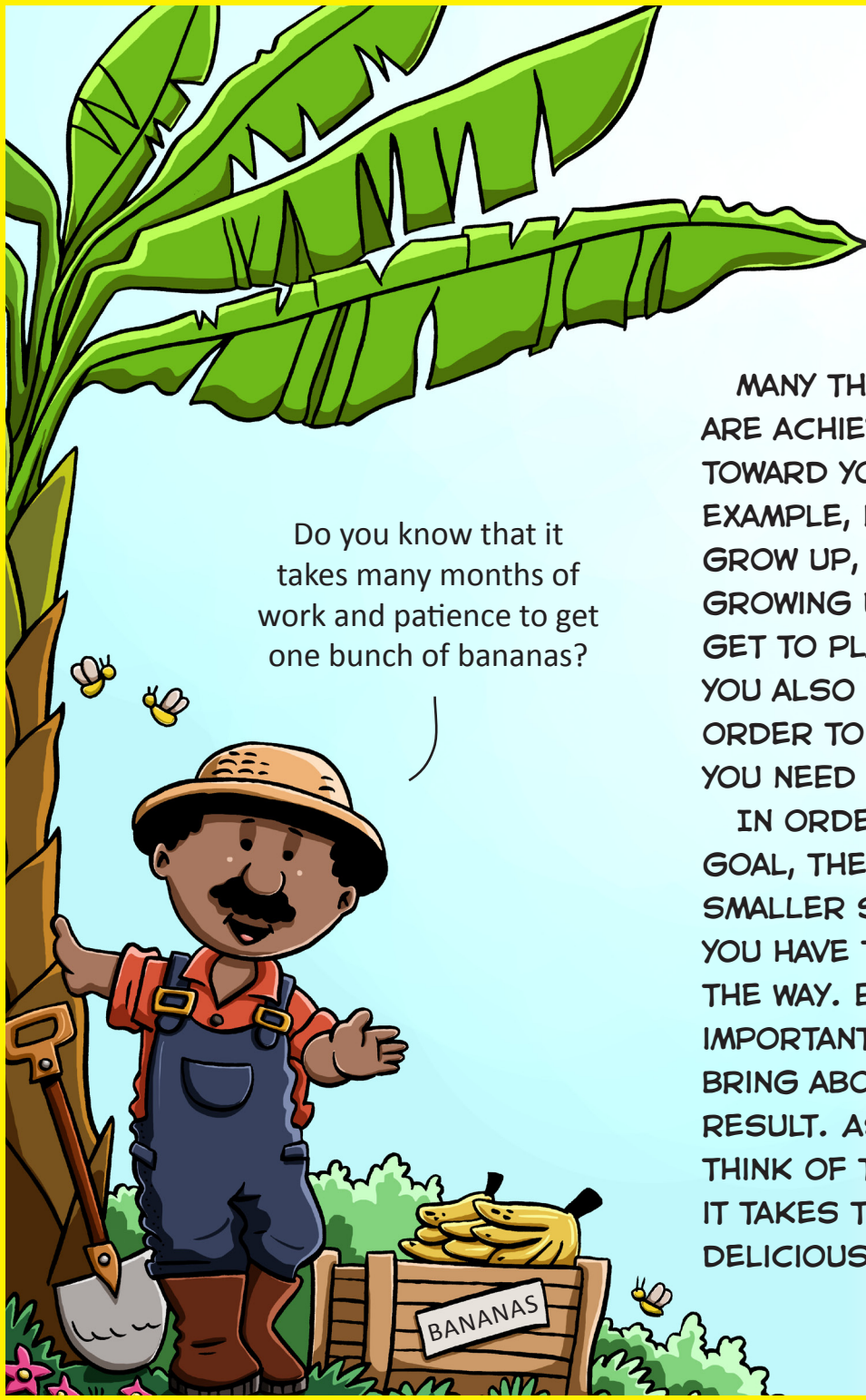


That Banana There

Do you know that it takes many months of work and patience to get one bunch of bananas?

MANY THINGS IN LIFE ARE ACHIEVED BY MOVING TOWARD YOUR GOAL. FOR EXAMPLE, IT TAKES TIME TO GROW UP, AND WHILE YOU'RE GROWING UP, THOUGH YOU GET TO PLAY AND HAVE FUN, YOU ALSO NEED TO STUDY IN ORDER TO GAIN THE SKILLS YOU NEED FOR A GOOD LIFE.

