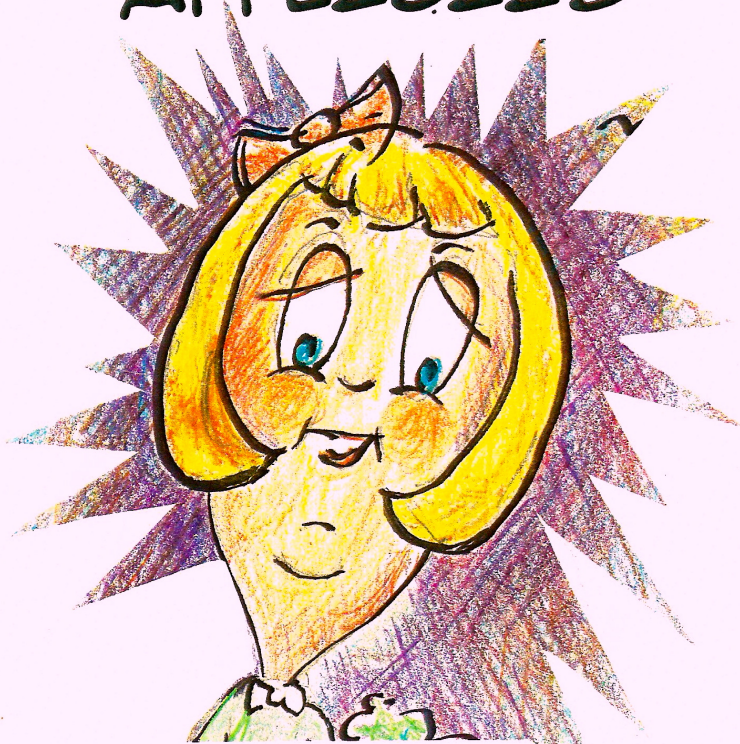


The Parable of
JENNY
APPLESEED



BY ROBERT FITT

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Jenny
Appleseed

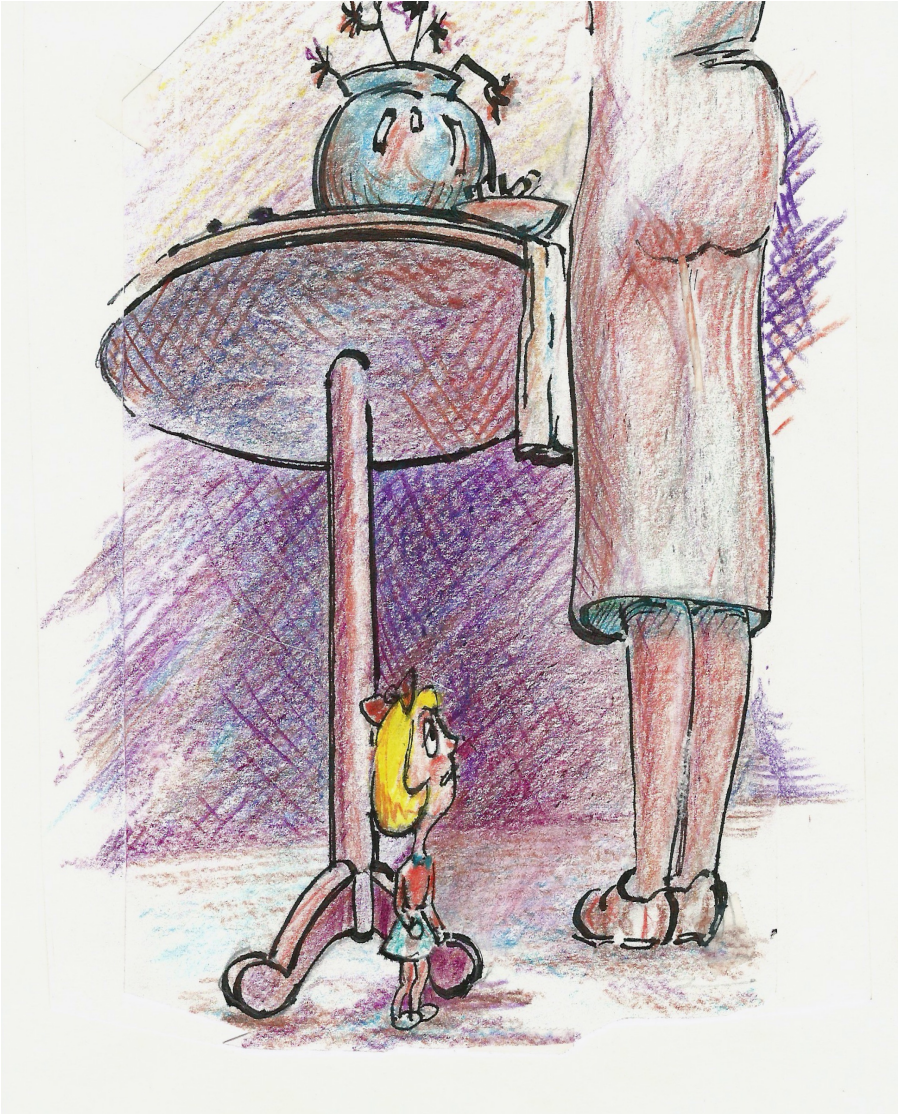
By Robert Fitt

Illustrated by the author in
collaboration with his daughter
Patricia Kirkham.

