

The Blueberry Pail

The story is told of a lazy boy who went with his mother and aunt on a blueberry-picking hike into the woods. He carried the smallest pail possible. While the others worked hard at picking berries, he lolled about, chasing a butterfly and playing hide and seek with a squirrel.

Soon it was approaching time to leave. In a panic, not wanting his mother and aunt to know that he had been wasting his time, he filled his pail mostly with moss and then topped it off with a thin layer of berries, so that his pail looked full of berries. His mother and aunt commended him highly for his effort.

The next morning, his mother baked pies, and she made a special “saucer-sized” pie just for the boy. He could hardly wait for it to cool. Blueberry was his favorite! He could see the plump berries oozing through a slit in the crust, and his mouth watered in anticipation. However, as he sank his fork into the flaky crust, he found ... mostly moss!

Some people want to experience the sweet taste of success, but they are unwilling to do the work that goes along with achieving it – for themselves personally or for the team in the office or facility where they work. Nothing is more satisfying, however, than savoring the well-earned fruit of one’s labor.

--Beecher Hunter