

*tales from*

# **McCurdy's Woods**

## **"Soils & Salamanders"**



"Gramps, if I have to pile one more stick of wood I think I will go crazy!" Glenn was just about ready to give up piling wood. "Think about how warm and cozy we will be this winter and how beautiful those sparks are as they fly from the chimney," Gramps replied. "How about you Sarah?" Gramps asked, "Are you ready for a break?"

Sarah was busy poking through the wood chips, "Ooh cool, look at this lizard thingy, it has yellow spots!" Glenn was happy to drop his stick of wood and examine the small lizard like creature in Sarah's hand. "That's disgusting", he exclaimed, "You shouldn't pick it up Sarah, you'll get warts, and besides you will get dirt on you".

It was only Gramps intervention that prevented a heated discussion on the possibility of getting warts from a salamander. "I think we have piled enough wood for one day", he said, "lets find Grandma and go for a picnic."

"This sure beats piling wood", Sarah sighed as she reached for another mouthful of cake. Rolling over on her back and looking skyward she began looking for animal shapes in the clouds. "Sarah, you have dirt all over your hand, gross!" Glen looked at a small bit of dirt on Sarah's hand and reached for a cloth.



"Glen you seem to be awfully worried about a bit of dirt," Gramma said, "A little dirt wont hurt, besides when you think about it, everything we eat comes from the soil." "No way", exclaimed Glen, "I'm not eating dirt!" "Well, think about that, think about the flour that's in that cake, it came from soil", Gramma suggested, "Or the sugar that's in your drink, it came from sugar cane and that grows in soil". "I think she has you there son", Gramps chuckled.

Glenn dropped the video game he had been playing with and studied an ambitious ant trying to move an entire slice of apple across the blanket.

As he thought, he realized that they were right. Fruit, meat, eggs and even fish were depending on soil in one way or another. "But hey", he thought, "why stop at food"? What about all the other stuff in the ground, like gold and salt and iron and gas and stuff? In fact the more he thought about it the clearer it became, everything came from soil! Glenn jumped up from the blanket, sending the poor ant flying into the air along with a plate of cookies.



"Everything comes from soil in one way or another!" he shouted, "Even this game does, I mean it has Silicon chips right and silica is the most common element in the earth's crust. The gas in the car, Sarah's necklace and Gramps axe, you name it comes from the earth!"

All of a sudden the dirt wasn't so icky. Without it, in some form or another, Glenn's gameboy wouldn't exist, nor his TV set or his new leather jacket. Maybe dirt wasn't such a disgusting thing after all!

# Can you find the hidden story words ?

( Did you know that Stylbite is Nova Scotia's provincial mineral. )

S L S W L C S S V Y S A S W H  
V A A K L I K O E N A E I W A  
Y R L O Y R Z N I S L C L X R  
M O U A A W M A P L A A I R A  
F D B P M I A I R E M L C E S  
S L S E H A H R V D A K O T T  
A E O C M C N E D I N C N N N  
L X R U F A R D D I D E W I A  
T Y E U R Y G A E I E N O W P  
L U F I T U A E B R R N O R I  
F I S H N A W A R T S T D B C  
D R I N K N E G R A N D M A N  
T N E M E L E R G R A M P S I  
G S H T R A E L C T I U R F C  
R A G U S G G E G C R U S T D

SOIL  
SALAMANDERS  
WOOD  
GLENN  
WARM  
WINTER  
BEAUTIFUL  
SPARKS  
CHIMNEY  
GRAMPS  
SARAH  
CHIPS  
LIZARD

WARTS  
DIRT  
SALAMANDER  
GRANDMA  
PICNIC  
SKYWARD  
CLOUDS  
EVERYTHING  
FLOUR  
SUGAR  
DRINK  
ANT  
FRUIT

EGGS  
FISH  
SALT  
IRON  
GAS  
SILICON  
ELEMENT  
EARTHS  
CRUST  
NECKLACE  
AXE  
GAMEBOY  
CREATURE



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