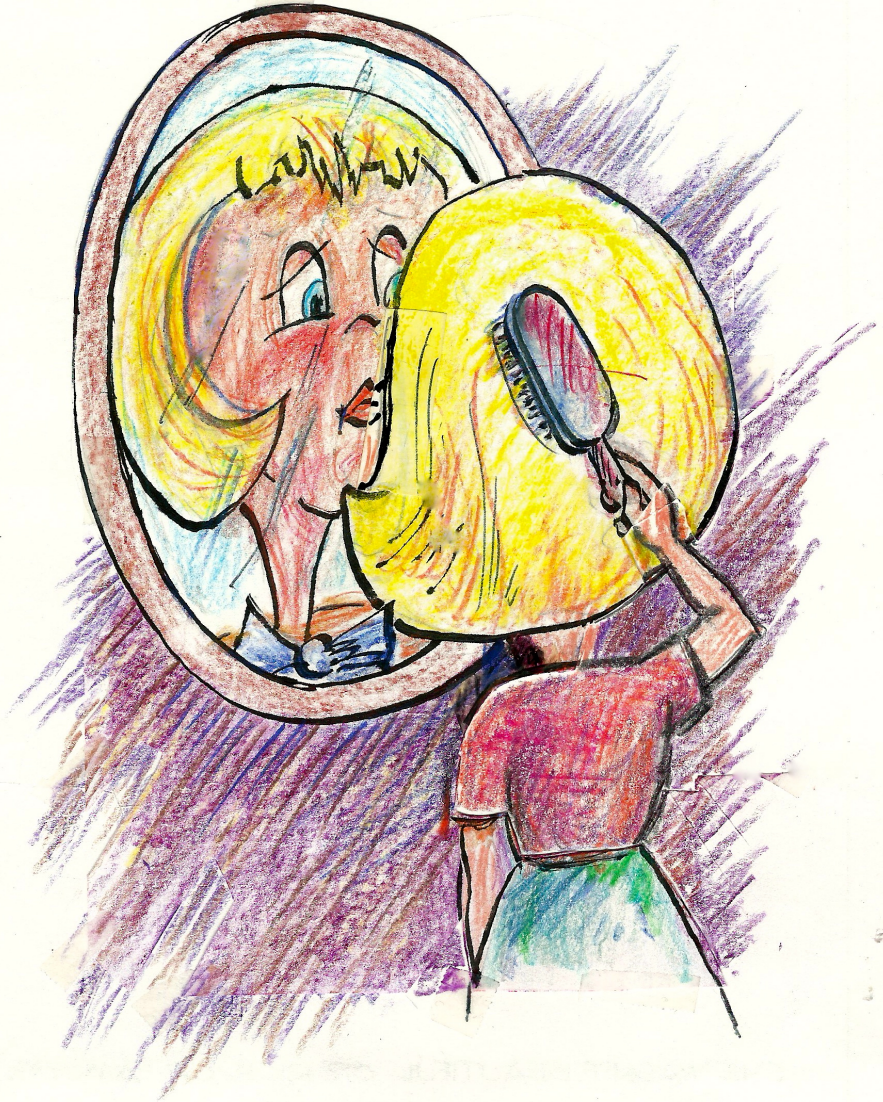
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Once upon a time there was an apple seed named Jenny.



She was so small—such a wee little thing—
that when you looked at her there wasn't
much to see.



