his pocket and pulled out his penknife. The blade glittered in the sunlight. Then he picked up the stick and was just about to make the first cut when he heard:

READER 1: "DON'T!"

4/STANLEY: Who said that?

READER 8: Stanley looked around to see who had called out to him, but no one was there.

- 4/STANLEY:** The wind in the branches must be playing tricks on my ears.
- READER 7:** Satisfied with this explanation, he again started to make a cut in the stick.
- READER 1:** Just then an apple fell off the tree and hit Stanley smack-dab on top of the head.
- 4/STANLEY:** Ow!
- READER 2:** "Didn't you hear the stick say, 'Don't'?"
- READER 8:** The apple was talking!
- 4/STANLEY:** Wait a minute. What's going on?
- READER 2:** Because he was confused and a little worried, Stanley picked up the apple and threw it at the big rock. It hit with such force it splattered all over the place.
- READER 7:** "Just who do you think is going to clean up this mess?"
- READER 2:** said the rock. Stanley was more than a little worried now.
- READER 8:** "You should watch your manners."
- READER 2:** Stanley whirled around and couldn't believe his eyes. A fish in the stream had poked its head out of the water and was talking to him!