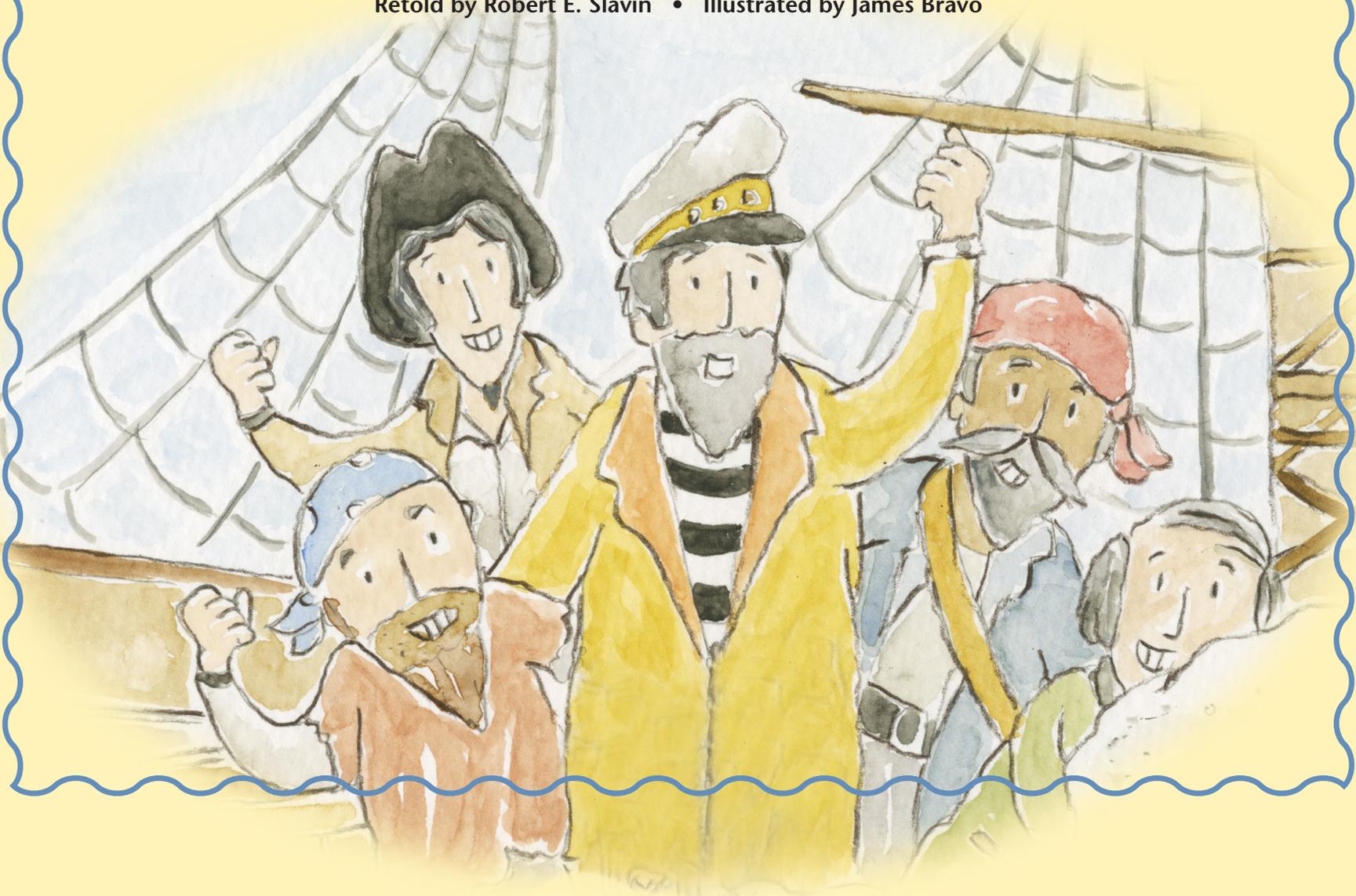


Why the Sea Is Salty

Retold by Robert E. Slavin • Illustrated by James Bravo





Why the Sea Is Salty

Retold by Robert E. Slavin • Illustrated by James Bravo

Why the Sea Is Salty

© 2014 Success for All Foundation. All rights reserved.

