

# Improving Your Reading with Rex Retriever: The Old Woman's Luck



There was once an old woman, who earned a poor living by completing small errands for the farmers' wives round about the village where she lived. She didn't earn much: perhaps a plate of meat at one house and a cup of tea at another. Nevertheless, the old woman always looked as cheerful as if she hadn't a want in the world.

Late one summer evening, as she was trotting away homewards, the old woman came upon a big black pot lying by the side of the road. "Now that," she said, stopping to look at it, "would be just the very thing for me if I had anything to put into it! But who could have left it here?" She glanced around, expecting that the person it belonged to must be not far off. But, as far as the eye could see, there was no one around.



"Maybe it'll have a hole in it," she said thoughtfully. "Yes, that'll be why they've left it lying here. Even so, it would make a wonderful pot for a flower on the windowsill. I think I'll just take it home anyway." She bent her stiff, old back and lifted the lid to look inside.

"Mercy me!" she cried, jumping back to the other side of the road. "It is filled to the brim with gold pieces!"

1. Where did the old woman find the pot? Tick **one**.

- in a farmer's field
- at the village square
- on someone's windowsill
- by the side of the road

2. What did the old woman intend to do with the pot?

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3. Give two examples of items the old woman received as a reward for running errands.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

Statement	True	False
The woman found the pot as she was travelling to work.		
The old woman ran errands for local farmers.		
The owner of the pot was nearby as the old woman took it.		
The old woman anticipated that the pot would have a hole in it.		



# Answers

1. Where did the old woman find the pot? Tick **one**.

- in a farmer's field  
 at the village square  
 on someone's windowsill  
 by the side of the road

2. What did the old woman intend to do with the pot?

**She intended to put a flower in it and put it on her windowsill.**

3. Give two examples of items the old woman received as a reward for running errands.

**a plate of meat**

**a cup of tea**

4. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

Statement	True	False
The woman found the pot as she was travelling to work.		✓
The old woman ran errands for local farmers.		✓
The owner of the pot was nearby as the old woman took it.		✓
The old woman anticipated that the pot would have a hole in it.	✓	