

## Story #1: Madame Blueberry: A Lesson in Thankfulness

If you aren't familiar with the *VeggieTales*, it is important for you to know the following. Bob is a talking and singing tomato. His friend, Larry, taller and less round, is a cucumber. Together with other veggie-friends, they live in a colorful world of 3-D animation. As stated on the video cover, theirs is a world of "Sunday morning values, Saturday morning fun!"

The story of Madame Blueberry is the 9<sup>th</sup> video produced in the series. And it's a very blue (sad) story. Madame Blueberry has fallen prey to Madison Avenue advertising. The *world* has informed her that she cannot be happy unless she buys stuff, more and more stuff. And even though she already has everything she needs—good friends, good food, and a nice tree house to live in—she isn't happy. In fact, she's downright depressed. Why? Because some of her friends have more stuff than she does. It's more than enough to make a greedy blueberry grumpy.

When Bob tries to remind her about the happiness found in friendships, a chorus sung by Stuff Mart employees singing drowns him out... "Happiness waits at the Stuff Mart...all you need [to be happy] is lots more stuff."

As fate would have it, the grand opening of a new shopping center is underway—a gigantic "Stuff Mart." Madame Blueberry goes to the brand new superstore along with Bob (the tomato) and Larry (the cucumber). She quickly begins a shopping frenzy with the energy of a thousand feeding piranha.

After filling dozens of shopping carts—and her tree house—with stuff, Madame Blueberry listens to a little boy asking his father for a train. When his Dad confesses that he cannot afford to buy his son a train, Madame Blueberry expects the child to be disappointed and angry. But instead, the boy accepts his father's offer to buy him a ball and breaks into song about the joy of playing pitch with someone he loves.

At that moment, Madame Blueberry has an epiphany. She realizes that she does not *need* any of the stuff she has bought. She *wanted* it in hopes that it would make her happy. She then announces to Bob and Larry that what she really *wants* is a happy heart.

The story continues, but the point has been made. To find happiness, we must turn a deaf ear to the world's (Madison Avenue) voices and listen to our own hearts. What we truly need is love, relationship, and thankful hearts. "A happy heart doesn't come from a store."