ISBN: 9781941010112



The mission of the Success for All Foundation is to develop and disseminate research-proven educational programs to ensure that all students, from all backgrounds, achieve at the highest academic levels.

These programs were originally developed at Johns Hopkins University.

300 E. Joppa Road, Suite 500, Baltimore, MD 21286

PHONE: (800) 548-4998 FAX: (410) 324-4444

E-MAIL: sfainfo@successforall.org

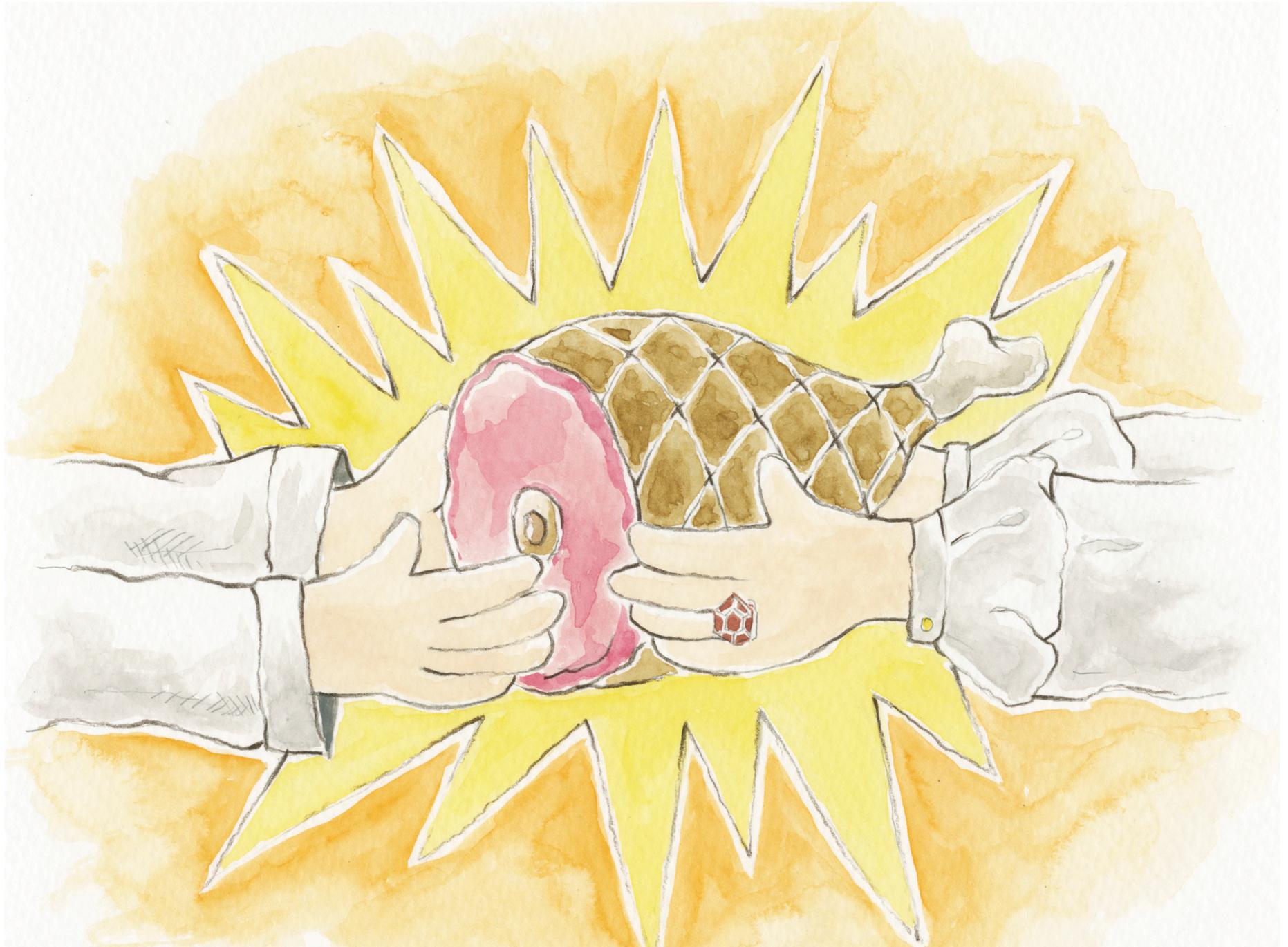
WEBSITE: www.successforall.org



Once upon a time, long ago in England, there were two brothers. One was a poor farmer, but he was kind and honest. The other was a rich man who was greedy and stingy.



One year there wasn't enough rain, and the poor farmer didn't grow enough to feed himself and his wife. He didn't want to go to his brother for help, but he had to.



“Not again!” sighed the rich brother.
“You’re always asking for something!
I will help you this time, but you must
do what I say.”

The poor man had no choice, so
he agreed.

“I will give you this ham. But you must
take it to the End of the World!”

