



Waltur Buys a Pig in a Poke and Other Stories

by Barbara Gregorich

illustrated by Kristin Sorra

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About the Book

You can lead a horse to water . . .

"Here's the water," said Waltur.

"So it is," said the horse.

"I led you here," said Waltur.

"Many thanks," said the horse.

"Water is good for you," said Waltur.

"So it is," said the horse.

"Drink the water," said Waltur.

"You drink it," said the horse.

"But I don't want any water," said Waltur.

"Neither do I," said the horse.

"I can make you drink the water," said Waltur.

"I think not," said the horse.

*Waltur stood in front of the horse
and pulled.*

The horse backed up.

*The reins snapped and Waltur fell
into the river.*

The horse trotted away.

Matilda helped Waltur out of the river.

"You can lead a horse to water," she said.

"But you can't make it drink."

"I guess not," said Waltur.

Waltur wants a pet. He'd also like a lot of honey and to play games like Dig Holes. But the only pet to be found is a pig at the fair that comes in a box, and Waltur doesn't have enough money to buy any of the sweet treat. Instead, he buys eggs, which he plans to sell after they hatch and become chickens. And for some reason, Waltur can't convince his best friend, Matilda (or their new friend, Horse), that Dig Holes is fun. And so, Waltur learns why it's a bad idea to buy a pig in a poke, not to count his chickens before they hatch, and why you can lead a horse to water, but you can't always make it drink.

With a clever voice and humorous understanding, Barbara Gregorich brings to young readers a delightful interpretation of some funny old expressions. The literal explanation of these axioms helps little ones make sense of the oddities of language, and the endearing illustrations of Kristin Sorra will charm young and old as they realize the wisdom in these silly sayings.

About the Author

Barbara Gregorich has written many early readers. Her love of expressions that do not mean exactly what they say led her to write these stories. She and her husband live in Chicago, where Barbara writes bear stories at the drop of a hat. Learn more at www.barbaragregorich.com.

Kristin Sorra has been drawing and painting since childhood and couldn't imagine doing anything else. She studied illustration at Pratt Institute in New York and now designs and illustrates stationery, along with children's books. She and her husband live in Baltimore.

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JUNE 3 — NATIONAL EGG DAY — Remember not to count your chickens before they hatch! Barbara will speak at the Printers Row Book Fair in Chicago on June 3, 2006.

JULY 12 — NATIONAL PAPER BAG DAY — A day honoring the infamous poke.

AUGUST 6 — FRIENDSHIP DAY — Friendships like the one between Waltur, Matilda, and Darwin are special. Take time to celebrate yours!