

The giving race

One nice, one nasty, One charitable, one conceited. This is the story of Compassionate Carlos' trusty sidekick Generous Greer and her opposition Selfish Sage.

Compassionate Carlos and Generous Greer had just finished helping a young boy learn the importance of being gracious by teaching him good manners. As they sauntered back to their home, their victory flooding the air, Greer spotted a dark cloud approaching them. 'I wonder what that is?' Greer said, puzzled. They heard a mad cackle, 'It's Sage, of course! I'm going to win that race!' said Selfish Sage, punching the air. 'What race?' said Carlos, raising an eyebrow. 'The race of...!' said Sage trailing off. 'The race of what Sage?' said Greer patiently. 'Oh, I can't remember. Something about... All I know is that it's a race.' said Sage. 'Any way, I must be on my way now, the race starts in an hour.' Sage zoomed off, towards a small village by the tall hill. Greer, who loved competitions, looked at Carlos pleadingly, 'Please can I go!' she begged. Carlos pondered her request 'Well, I suppose you could go' he said hesitantly 'but you have to promise me that you will help anyone who needs help.' 'Yay!' squealed Greer 'I promise, I promise I will help any one I see!' 'Oh, and you have to take my car.' Carlos added 'That's fine.' said Greer still on cloud nine. 'Okay then, bye Greer.' he said hugging her tightly. 'When the race is over, come back home!' he yelled as he jogged away 'Wait! What about the car!' Greer shouted into the sun. 'It'll be there when you arrive,' echoed through the afternoon sky. 'Okay, time to win a race!' She said to herself.

When she arrived at the starting line there were no other people there. 'Oh, I forgot to mention, we are the only two in the race.' said Sage sheepishly, sitting on a bench. Slowly as the time ticked on, groups of people started to arrive. When the crowds were full to the brim, Sage quickly exclaimed 'READY, SET, GO!' Sage sprinted off into the distance. 'Hey! That's so unfair!' shouted Greer to the fading spot of Sage. Greer grumpily started walking on the path when she kicked a rock and heard a bang. She looked up and saw an old-fashioned Land Rover with a fresh dent on its bonnet. She jumped in the car and fired up the ignition, luckily Carlos owned a car just like this and had taught her how to drive.

As she was chugging along, she saw a beautiful black horse but, its hoof was stuck in a pile of rocks! Greer quickly stopped the car and ran over to the scared animal. 'It's okay, I'll help you.' said Greer sympathetically. She eased the horse's hoof out of the rock pile and wrapped her scarf around his injured hoof. 'Thank you.' neighed the horse 'Your kindness will repay you.' Greer was surprised! Horses couldn't talk, could they? Greer was about to ask more when he suddenly galloped off into the distance. 'Oh well' thought Greer 'Goodbye Mr Horse.' Greer jumped back in her car and continued the race. A few kilometres later, Greer saw a hungry dog sitting by a large oak tree. 'Hello' said Greer, expecting that the dog could also speak. 'Please call me Debra' croaked the dog 'You don't by any chance have some food or water, do you?' Greer hurriedly ran to the back of the car to look for some food or water and to her surprise there were two bowls full to the brim of meat and clear water. 'Here' Greer said, putting the bowls down. 'Thank you so much.' said Debra 'Your kindness will repay you.' Greer frowned, wasn't that the same thing the horse had said to her. 'Did I say something?' said Debra concerned. 'No, it's just, someone else said what you said to me just a minute ago.' Said

Greer trying to work out what was happening. Debra went quiet and jumped into the car, wagging her tail she said 'Let's go! We don't have all day.' Greer quickly forgot her queries and joyfully started the car to finish the race.

They were enjoying the view when they suddenly started going up a steep hill, 'I sure hope this old car makes it' said Greer hopefully. They came to a stop. 'What will we do now!' Cried Greer 'We'll never win if we can't even get to the top of this hill!' 'As I said "your kindness will repay you"' said Debra knowingly. Debra looked out in the distance and suddenly, a horse appeared from the woods. It was a beautiful black horse, 'Florian at your service,' he said kneeling into a bow. It was the horse Greer had helped!

'Thank you so much!' said Greer hugging Florian. 'Can you please take me and Debra to the finish line, just over this hill.'

'I'd be delighted to.' exclaimed Florian. Greer picked up Debra, held her close and jumped onto Florian's back. The wind whistled past them as they flew over the hill.

'There's the finish line!' said Debra excitedly! When they reached the line, Sage was already there showing off her gold medal. She saw Greer had arrived and gloated over, 'A shame you didn't come first' she crowed. 'Better luck next time.' She turned on her heel and strutted away.

Greer turned to her new friends, a little put out. She hadn't won a golden medal. But what she didn't know was that she had won something better, something Sage could never get, she had helped two animals and gotten two new friends. Greer hugged her two friends and went back home to Carlos. When she arrived back Carlos hugged her and claimed proudly, 'Well done, Greer. You may have not won a golden medal, but you've won something even better.' Greer recalled the deeds she had done and realised she was the true winner.