

## CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

# The tulip story

By Janaan Manternach  
NC News Service

It was a cool Saturday in September. Jim and his sister, Jane, were looking for something to do.

"Here," their mother said. "Take these tulip bulbs and plant them in the back yard."

"We've never grown anything before," Jane objected.

"It will be fun," their mother assured them. "You just dig a hole, put the bulbs in it, fill up the hole again and pour on some water."

She held out five tulip bulbs. "Two should be red when they bloom," their mom said. "Two should be yellow and one should be white."

Jane and Jim went outside. It was cool and windy. The leaves on the trees were beginning to turn red and gold. A few were falling slowly to the ground.

"Let's plant them along this side of the house," Jane suggested.

Jim measured off a footstep between the spots where they would dig the holes.

"I wonder which ones will be red," Jane said. "I'd like them to be at the two ends of the row of flowers."

They examined the dead-feeling, brown bulbs. They saw no signs of what color the flowers might be.

Jim dug the holes. Jane gently placed a bulb in each. They carefully pushed dirt back over the bulbs, filling up the holes. Jim got the hose and let water run over the buried bulbs for a few minutes. Then they went back inside.

The days gradually became shorter and colder. Fall changed to winter. Record snows fell during the long gray winter. Jane and Jim forgot all about their tulips.

Then one morning in late March, Jim woke up to the sound of a chirping bird. Spring was in the air. The days were getting longer. Each week seemed a little warmer than the one before. The snow slowly melted.

"I wonder what happened to our tulips?" Jane asked one morning.

"They should be blooming soon," their mother answered.

Each morning on the way to school, Jane and Jim walked around the house to where they had planted the tulip bulbs. For two weeks they noticed nothing. There was just dirt and a few leaves where they hoped to see tulips.

Then it happened.

Three slim, green shoots pushed through the damp black earth. Jane noticed them first. "Jim!" she shouted. "Look! They're growing. Our tulips are coming to life!"

Jim was as excited as his sister. The next morning two more tender, green shoots appeared.

The shoots seemed to grow a little each night. Soon five beautiful tulips unfolded. Two were red. Two were yellow. One was white. Jim and Jane could hardly believe their eyes.

It was wondrous to them. Each brown bulb had come to life.



(Ms. Manternach is the author of catechetical works, scripture stories and original stories for children.)

### The angel and the cave



There are at least eight small differences between the drawing on the left and the one on the right. See how many you can find. Then color the drawings.

### HOW ABOUT YOU?

□ There seems to be new life in the bulbs that bloom in the spring, just at the time when Christians are thinking about Easter, with the new life brought by the resurrection of Jesus. What are some other signs of life in the world around you?

#### Children's Reading Corner

"Lilies, Rabbits and Painted Eggs" is a story of Easter by Edna Barth. After reading it together, children and adults might talk about how Easter is celebrated in their family and about the customs and symbols that are a part of it — for example, the eggs, the baskets, special foods, special gatherings. And think about what might make Easter special for you. The writer of this book explores some Easter symbols and tells how they came about. (The Seabury Press Inc., 815 Second Ave., New York, N.Y. 1970. Hardback, \$6.95)



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