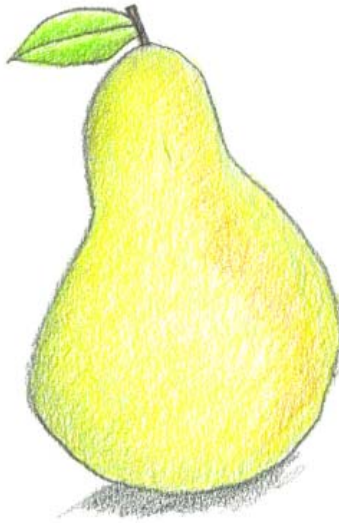


Walden
Was the
Golden Year



Story and Illustrations by Sally O. Lee

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Magdalena finds the Golden Pear



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To Mom and Dad

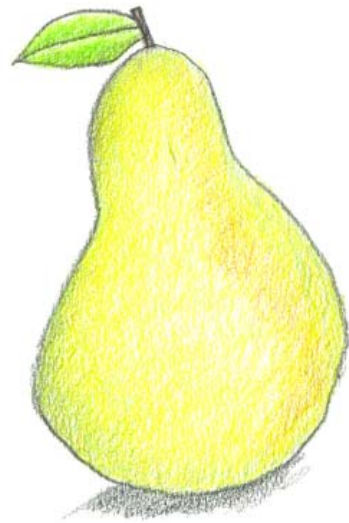
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Once there was a bear named
Magdalena who was in search
of the Golden Pear.

Magdalena was told by a reliable source
that the Golden Pear held all the
secrets of the universe. The source also told her
that before she could find the Golden Pear, she must first learn
some simple lessons about life.

“I wonder what those lessons are?” Magdalena wondered.
“I will go and ask my friend, Edwin the Ant. Maybe he knows
the simple lessons of life.”





Magdalena went in search of her friend,
Edwin the Ant, to see if he
could help her. Magdalena found Edwin the Ant near a
pile of sand on the ground.

“Hi, Edwin,” she said. “I am in search of the Golden Pear,
but I have been told by a reliable source that I must
first learn a few simple lessons about life.
Do you know what these lessons are?”

Edwin replied, “Hello, my friend, how good to see you!
I cannot help you with your question, as I am busy building
my ant hill. I have to build it one
grain of sand at a time. Perhaps you could help
me bring sand to my ant hill.”

“I can help bring sand to your ant hill,” replied Magdalena.
“But then I must find the Golden Pear.”

“Thank you,” said Edwin.

After Magdalena carried many grains of sand to Edwin’s ant hill,
she said good-bye and went in search of the Golden Pear.

“I wonder if my friend, Henry the Butterfly,
knows about the simple
lessons of life,” Magdalena wondered, and
she went in search of Henry
the Butterfly.

Magdalena found Henry the Butterfly in a field near the
edge of the forest. There were many butterflies in the forest,
but Henry had wings that were covered with
pink polka dots, so he was easy to find.

“Henry!” shouted Magdalena.

“I am in search of the Golden Pear, but I have
heard from a reliable source that I must learn some simple lessons
about life. Would you know what these lessons are?”



“Hi, Magdalena,” replied Henry. “It’s good to see you.
I don’t know the answer to your question,
as I’m busy catching bugs to bring home to
my family for dinner. Would you like to help me catch bugs?”

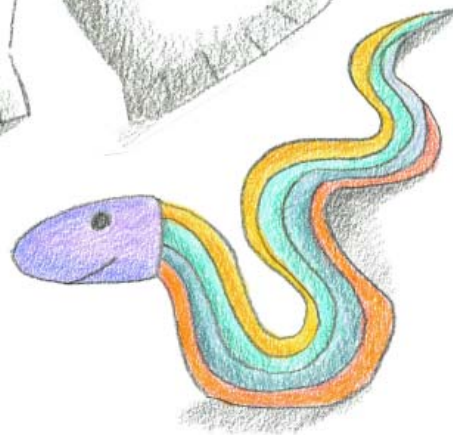
“Okay,” said Magdalena. “But then I must
continue my search for the
Golden Pear.”

