



TREASURE FOR EVERYONE

On a sunny fall day, Bluebird, Ladybug, Young Bear and Frog are in the park. Speckled yellow, ruby, and brown, leaves crunch under running paws. More leaves fall unto the scampering kids. Sunlight glints in a shiny circle.

"What's that?"

"Looks like gold."

"Sun's on the ground."

Someone's paw uncovers a shiny object.

"It's mine!"

"I saw it first."

"I want it."

"Just right for me."

Their squabbling echoes like a strong wind in the park where Teddy is walking. Seeing the group and hearing the noise, he asks, "What's going on here?"

"I found it first."

"But, I touched it first."

"No, I did."

"It's mine. I'm biggest."

"Stop!" Teddy directs. "Tell me what you are squabbling about."

Ladybug points to a round disk that they are all trying to pull out of the ground. "It's this beautiful shiny circle."

Frog says, "It was under the leaves."

When Teddy bends down to examine it, he exclaims, "Oh! This isn't just any circle. It's very special with four directions and twelve small, round symbols."

"Is it gold?" Young Bear asks.

"There's a green stone in the middle," Frog observes.

Bluebird says, "Looks like earth . . . round planet earth."

"It's so beautiful!" Ladybug exclaims.

Teddy says, "Now I know what this circle is! It's the twelve signs of the zodiac with arrows pointing to four elements: water, air, earth and fire."

"Wow!"

"It's a treasure."

Teddy agrees, "Yes, you found a treasure far greater than gold! You were squabbling over the sun and moon and seasons, the twelve signs of the zodiac,

as well as earth, air, water and fire."

Bluebird says, "I'm air."

Frog says, "I'm water."

"I'm earth," Bear says.

"I'm red. I'm fire!" Ladybug says.

"You each found your place in this picture of the universe," Teddy says happily. "No more squabbling."

"I'm sorry! I won't try to grab something just because it's shiny again."

"Sorry, sorry, sorry!"

"I've learned a lesson, Teddy."

"Wasn't thinking, lured by gold."

"Something may look bright and shiny, so I immediately want it," Teddy says. "But it turns out to be far more meaningful and not for an individual to possess. It's embedded in the earth, a treasure for anyone and everyone who finds it."



Do I crave something because of its shiny, attractive outer appearance or do I recognize its true value? Do I want to be the first to get something new?