What the rich brother really meant was that he wanted his poor brother to go away and never come back to bother him. But the poor brother was an honest man, and to him, a promise was a promise. He thanked his brother and took the ham to his tiny house, where his wife was waiting.

“Well?” she asked. “What did your brother say?”





“He gave me a fine ham,” said the poor brother, “but he told me that I had to take it to the End of the World.”

“And you agreed?” his wife asked.

“Yes,” said the man. “What else could I do?”



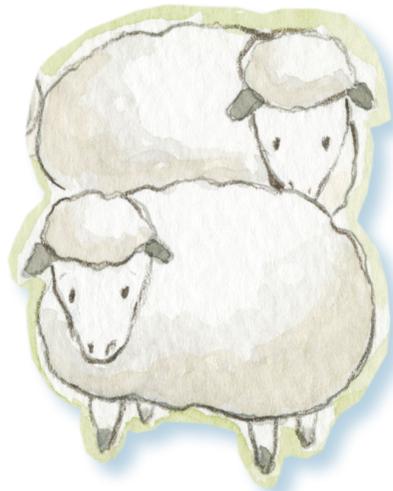
The poor man's wife was kind and honest too, so she said, "You did the right thing. We must leave right away to find the End of the World."



The man and his wife had no idea where the End of the World was, but they asked people in their village and others on the road. The people all said that they didn't know, but they thought that the man and his wife should go north toward the North Star. Surely, if there was an End of the World, that is where it would be!

The man and his wife walked for days and weeks and months. Along the way, people gave them bits of food or let them sleep in their barns because they could see that they were kind and honest.