“Thank you,” replied Henry. “And good luck
in your search for the Golden Pear.”

“Thank you,” Replied Magdalena.







After helping Henry catch bugs for dinner, Magdalena went again in search of the Golden Pear.

“I wonder if my friend, Samantha the Snake, would know the simple lessons of life,” thought Magdalena. “I will go find her and see if she knows.”

Magdalena went in search of Samantha the Snake, who lived in a field near the forest. When she found Samantha, she said, “Samantha, I am in search of the Golden Pear, I have been told by a reliable source that I must first learn a few simple lessons about life. Do you know what these lessons are?”

“Hello, Magdalena, it’s good to see you. I don’t know the answer to your question, but perhaps you could help me. I strayed too far from home and now I’m lost and I don’t know my way back. Can you help me find my way home?”

“Of course,” replied Magdalena. “And then I must continue my search for the Golden Pear.”

“Thank you,” said Samantha, with a big smile.

Magdalena helped Samantha back to the field. As soon as Samantha felt safe and knew her way home, Magdalena continued her journey to find the Golden Pear.

“I wonder if my friend, Malcolm the Mouse, would know the simple lessons of life,” Magdalena thought. “I will go find him and ask.”

Magdalena went to the house of Malcolm the Mouse, which was a tiny hole in the side of a big tree near the big forest.

Magdalena found Malcolm and said, “Hello, Malcolm, I am in search of the Golden Pear, but I have been told by a reliable source that I must first learn a few simple lessons about life. Do you know what these lessons are?”

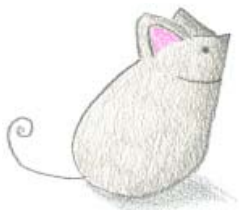
“Hello, Magdalena,” replied Malcolm. “It’s good to see you, but I don’t know the answer to your question.”

“Perhaps you could help me find the answer,” suggested Magdalena.

“I would, but I’m too busy trying to prepare my house for the winter. I need to find all the nuts and seeds in the forest so that I have plenty to eat. If not, I cannot survive through the cold season. Perhaps you could help me.”

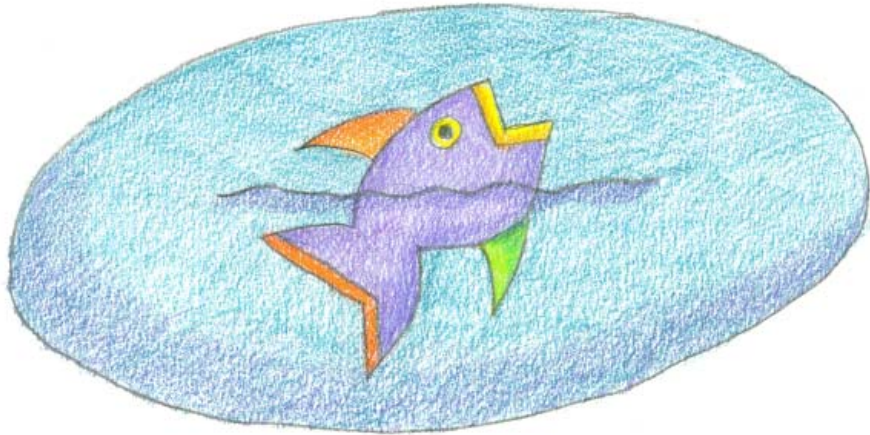
“I can help you, Malcolm,” Magdalena replied.
“And then I must find the Golden Pear.”

“Thank you,” said Malcolm, and they went off in search of nuts and seeds.









When Malcolm had enough food for the winter, Magdalena continued her search for the Golden Pear.

“Perhaps my friend, Francine the Fish, would know the simple lessons of life,” thought Magdalena. “I will go and find her.”

Magdalena found the small pond next to the large forest, Francine the Fish was swimming in the pond.