IN ORDER TO REACH A GOAL, THERE ARE USUALLY SMALLER STEPS THAT YOU HAVE TO TAKE ALONG THE WAY. EACH STEP IS IMPORTANT AND HELPS TO BRING ABOUT THE FINAL RESULT. AS AN EXAMPLE, THINK OF THE MANY STEPS IT TAKES TO PRODUCE A DELICIOUS BANANA.

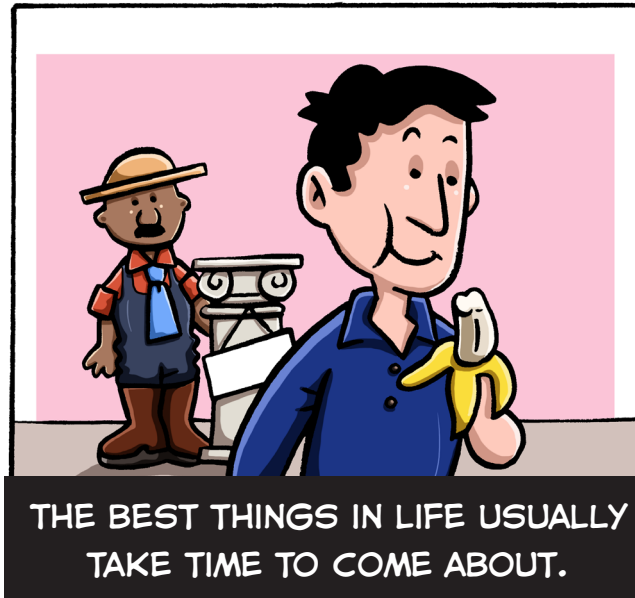
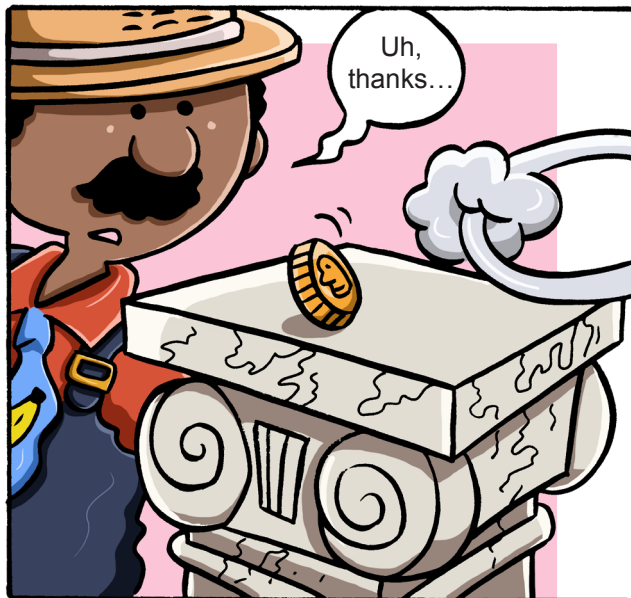
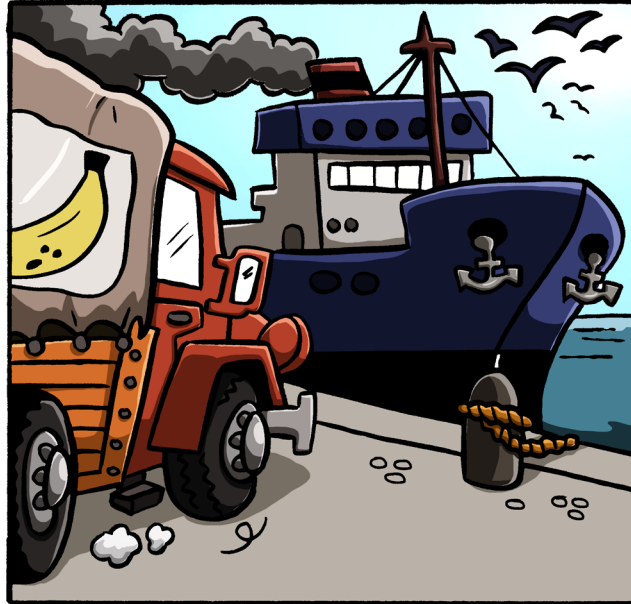


FIRST, THE FARMER MUST CLEAR AND PREPARE THE LAND. THEN HE PLANTS THE BANANA PLANT.

ONCE IT'S PLANTED, IT TAKES NINE TO TWELVE MONTHS BEFORE THE BANANA PLANT BLOOMS, AND FINALLY SMALL BANANAS APPEAR. HOWEVER, THERE ARE STILL A COUPLE OF MONTHS TO GO BEFORE THE BANANAS ARE READY TO EAT.

