

A whimsical illustration of a young fairy with brown hair, rosy cheeks, and a green leafy headband. She has large, translucent green wings and is wearing a green dress. She is barefoot and is swinging happily on a thick green vine. The background is filled with various shades of green leaves and foliage, creating a lush forest atmosphere. The overall style is soft and painterly.

Rosa M. Curto / Aleix Cabrera

The
fairies
tell us about...
Generosity

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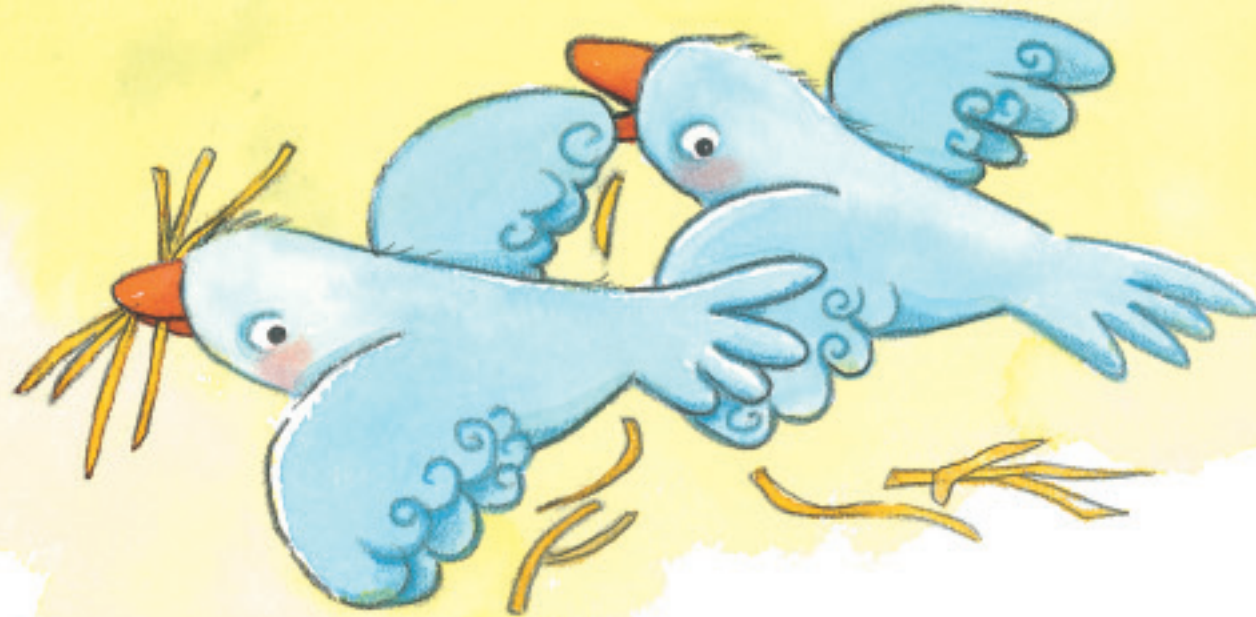
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The spring began to awaken lazily in the Forest of Dreams and the apple tree belonging to Egolina the fairy was in full bloom; “This year, it will surely bear fruits!” thought the fairy. “The tree is already quite big.”





The fairy dreamt about everything she would do with her apples and wrote it down on a parchment. When they ripened, she would gather them together in piles and eat one whenever she felt like it. She would make juices, compotes, jams and cakes, but she would leave all this in the hands of the cooking fairy, who manages better among saucepans and ladles.



Suddenly, she heard a crack-crack a bit higher up. Egolina fluttered up to the treetop and found a pair of little birds building a nest on a branch.

“What are you doing?” she asked them with a worried look on her face. “Haven’t you realized that you’re ruining the leaves? You’ll spoil my harvest. Go away!”

