

# The Treasurer

This is a story about a boy called Franek.

Franek lived with his family near a coal mine. His father was a miner. They were poor, but happy. Then one day his father was killed in the coal mine, in an accident.

**Franek:** 'I have to go to work, or my mum and my little brother and sister will be hungry!'

So he went to see the foreman in the coal mine.

**Franek:** 'I need a job.'

**Foreman:** 'You are too young to be a miner.'

**Franek:** 'Please, if I don't get the job, my family will have nothing to eat.'

**Foreman:** 'All right. You can work here for one week. If you dig as much coal as other miners, you can stay.'

The next day Franek started working in the coal mine. He got a pickaxe and went down underground with other miners.

**Franek:** 'I don't know if I can do it. The coal is so hard! And this pickaxe is too heavy for me...'

At the end of the day he sat down on the ground in the dark corridor and started crying. Suddenly he saw another light and then, an old man.

**Treasurer:** 'Why are you crying?'

**Franek:** 'I can't dig as much coal as the others. I will lose the job and my family will be hungry!'

**Treasurer:** 'I can help you, but you have to give me part of the money.'

**Franek:** 'Yes, all right. Thank you!'

So they started working together. Funny thing, the other miners didn't see the old man at all. But he was very strong. By the end of the week they dug more coal than other miners. Franek went to the foreman.

**Foreman:** 'I see that you can be a miner. You can stay! Here is your money.'

The next day, the old man was waiting for Franek in the mine.

**Treasurer:** 'Have you got the money for me?'

**Franek:** 'Yes. Please take it all. Thank you! I got the job, and my family will not starve.'

**Treasurer:** 'Keep your money, and always be that honest!'

After that, the old man disappeared, and Franek understood that it had been the Treasurer of the coal mine.