WHILE THE BANANA PLANT GROWS, THE FARMER NEEDS TO BE SURE IT'S WELL WATERED, AND THAT DISEASED OR DYING LEAVES ARE REMOVED FROM THE PLANT. HE ALSO NEEDS TO MAKE SURE THE SOIL IS WELL CARED FOR SO THAT IT PROVIDES ALL OF THE NUTRITION THE BANANA PLANT NEEDS. THE FARMER MUST ALSO DO HIS BEST TO PREVENT INSECTS FROM DESTROYING THE PLANT.

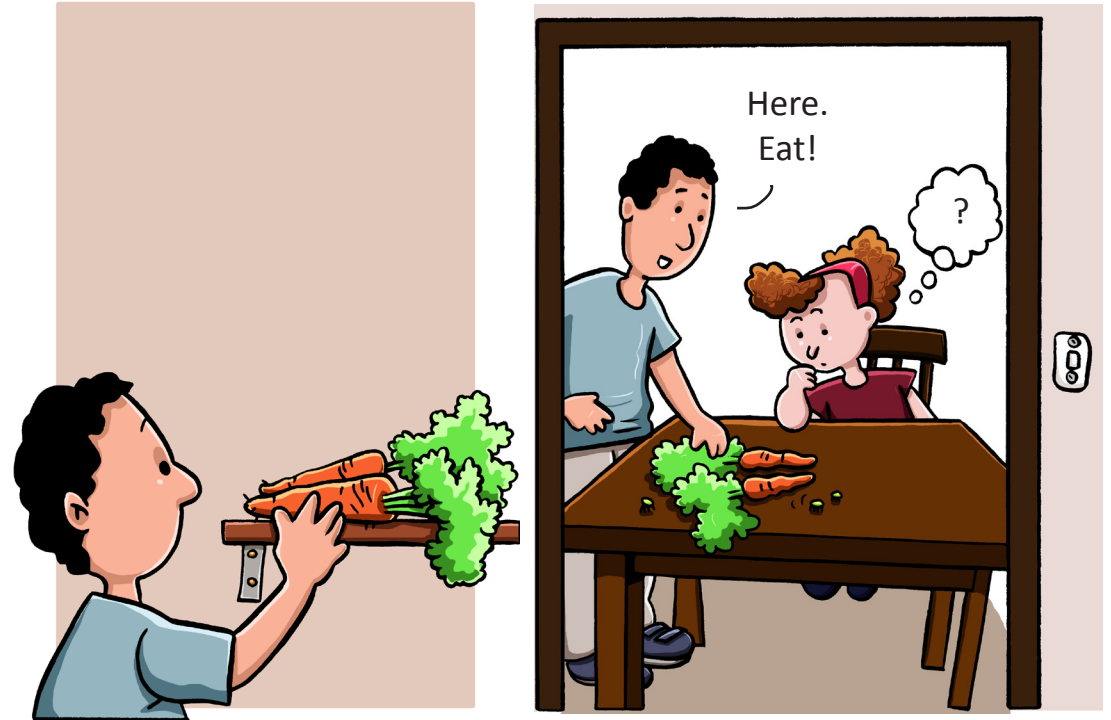




THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE USUALLY TAKE TIME TO COME ABOUT.

ONCE THE BANANAS ARE READY, THE FARMER NEEDS TO CUT THEM OFF THE PLANT AND SEND THEM TO THE MARKET TO SELL. OFTEN THE MARKET IS THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, AND MANY BANANAS ARE SHIPPED OVER OCEANS TO GET TO THE PERSON WHO WILL BUY AND EAT THEM.

WHEN YOU EAT A BANANA, DO YOU THINK ABOUT ALL OF THAT WORK THAT WENT INTO IT? YOU PROBABLY JUST ENJOY THE BANANA, RIGHT?



IMAGINE THIS SCENARIO: YOUR PARENTS HAVE GONE OUT AND THEY ASKED YOUR OLDER BROTHER TO PREPARE DINNER FOR YOU. BUT YOUR BROTHER JUST TAKES AN UNWASHED CARROT OFF THE SHELF, PUTS IT ON THE TABLE, AND SAYS, "EAT."