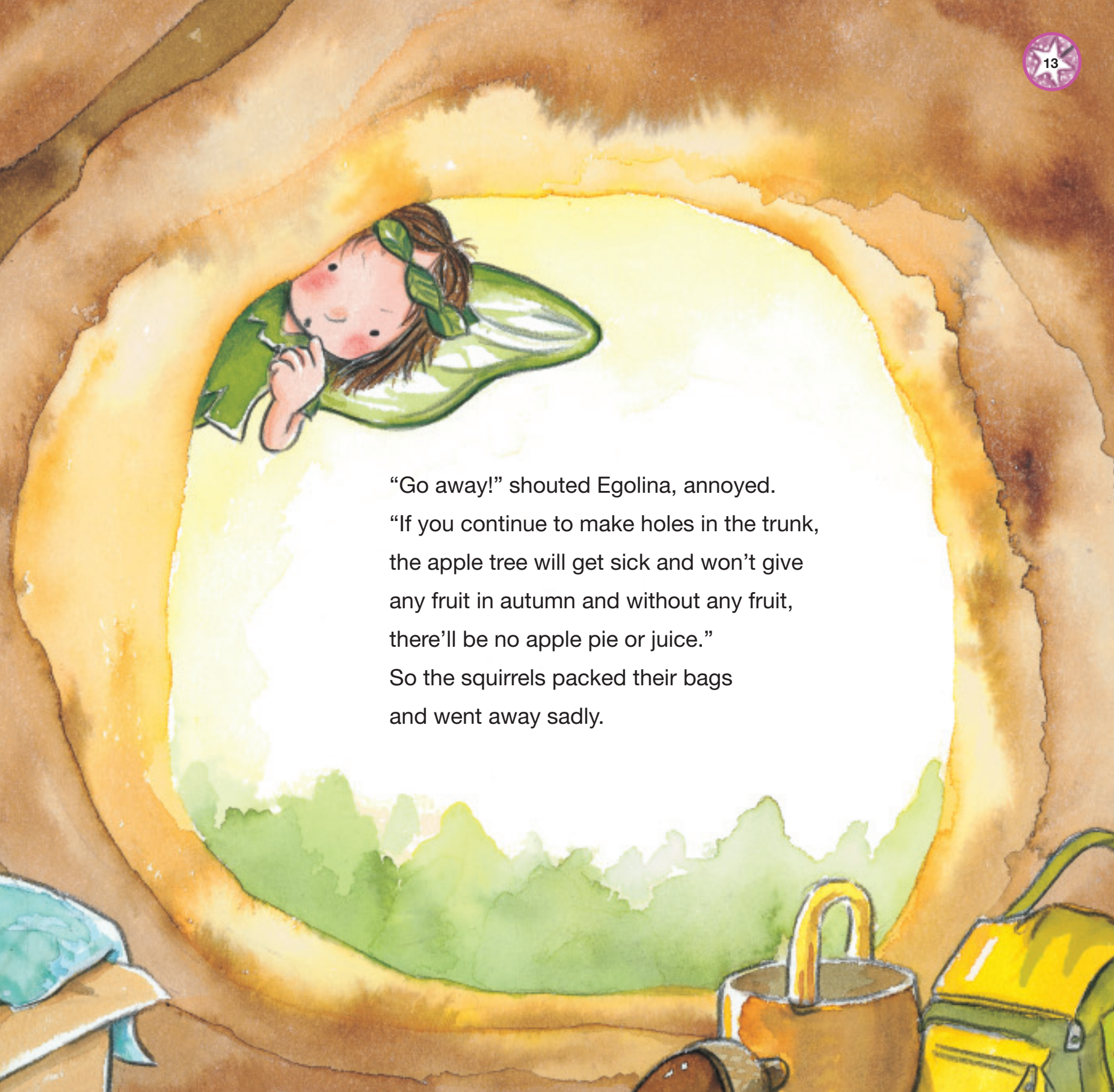




The birds went to find another tree, without saying anything and the fairy breathed easily once again, as she caressed the tenderest leaves of her apple tree. After a while, she heard another sound from below. Scratch-scratch!



A squirrel was scratching the bark insistently to make a hideaway. The rest of the family was carrying loads of junk. They had come to stay and with so many holes... the apple tree was going to look like a piece of cheese!



“Go away!” shouted Egolina, annoyed.
“If you continue to make holes in the trunk,
the apple tree will get sick and won’t give
any fruit in autumn and without any fruit,
there’ll be no apple pie or juice.”
So the squirrels packed their bags
and went away sadly.

Not even three seconds had gone by when the fairy heard yet another noise. Creak-creak. She glanced around and discovered what it was. Three of her friends were swinging happily.





“Three of you at the same time! No, you’ll damage my apple tree!” shouted Egolina. “The game’s over. It’s my swing and from now on, I’ll decide who gets on it”. The three friends fluttered away towards the river bank, while Raclet, the cooking fairy, turned over the thicket near the trunk.





