

Saturday Chores

(Story words: grow, herbs, flowers)

Phil was going to the garden store. He had a spot in his yard where a tree stump had been taken out. He had planted grass seed and hoped the grass would fill in, but there was still quite a large bare spot. Phil was considering buying some squares of sod to put where the grass seemed most thin.

He asked his son Luis if he wanted to tag along. Luis had nothing much to do and was glad to ride along and do chores with his dad.

When they got to the store, Phil looked for someone to talk to about grass and sod. Luis went over to the displays of seasonal plants and herbs. His dad and mom liked to grow pots of herbs on their deck. They had mint, basil, and oregano already.

Luis saw a plant labeled “catnip.” It was an attractive plant, with green leaves and small lavender flowers on top. A small leaf had dropped into the dirt. Luis crushed the leaf and held it to his nose. It smelled a lot like mint. Luis thought that their cat Leo would be thrilled to have his own stock of catnip.

The man had advised Phil to wait a bit longer before planting sod and to re-seed the bare spot one more time. The fact that the grass was thicker in the other spots made the man suspect that with time the grass would take over in the bare spot too.

Luis asked his dad if they could take home the catnip plant. Phil examined the tag and saw that the plant was five dollars and liked sun. Their deck got a lot of sun, and they had a few pots with nothing planted in them yet.

When they got home, Luis and his dad re-potted the catnip. Luis was thrilled to show Leo the plant. He put Leo right next to the pot, but Leo ignored the catnip and

stepped over to sniff the oregano. “Leo, you are one ungrateful cat,” said Luis.