

Epaminondas had a good kind granny who cooked at “the big house.” Epaminondas liked to go to see her and she always gave him something to take home with him.

On Monday when Epaminondas went to see Granny she was baking a cake. She gave Epaminondas a piece to eat. As he was leaving, Granny said, “Epaminondas, take a slice home to your mammy.”

Epaminondas took it in his little hands and squeezing it just as tight as he could ran all the way home.

When his mammy saw him, she said, “That’s no way to carry cake? You put it in your hat; then put your hat on your head and come home.”

“Yes, Mammy.”

On Tuesday Epaminondas went to see his granny, she was making butter, and she gave him a pat of fresh butter to carry to his mammy.

Epaminondas put the pat of butter in his hat, put his hat on his head, and went home.

It was a hot day, and soon the butter began to melt. Drip, drip, drip, it went into his ears. Drip, drip, drip, it went into his eyes. Drip, drip, drip, it went down his back. When Epaminondas reached home he had no butter in his hat. It was all on him.

Looking at him hard, his mammy said, “Epaminondas! Don’t you know how to carry butter?

You must wrap it in a cabbage leaf, and take it to the spring. Then you must cool it in the water, and cool it in the water, and cool it in the water. When you have done this, take the butter in your hands and come home.”

On Wednesday Epaminondas went to see his granny. She was sitting in chair knitting.

She said, “Epaminondas, look in the garage, and you’ll see something you like.”

Epaminondas looked in the woodshed, and there he found four little puppies. He played with them all the afternoon, and when he started home, his granny gave him one.

Epaminondas remembered what his mammy had told him. He wrapped the puppy in a big cabbage leaf, and took it to the spring. He cooled it in the water, and cooled it in the water, and cooled it in the water. Then he took it in his hands, and went home.

When his mammy saw him, she said, “Epaminondas, that’s no way to carry a puppy. The way to carry a puppy is to tie a string around his neck and put him on the ground. Then you take the other end of the string in your hand and come along home.

Epaminondas was going to be right the next time. He got a piece of string and put it in his pocket to have it ready.

The next day Epaminondas's mammy had visitors, and she had no bread for dinner. She called Epaminondas and said, "Run and ask your granny to send me a loaf of bread for dinner."

"Yes, Mammy," said Epaminondas. And off he ran.

Granny gave him a loaf of bread fresh from the oven.

He proudly got out his string and tied it to the loaf of bread. Then he put the loaf of bread on the ground, and taking the other end of the string in his hand, he went along home, pulling the bread behind him.

When he reached home, his mammy gave one look at the thing tied to the end of the string.

"What have you brought, Epaminondas?" she cried.

"Bread, Mammy. Granny sent it to you."

"Oh, Epaminondas! Epaminondas! How could you be so foolish?" cried his mammy.

"Now I have no bread for dinner.

I'll have to go and get some myself."

... and she did just that. This time, Mammy visited Granny.