“Hello, Francine,” said Magdalena.

“Hello, Magdalena, it’s good to see you. What brings you to this part of the forest?”

“I am looking for the Golden Pear. But I have been told by a reliable source that I must first learn a few simple lessons about life. Do you know what these lessons are?”

“No, I do not,” Francine replied. “I’ve been too busy worrying about the state of this pond. It’s filled with cans and bottles and other litter, and I’m afraid that the other fish and I will no longer be able to live here. Could you help me clean up the pond?”

“Of course!” said Magdalena.

Magdalena and Francine worked very hard to remove all of the bottles and cans and other litter that had been sitting at the bottom of the pond.

“Thank you,” said Francine. “Now we can live in the pond again.”

“You’re welcome,” replied Magdalena. “I’m glad you can swim and live in your pond again, but now I must go in search of the Golden Pear.”

“Good luck, Magdalena,” said Francine. “I hope you find what you’re looking for.”

Francine made a big splash in the water and disappeared into the depths of the pond.

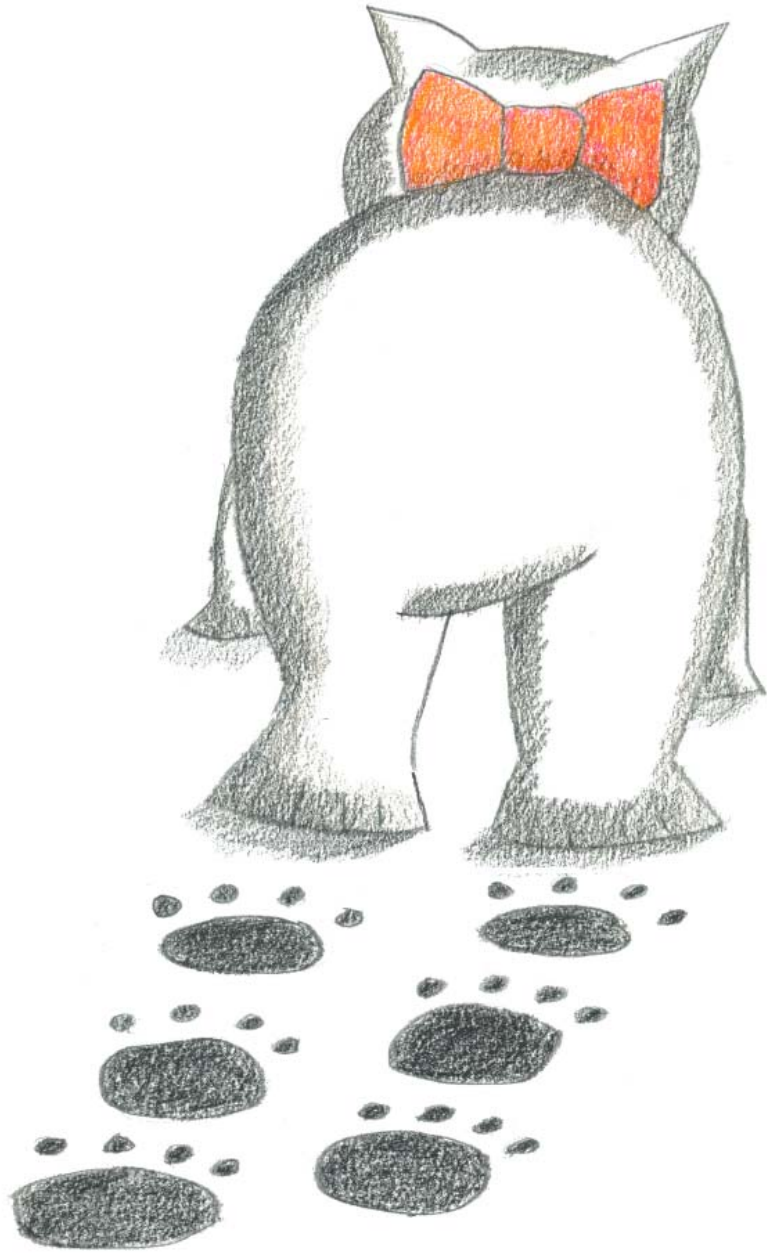
Magdalena was feeling discouraged about
her quest for the Golden Pear.