She wasn't beautiful, or rich, or famous



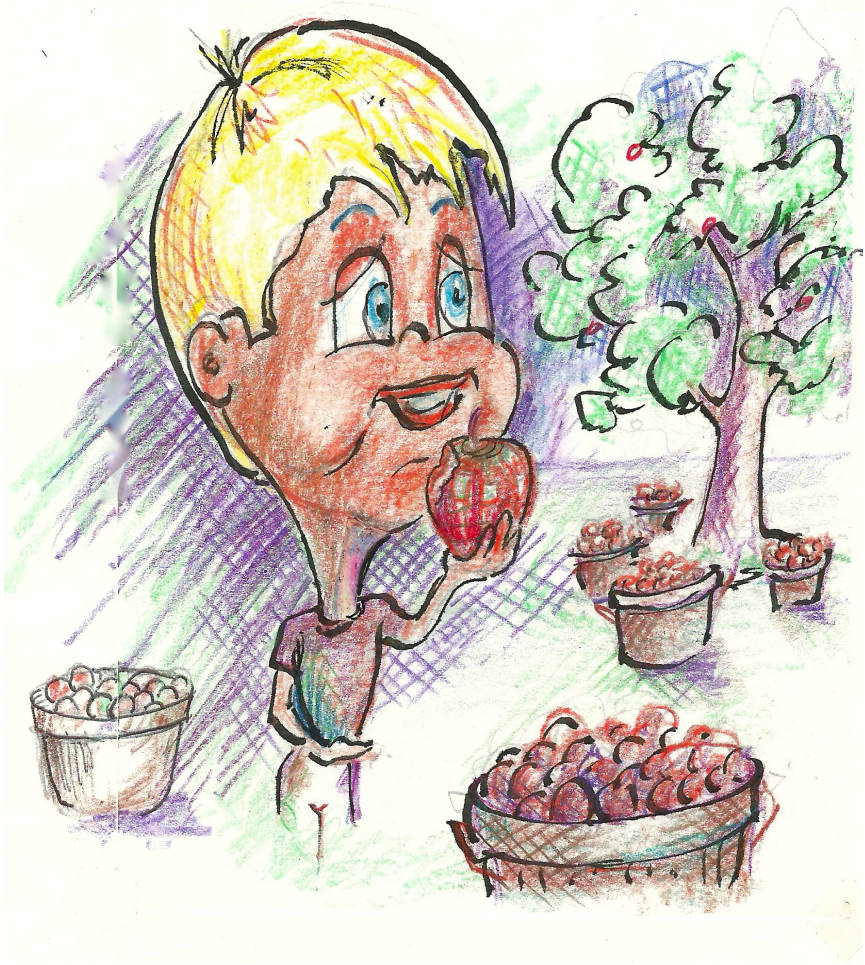
Even in her neighborhood nobody paid much attention to her; for she was only a common apple seed, after all.



And yet there was something truly wonderful about Jenny, for she had the potential within her to create thousands of beautiful golden apples that were very good to eat.



Even more than that, she had the potential to grow into a very large apple tree whose branches could feed the birds and shade the children.



And among its sturdy branches would grow bushels and bushels of delicious fruit that would fill the children's tummies with tasty fruit over and over again.



And yet Jenny was so very young that she had no idea how wonderful she was. All she knew is that she often felt unloved, and unwanted, and empty inside; and she didn't know why.



And then one fine day Jenny noticed her smiling little apple seed friend walking toward the chapel on the hill, and asked her why she went there. Her friend smiled happily and told Jenny about the tree of life that grew in heaven.



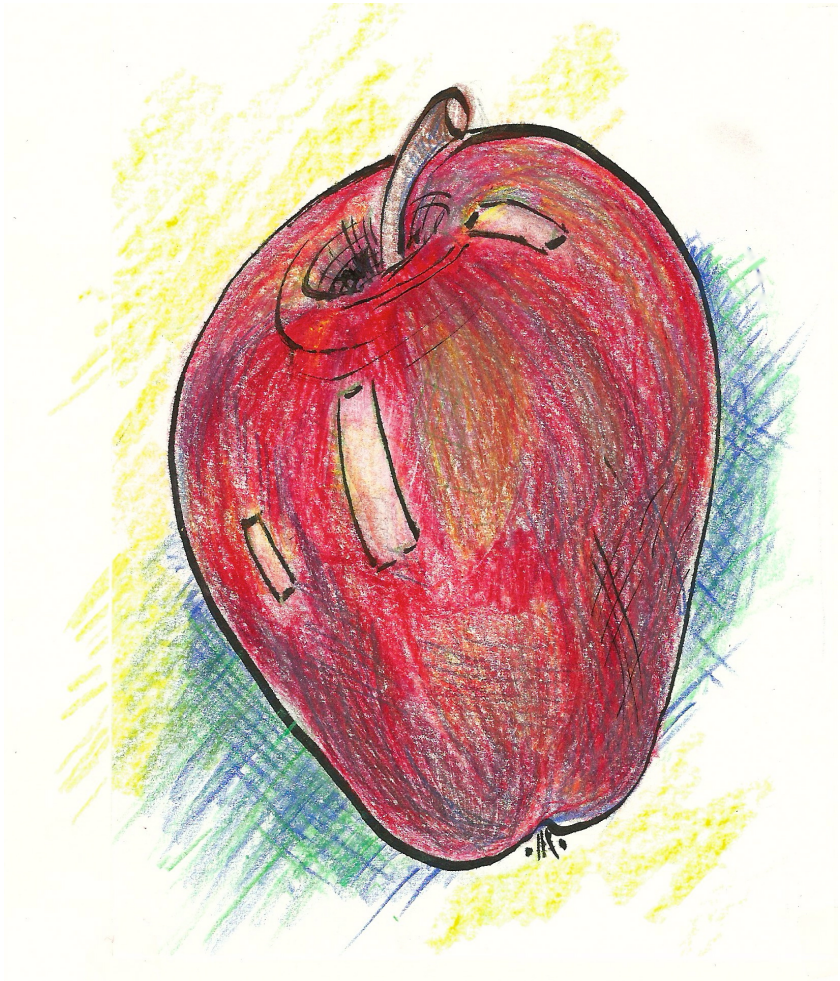
Her friend told her what a splendid tree it was; so wonderful, in fact, that everybody who was anybody was talking about it.



