

READER 1: In Manitoba, once upon a time, a farmer's wife went out to her garden to dig carrots. Instead, she dug up a pot of gold.

READER 2: The wife was overjoyed at her luck! She called to her husband and only son, and when they saw the pot of gold, they danced all over the turnip greens, threw golden coins at the crabapple tree, and shouted,

FARMER/BOY: "We're rich! We're rich!"

READER 3: But the wife said,

WIFE: "We must keep this good fortune a secret. There isn't enough gold here to share with all our greedy kinfolk. And the truth is, we've got greedy kinfolk from here to Prince Edward Island!"

READER 3: The husband and son agreed.

READER 1: The next day, however, the son could not keep his tongue and told everyone at school about the pot of gold.

READER 2: News travels fast on the prairies and soon everyone in town knew about the pot of gold.

READER 3: Finally, word reached the farmer and his wife that kinfolk from far and wide were headed their way. The wife said to her husband,

WIFE: "Don't worry dear. I have a plan!"

READER 1: Then she told her husband all about it.

READER 2: The next morning the wife called to her son and said,

WIFE: "My boy, we have received bad news. This very night there is to be another Silly-Willy Canada Goose War and we must prepare ourselves for it."

5/BOY: "Silly-Willy Canada Goose War!"

READER 2: cried the boy.

5/BOY: "What is that, and have we had one before, and mercy me, whatever shall we do?"

WIFE: "The last war was fought before you were born. Now, you must follow my words carefully and do just as I suggest, or the geese will surely peck out the hair on your head! When the time comes, hide yourself in the flat-roofed shed. We will lock the door and board the windows. Your hair will be saved!"

5/BOY: "Sounds silly to me,"

READER 2: said the boy.

5/BOY: "But I will do as I am told."