She pulled up sprigs of lavender, thyme and rosemary.
When she noticed Egolina's distasteful glance,
she commented: "The pantry is empty and I'd like
to prepare a soup."

"Well, you'll have to eat something else. My apple tree
is very delicate and I don't want anyone to go near it."



None of the fairies had thyme soup for dinner. But this didn't bother Egolina, because she had managed to stop everyone from touching her things. He swung happily, thinking about her apples and the great autumn harvest.



However, this summer was eternal, because when you are on your own, time passes very slowly. Egolina had begun to miss the games, the laughter, the bird's song and the buzzing of the insects.





The apple blossom was transformed into ripe apples. In spite of this, the fairy felt sad and very lonely. It had been a long time since anybody had swung in her tree and now she had nobody to share her secrets, dreams and apples with. She had been very selfish.



Without giving it any more thought, she fluttered her wings and went to say sorry to everyone. Later, they organized a party to celebrate the harvest and the fairy was happy because she was once again surrounded by smiles, music and chatting. Apple pie certainly tastes better when you have somebody to share it with.



Learning more

Fairy games



Height games

In autumn, the fairies organize spectacular aerial descents with seeds and leaves, without using their wings. That's why the most sought after seeds are flat or umbrella shaped. Some fairies prefer to jump over the spider's webs as if they were little mats.



Water games

You'll rarely find a soaking wet fairy, but you will find them near water.

One of their favorite pastimes is throwing flat stones so that they bounce over the calm waters of a pond. Those who haven't mastered the technique play at changing size and shape. Some even have jumping races.



Creative games

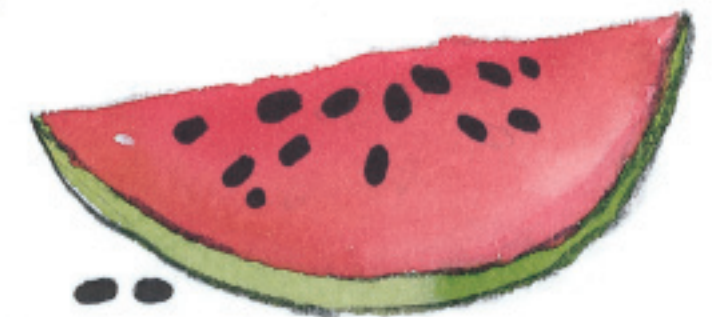
Creativity makes games endless for the fairies. They can make instruments to imitate animal's sounds with anything. They use dry leaves, moss, algae and mushrooms to make amazing compositions.



Different types of seeds

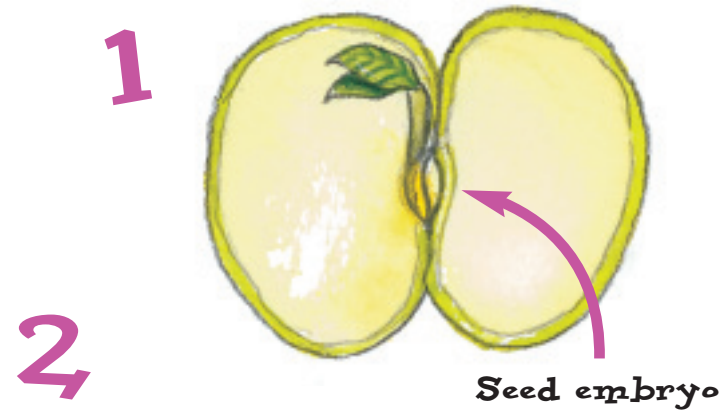
Most plants, whether trees or herbaceous plants, are born from a seed. It's a kind of shell, called an embryo, which protects the plant before it develops.

There are a lot of different types of seeds. You'll see that if you observe some vegetables you know. Look at several examples.



From the seed to the tree

The embryo remains asleep inside the seed until the time arrives and the plant starts to emerge. Then we say that the seed has germinated and the moment at which this takes place depends on each species and on environmental conditions such as light, water, temperature and the level of oxygen in the air. The root is the first part of the plant to come out, thanks to the food contained in the seed. The thin vegetative thread penetrates under the ground to capture water and thus feeds the rest of the plant. Little by little, a thin pale green, almost white stalk comes out from the top.