Saying that it was the most glorious tree that ever grew; and that its fruit was so beautiful and delicious that everybody who was anybody wanted to have some.



And then her happy friend smiled brightly while she told Jenny about the Master Gardener who tended and watched over the tree of life.



And that the Master Gardener loved His trees so much that he was willing to give His life for them, so that every apple, on every tree, could become nourishing and shiny and perfect.



And to her surprise, her friend told her that the Master Gardener had gardeners helping Him in this very orchard.



Jenny began to watch the gardeners in her orchard neighborhood after that, as they watered and fed and pruned the trees.



And as she watched, she learned to trust the gardeners; for she saw how hard they worked to help the little apple seeds first become seedlings, and then grow into lush apple trees.



And she somehow knew that without the gardeners, she, and all the other apple seed children would wither and die.

One warm, sunny day, as Jenny was lying on her back watching the clouds drift gently by, she thought she could see the Master Gardener's image in the fluffy clouds.

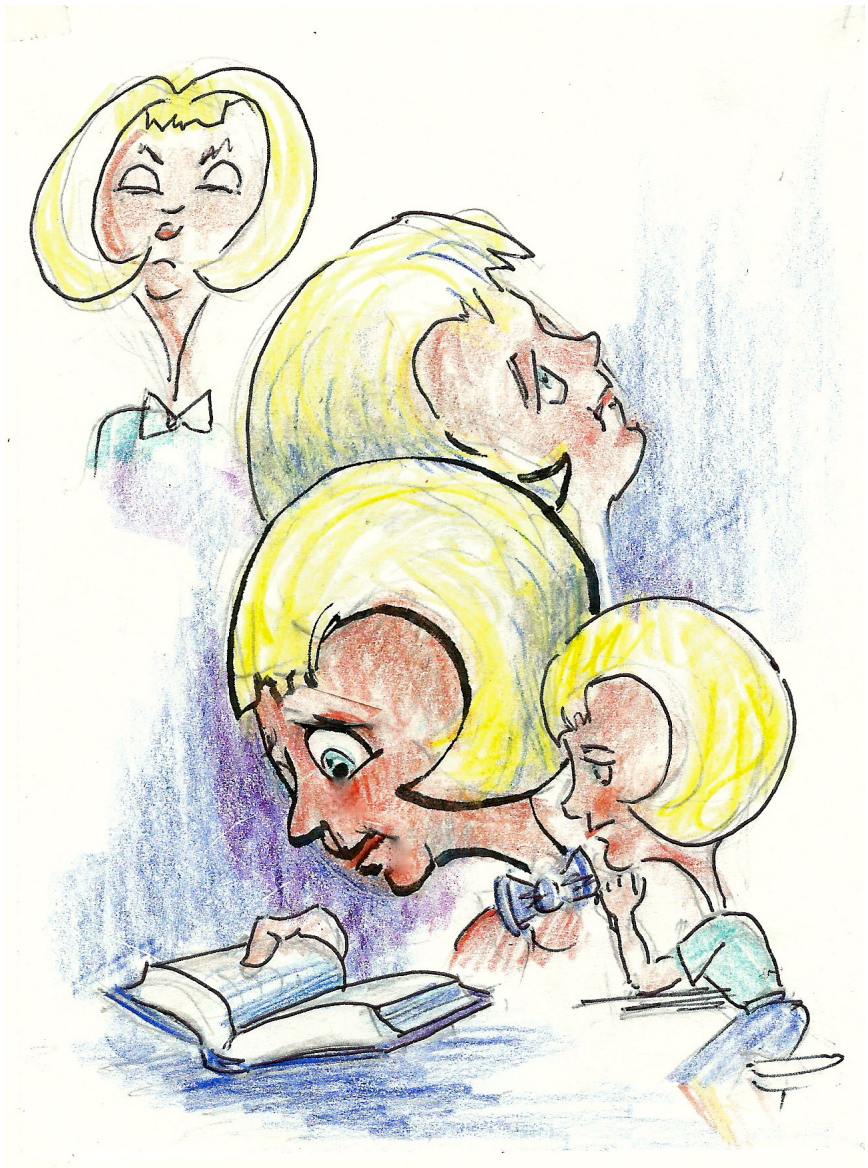




As the sunlight broke gloriously through the clouds, Jenny thought she heard the Master Gardener speak to the gardeners, saying: *“WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS*



Jenny was amazed at how kind and good the Master Gardener was, and she said to herself, "If only I could become more like the Master Gardener I would know what makes me feel so unhappy."