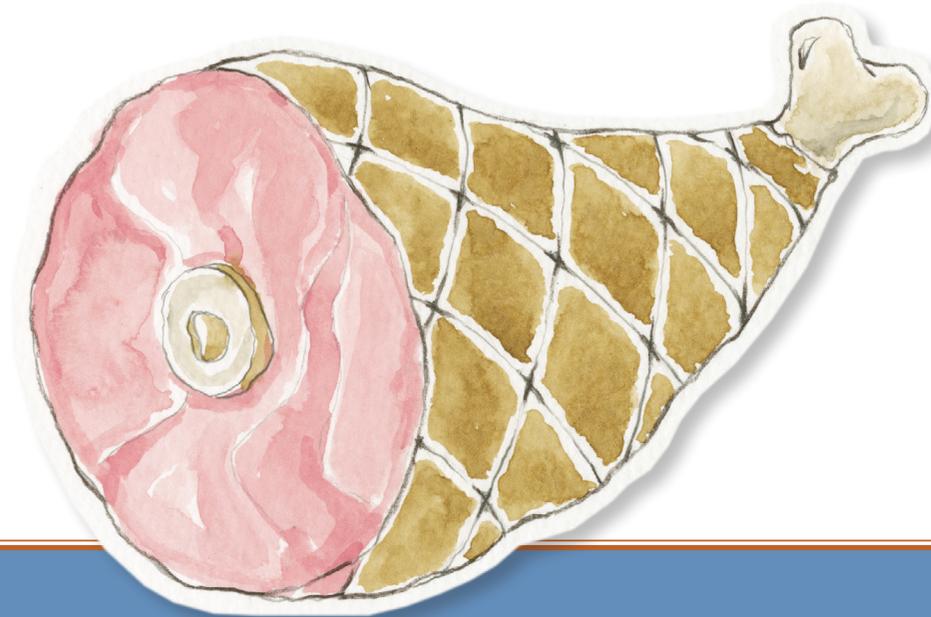
At last, the man and his wife found a very old shepherd at the side of the road. “Dear sir,” said the wife, “can you direct us to the End of the World?”



The shepherd's eyes twinkled. "You've come to the right place," he said. He pointed to a castle on a hill nearby. "Do you see that castle? That is the End of the World."

The shepherd went on. "Why do you want to go there?" he asked.

The man answered truthfully. "My rich brother gave me a ham and told me to take it to the End of the World!" He let the shepherd look in his sack at the ham.



The shepherd gasped. “We don’t have hams like that in this part of England. If you sell your ham to the people in the castle, they’ll make you rich! But here’s my advice. No matter how much money they offer you, don’t take it. Instead, ask for a little hand mill behind the door. It’s worth more than all the gold in the world!”



The man and his wife went up to the castle. They were shown into a great hall where there were lords and ladies in expensive clothes. When he showed them the ham, they stopped talking. They all wanted that ham!

One lord said, "I'll give you ten pieces of gold for your ham." Ten gold pieces was a lot of money in those days! Another lord said, "I'll give you twenty." Then a lady said, "Twenty-five! I'll give you twenty-five!"

The man just shook his head at each offer. Even when the price got to one hundred gold pieces, he still said no.





Finally, the lord of the castle asked, "What do you want for your ham?"

The man said, "I just want that old hand mill behind your door."
The lord didn't know what the hand mill could do, so he agreed.



The man took the hand mill back to the shepherd by the side of the road. The shepherd showed him how to work it. If you said, "Grind mill, grind! Grind me flour," the mill would grind the finest flour for delicious bread. If you said, "Grind mill, grind me gold," the mill would grind out gold pieces! In a minute, the poor man was the richest man in England! The shepherd told the newly rich man how to take care of the hand mill and, most importantly, how to tell it to stop.



The man and his wife asked the hand mill to grind them some gold, and then they bought horses so they could ride back home. They gave gifts to all the people who had helped them on their trip to the End of the World. When they got home, they built a beautiful house and assisted poor people from all over when they needed help.



One day a sea captain happened to go by their house, and he heard the man say, “Grind mill, grind! Grind me some salt!” and the mill ground out lots of salt. The sea captain was amazed. He thought to himself, “I have to sail to the Baltic Sea to trade for salt, and I have to pay a lot to buy it. Yet here is a hand mill that makes salt for free!”

That very night, the sea captain crept into the man’s house and stole his hand mill! He ran down to the harbor where his ship was, woke up the crew, and sailed out to sea.



When the ship was at sea, the captain put the hand mill on the deck. "Grind mill, grind! Grind me some salt!" he said.

The hand mill ground out loads of salt. The captain and his crew were happy at first, but then they were afraid.



There was too much salt! The captain said, “Stop mill, stop!” but the mill kept grinding out salt. The captain and crew had to jump into the sea. The ship sank under tons of salt.

The little hand mill is still grinding out salt to this very day, and that is why the sea is salty!





