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The Sailor Wins the Silver

The following story uses two syllable words which divide into syllables following the pattern of v/cv or vc/cv (syllable rules 1 and 2).

Last **summer** I met a **fellow** I will not **forget**. He was a **master sailor**, and during the hot **season** he went to the **mountains** to rest. In the **winter** he went to catch **lobster**. He did not **complain**, but his **finger** was **often** in need of a **doctor** and his mouth in need of a **dentist**. He said that he had made a **mistake**, and in a **moment** he had lost his **sneakers** into the sea. Hoping to catch fish, the **seagulls** near the ship would **chatter** all the time.

Under his pillow he kept a key and a **hundred dollars** in bills. He **forgot** where the **contest** was held, but he was the **winner** in a **tennis** match, and they gave him a cash prize. He did not spend that cash but kept it for a day when he might need it.

He said the key was not a **plaything** but part of a **puzzle**. If he could this

moment locate the pilot who gave it to him, he would. "For this key," he said, "will unlock a greenhouse, and inside the greenhouse silver coins are hidden under a picnic table." The pilot's husband was a cowboy who kept a horse, a hamster, a blanket, and not much else. He wore a dark collar and was an artist.

The sailor saved this cowboy's life long ago, and to thank him for this favor, the cowboy's wife gave him this yellow key. But she also did whisper a riddle as she gave the sailor the key. She said, "Inside our greenhouse under the picnic table you will locate much silver, but in order to spend it, you must first go to the willow tree out in the garden. If you do this task, you will be able to spend the silver. If you do not go to the willow tree first, the silver will not belong to you."

The sailor went to see if he could spot the willow tree in the garden next to the greenhouse. He went down to the bottom of his street, and he saw a

monster vampire. But the **vampire** was a **cartoon**. **Thunder** struck all around him. With **disgust** he felt his **mistake**; he had left his **rubber** coat at home, and now he would get wet. Then a **rainbow** came, and the **tadpoles** made such a din. **Uphill** he went, but he did not **complain**. He got some **turnip** greens to eat for **supper**. After his meal he went on his way. Among the streets he did go, he saw a **market**. In the **market** he saw a man **selling** a number of **ribbons** and a **cactus**. He did ask the man **about** a **willow tree** outside a **greenhouse**. "Oh yes," the man said, "that tree is about **sixteen** blocks from here. You just go down this street, and when you see the **peddler** **selling** **skateboards**, turn into that **alley**."

The **sailor** went down the street, **thirteen**, then **fourteen**, then **fifteen** blocks. There was the **peddler** **selling** **skateboards**. Yes, this **corner** must be the spot. And then he had a **problem**. Now what do I do? If I get the **silver**, I do not have a **basket** to put it in. I am not an **umpire**, and I **cannot pretend**

that I have a **better** way. I will just walk into the **alley** and see if I may spot a **willow** tree in a **garden** next to a **greenhouse**.

Then the **sailor** heard a loud **bellow**. He must **collect himself**. He **cannot allow himself** to be a **robot**. At that **moment** he saw a **mailbox** with his name on it. A **letter inside** the **mailbox** was for him. It said on the **outside** of the **paper**, "For the **sailor** to **open** at his own risk!!! **Beware!!!**" The **sailor** shook. He was **shaking** with the scare. But then he said, "Well I don't care. I have sailed all over. I have seen a **twister** hit the ground. I will not back away from this **moment**." So the **sailor** did read the **letter**. It said, "**Sailor**, you are out of your depth. Run away while there is still time." "No," said the sailor to **himself**. "I will not be made to run." He kept **reading** the **letter**. "If you will not leave now, then **follow** down the street to the next **corner**. Turn left, and go **inside** the gate. There you will see a **willow** tree. Look next to the tree, and you will see a **burro** with a **harness** and

a **saddle**. The **burro's** name is **Bruno**.
Inside the **saddle** you will get a note that
will **explain** what you are to do next.
Go now!!!"

The **sailor** was a mess, but he did not quit. He went into the gate and saw the **burro** with a **harness** and **saddle** next to the **willow** tree. He found the note **inside** the **saddle**. The note said that he must take out his key and match it to the key **inside** the **saddle**. If they both were the same size, then he could **enter** into the **greenhouse**, but if he did not have his key, then he must not come back.

The **sailor** took out his key, and it did match the size of the key in the **saddle**. Then he went to the **greenhouse** and put the key **inside** the lock. The door swung **open** with **creaking** sounds. **Inside** the **greenhouse** all was bare **except** for a lone **picnic table**. The **sailor** took the **table away**. On the spot where the **table** had been, there was a patch of **clover**, and next to that a hole was in the ground with a **ladder inside** of the hole. The **sailor** went down the **ladder**, and at

the **bottom** was a pot of **silver**. "I found it," said the **sailor**. "I have found the **silver** in the **greenhouse**." There was so much **silver** that he could not bring all to the top **without** first **making** a **number** of trips. At last he got it all up to the top. "Now I can get my own **ship**," said the **sailor**. At that **moment** out from **behind** the **table** came the **pilot** and the **cowboy**. "You have found the **prize**, and now we have been able to thank you for your help in **saving** my **husband's** life," said the **pilot**. With that they left, and the **sailor** began to sing a **seaman's** song.