And so Jenny thought ...

And thought ...

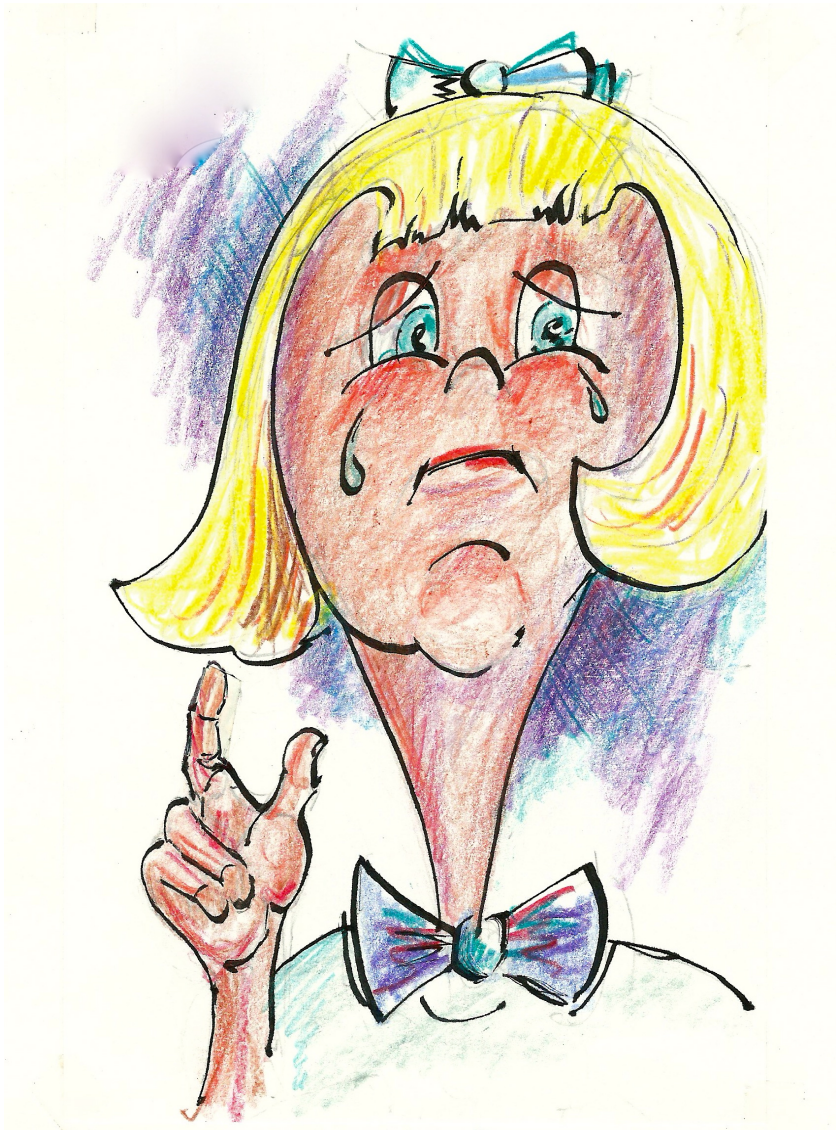
And thought some more;



