**The Miner and the Magician**

One day, a miner was working away with his pickaxe down in a deep shaft ending in lava. He was pounding away on a mineral deposit, when his pickaxe suddenly hit a strangely angled rock, bounced out of his hands, and fell down the mineshaft. The miner bemoaned his loss, for he was poor and his pickaxe had cost enough to feed him and his family for almost a year. He stayed in the mineshaft, deep in sorrow, for so long, that a magician, who was passing through the area, heard his cries and went to see what the matter was. The miner told him what had happened, and the magician felt so much pity for him that he protected himself with a spell and dove into the lava. He came up holding a diamond pickaxe. He asked the miner if it was his, and the miner replied that it was not his pickaxe. The magician dove again, and came up with a platinum pickaxe. Again, he asked the miner if it belonged to him, and the miner replied no. Finally, the magician came up with the miner’s pickaxe and the miner told him that it was his. The magician was so impressed with his honesty, he gave the miner the other two pickaxes as well. The miner told his friends what had happened, and one of his friends dropped his own pickaxe down the shaft on purpose. The same magician came to him and asked him if the diamond pickaxe was his. The friend replied yes, and the magician was so disgusted with his lie, that he did not give the friend any pickaxe back.

*It is best to be honest.*