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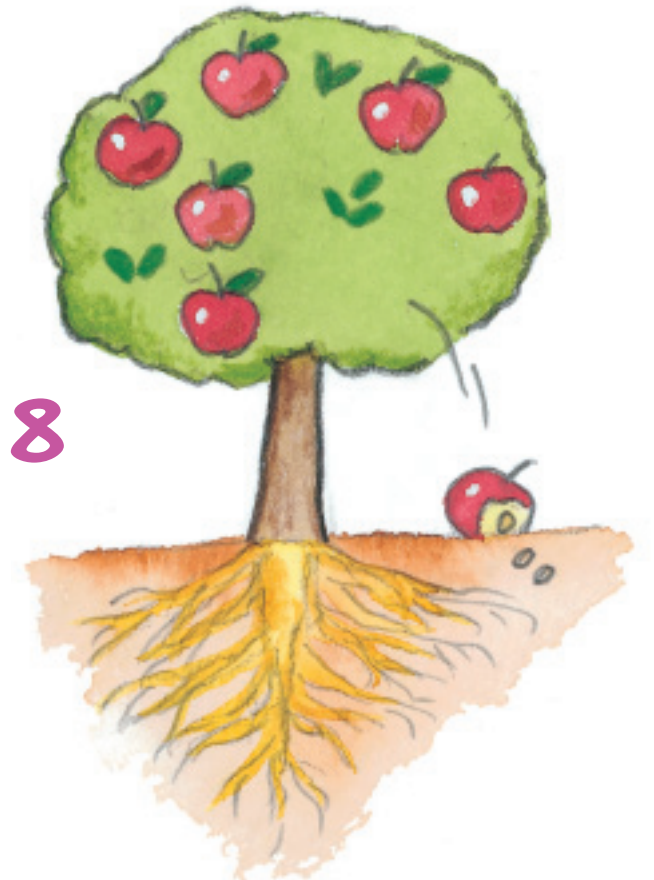
Then leaves and branches develop and the main stalk grows and hardens until it becomes a trunk. The roots absorb water and minerals for the whole life of the tree or plant, but this isn't enough to grow. The sun is the main source of energy and the plant uses its leaves to capture it. With the solar energy, mineral salts, water and air, the plant can produce the materials from which it makes the stalk, leaves and flowers that will later become fruits.

With the passage of time, the fruits grow in size and ripen. On the inside, the seeds are found, which could become new plants when they reach the ground if the surroundings provide the appropriate conditions. Hence the cycle begins over again.

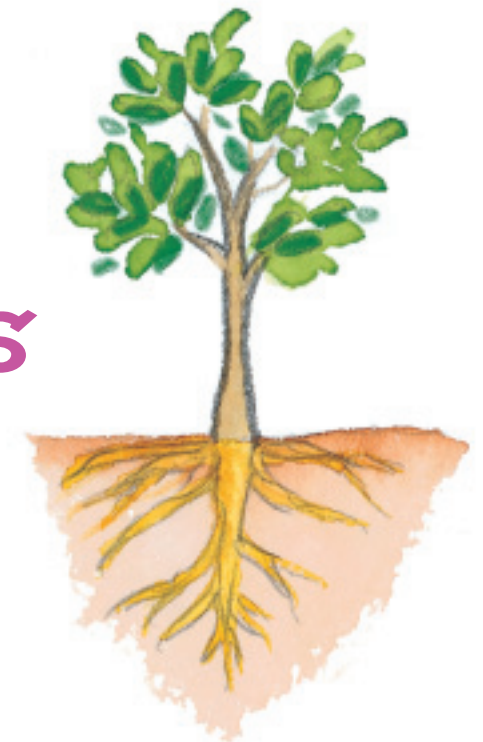
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Generosity

Generosity is the positive attitude of giving without expecting anything in return and sharing what you have with others, though they may not form part of your circle of friends, especially with those who have less than you. That's why some people associate it with charity.

You are generous when you...

Share your sandwich with somebody who has forgotten theirs.

Tidy the house so that everyone feels comfortable.

Listen to a friend while he explains a problem to you.

A generous act comes from your heart in a spontaneous manner and implies sharing anything, whether material like a toy or food, or immaterial like your knowledge, time and efforts.

For a generous person, the act of giving comes from within and similarly, he neither expects anything in return nor expects public recognition or praises for his deeds.

You're not generous if you...

Exclaim "you owe me a favor", when you've helped somebody.

Expect everyone to notice you because of your deeds.

Do somebody else's job, without letting them learn how.

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