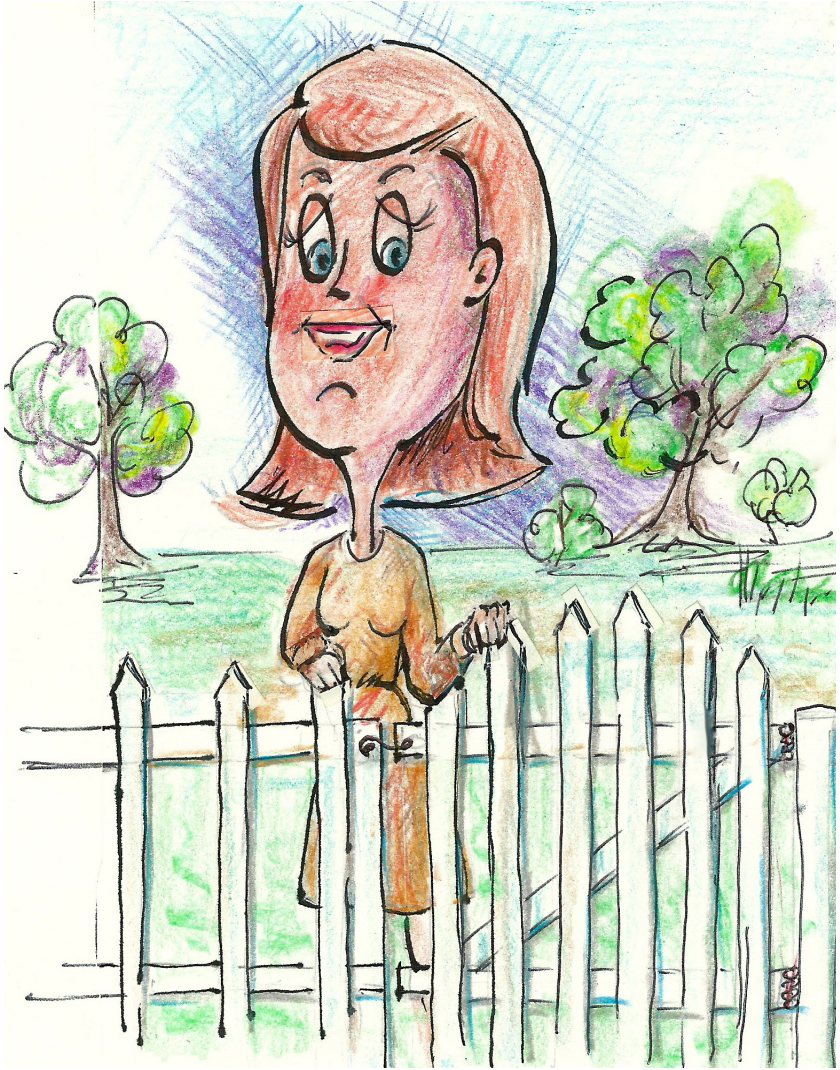
And she finally decided that if she was ever to be truly happy, she needed to learn more about the Master Gardener—what He knew, how He lived, and why He loved everybody so very much—but she didn't know how, and it made her feel sad.



All she knew is that she wanted to be happy like her little apple seed friend who was laughing and smiling all the time.



But that made her sadder still, for she didn't know how to do that either.



And then, one fine day, a friendly gardener from the apple chapel on the hill came smiling to her gate.



She was radiant; and she saw in Jenny her beautiful apple seed spirit, and told her how easy she was to love. She also told her how much she loved the tiny apple seeds that were growing into seedlings under her care, and asked Jenny if she would like to join them.



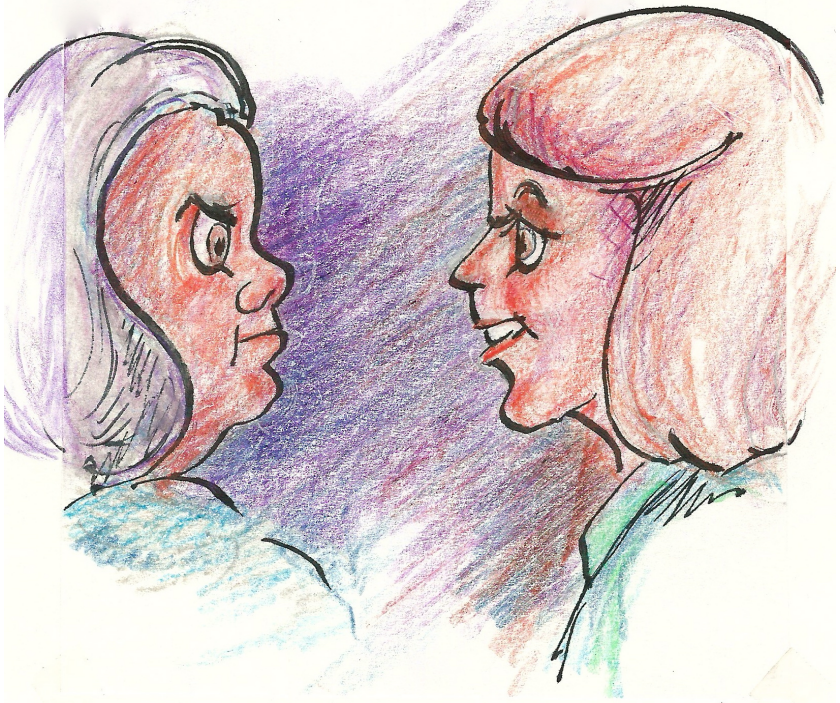
“We meet”, she said, “in the apple chapel on the hill, and if you will meet with us, I will teach you how to become more like the Master Gardener who tends the tree of life.”



Jenny jumped up and down with excitement; for learning how to become more like the Master Gardener was the very thing she wanted.



But her mother was grumpy. She wasn't excited about it at all. "She has chores to do at home", she complained, "and besides, I have no way to get her up the hill to the apple chapel and back."