She had asked Edwin the Ant, Henry the Butterfly,
Samantha the Snake, Malcolm the Mouse, and Francine the Fish,
but none of her friends knew the answer to
the simple lessons of life. They were all too busy with their work.

Magdalena thought about how much fun it was to help them.
“Maybe I’ll never learn the simple lessons of life,” she thought.
“Maybe it’s too hard. I think I’ll go home now.”

It made her happy that her friends were safe and
well-fed and ready for the winter.

Magdalena began her journey home, back to the
part of the forest where she lived.



When she came to the edge of the forest, she decided to sit down.
Her stomach began to growl, and she realized that
she had not eaten all day.

“I’m hungry,” said Magdalena. “I wonder what
I can eat for dinner.”

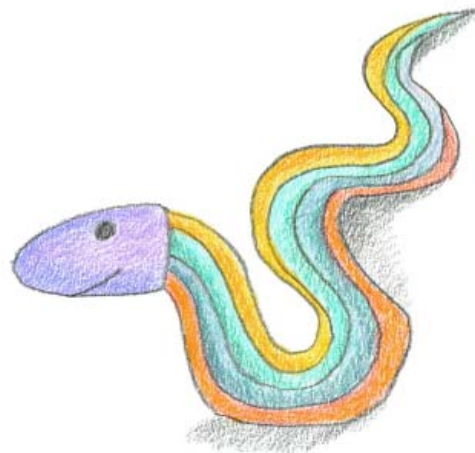
Magdalena lays down on the ground and decides to take a nap.
It had been a long day, and she was tired. She looks up at the sky and
realizes that the trees are filled with golden pears.

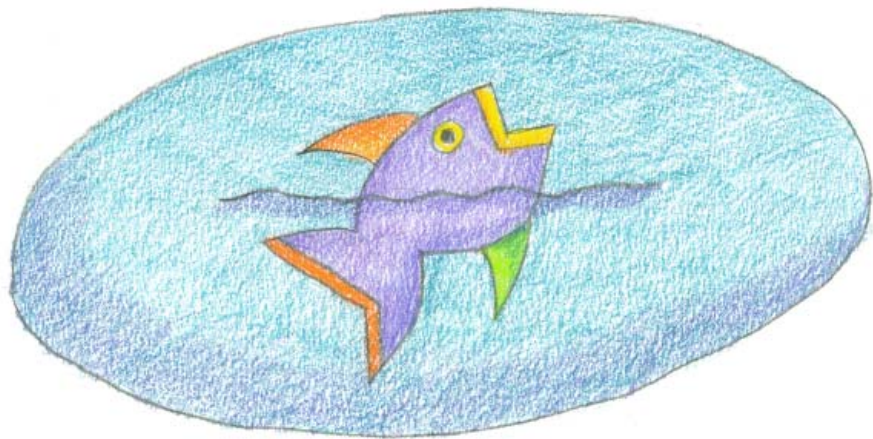


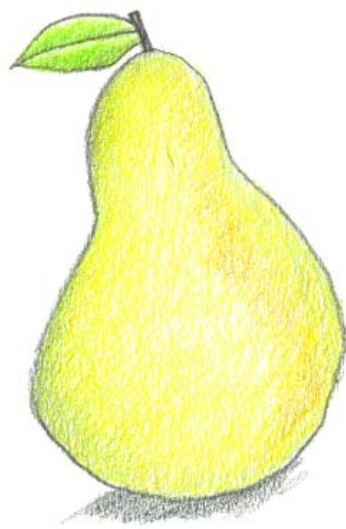
She picks a pear off the nearest tree and takes a big bite.
It is sweet and delicious.

Magdalena understands the simple lessons of life,
and she has learned the secrets
of the universe.









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