

## Coconut Float

*From Chapter 1, Plant Growth and Development, page 14*

Once a young seed said to its big Mother plant,  
“I want to stay with you!” She said, “I’m sorry, seed—you can’t.”

“You need your own piece of earth, a place where you can grow.”  
Then the trees began to rustle and strong winds began to blow.

The seed was pulled far away and carried by the winds.  
It fell lonely to the ground, but soon it made some friends.

A squirrel scampered by with some seeds in his cheeks.  
It buried seeds all over, to hide them for a week.

The squirrel forgot about them and they began to sprout.  
Those plants were growing strong when they heard a bird call out.

That bird squawked, “Watch out!”—earlier he’d been eating berries,  
And now the bird was dropping droppings his body could no longer carry.

The droppings landed with a “SPLAT” in the open field.  
From the seeds in that pile sprouted a plant that grows there still.

Soon a cat trotted by with stickers in its tail.  
It stopped and scratched to get them out and on the ground they fell.

Those stickers were seeds that sprouted, now a huge bush grows there.  
So if you walk in that area, be sure to take great care.

Another young plant that came nearby traveled far and at slow speed.  
A coconut tree dropped a nut on the beach. Yes, a coconut is a seed.

The coconut did not grow on that beach, it got washed out to the ocean.  
It traveled across great distances just by riding on wave motion.

The seed was splashing along when it bumped into a boat.  
The captain looked up as the nut passed by and said, “Look a coconut float!”

The coconut finally landed on an island; it could no longer wait.  
Once it found a good sandy spot, it began to germinate.

Now remember, plants need many things like water, air and light.  
If they grow too close together, for those things they have to fight.

If seeds did not travel, they couldn’t last very long.  
But since they are carried, plants can grow to be healthy and strong.