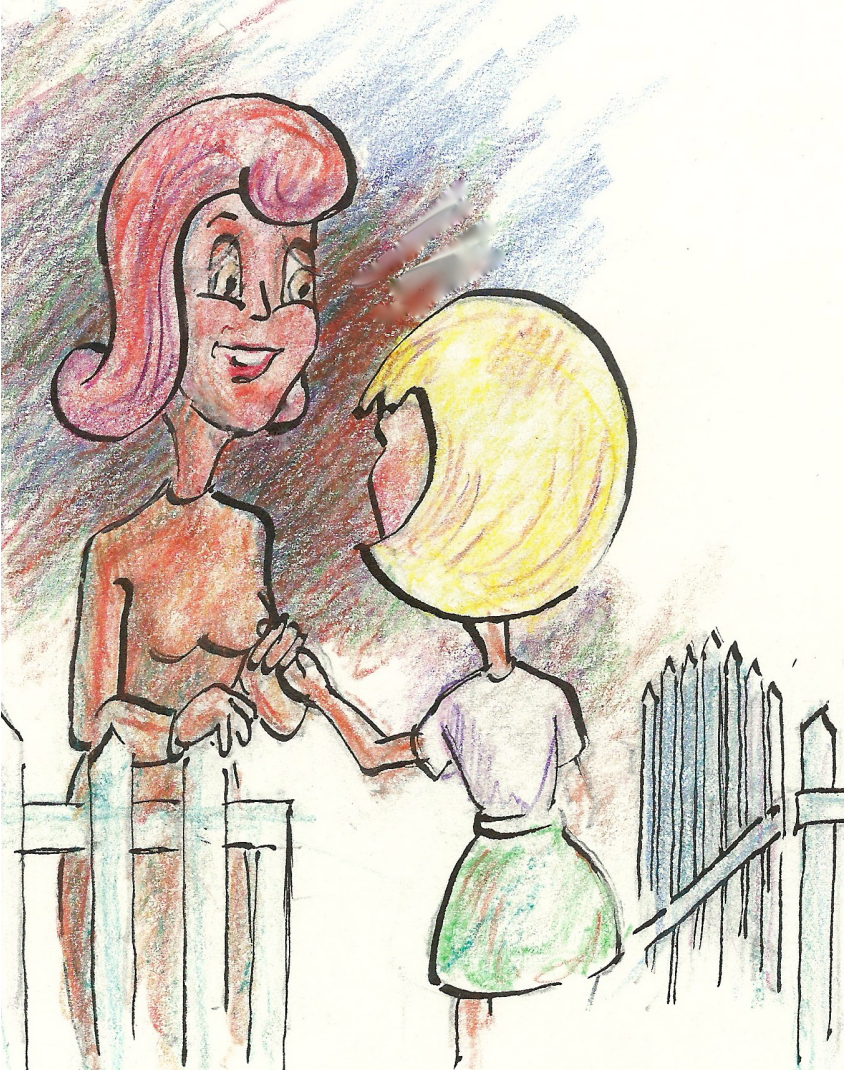
“ Why I’ll see that she gets to the chapel and back” said the gardener, if you will let her come; and though I’m not a perfect teacher, I will be there to teach her every single week without fail; and if Jenny is willing to put up with my faults, I am willing to put up with her failings as well, and love her still.



Now the friendly gardener was dressed like gardeners do; she was not sleek and beautiful like some of the shapely gardeners that Jenny had seen of television.



But she glowed with love and friendliness, and Jenny really liked the way she spoke to her—so lovingly and gently”.



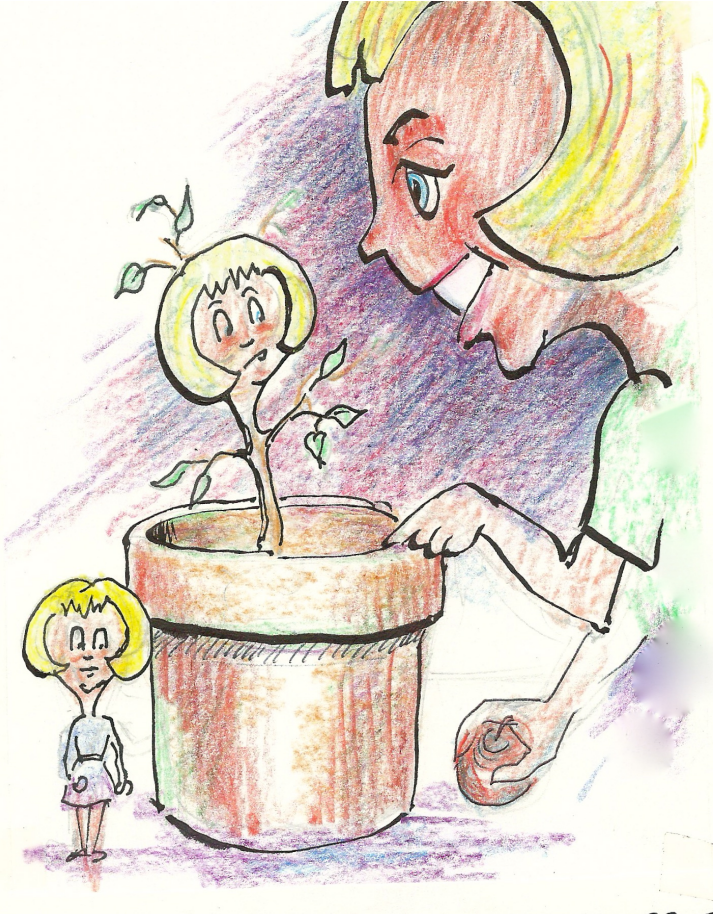
As the friendly gardener was leaving, she pushed open Jenny's garden gate and told her, once again, how much she loved her.