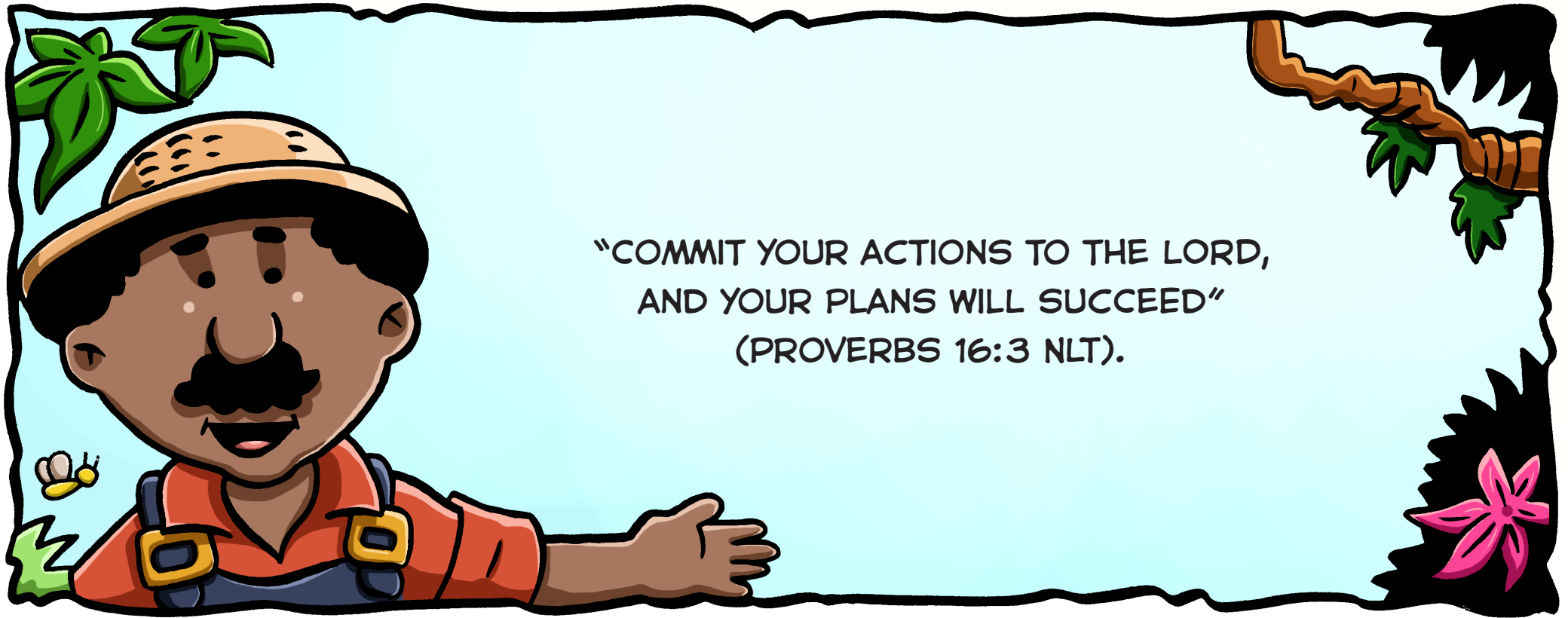
IT'S UNLIKELY THAT WOULD HAPPEN, OF COURSE, BUT YOU WOULDN'T BE VERY HAPPY IF HE DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT, WOULD YOU?

TIME AND DILIGENCE ARE NEEDED TO PRODUCE SOMETHING WORTHWHILE.

IT TAKES TIME FOR SOMEONE TO COOK A GOOD MEAL. THE COOK MUST FIRST FIND OUT WHAT INGREDIENTS ARE NEEDED AND POSSIBLY EVEN GO TO THE SHOP TO GET SOME OF THEM.



THEN THE COOK HAS TO PREPARE THE FOOD, ADD THE DIFFERENT INGREDIENTS, AND TAKE ALL THE NECESSARY STEPS TO CREATE A DELICIOUS MEAL.



“COMMIT YOUR ACTIONS TO THE LORD,
AND YOUR PLANS WILL SUCCEED”
(PROVERBS 16:3 NLT).

IF YOU FIND YOURSELF FEELING IMPATIENT WHILE WAITING FOR SOMETHING GOOD TO HAPPEN THAT YOU ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO, JUST REMEMBER “THAT BANANA THERE.”

WHETHER IT’S FINISHING A YEAR OF SCHOOLING, OR COMPLETING A SPECIAL ART PROJECT YOU ARE WORKING ON, OR WAITING FOR A FUN EXCURSION YOUR PARENTS HAVE PROMISED, THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE TAKE TIME TO ACCOMPLISH. AND THE WAIT WILL BE WORTH IT!

S&S Link: Character building: Personal Responsibility: Perseverance-1a

Adapted from the writings of Maria Fontaine. Illustrations by Didier Martin. Colors by Catherine Lynch. Design by Stefan Merour.

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