And she was truly happy that Jenny was willing to share in the love that all the little apple seed children had for each other;



She then promised Jenny that when they learned—together—how to love each other in the way the Master Gardener loved them, that it would fill the empty place in her heart, and that they would all be very, very happy.



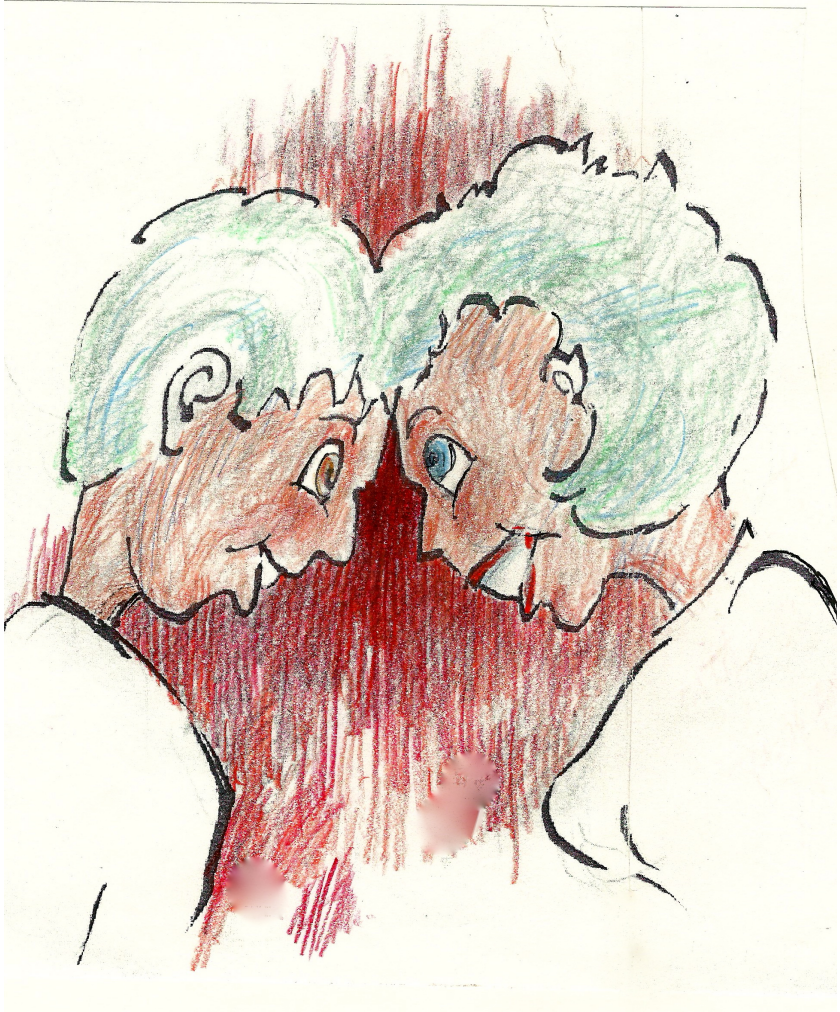
As Jenny grew, she loved the little apple seed children who were growing with her—from seeds to seedlings, to saplings—in the apple chapel on the hill; and she found that she really, really happy—just as the friendly gardener had said.



Not only did she learn more about how to become like the Master Gardener; but the empty place in her heart was filled to overflowing when she met a handsome young sapling and married him In the temple on the hill.



And they ended up with a whole basketful of happy little apple seed children of their own.



And their love for each other grew, and grew, and grew, and grew, as they worked and sang and laughed together as joyful companions.



And if you were to say that they lived 'happily ever after' you would not have said nearly enough; For they invited Heavenly Father into their marriage, and the glorious fulfillment that blessed their lives on earth will continue into eternity!

The Last Word

As you have guessed by now, this story is not about apple seeds at all. It is a true story based upon the real life experience of a little nine year old girl named Connie who was rescued by a devoted Primary teacher who visited with her in her home; and about other eager, innocent children who want to learn how to smile their way through life. It is about children who seem sure to be lost to God forever unless devoted parents, friends and teachers take them by the hand, and through their loving influence allow the children to feel the Spirit of Jesus Christ until they learn enough—and love enough—to make their wish for happiness a joyful reality.

*God bless the teachers
of our children!*