

NAME: _____

INTO THE PIT

One day Jacob came looking for Joseph. He wanted to send him on a special errand. "Your brothers have been away for a long time", he said, "I'm anxious about them". "Go out and look for them. Make sure that they are safe".

Joseph set off in the direction his brothers had gone, asking for news of them as he went. At last he tracked them down.

When he was still in the distance, his brothers caught sight of him. They recognized him right away by the special coat that Jacob had given him.

"Here come the dreamer", one of his brothers said. "We've got him on his own now", said another. "Why don't we kill him while we have the chance? Then we'll see what becomes of his wonderful dreams".

Reuben, Jacob's eldest son, tried to stop them. "We ought not kill him", he said. "Let's just throw him down this dried-up well. That should teach him a lesson!"

Joseph was close now, so there was not time for more talk and plans. He came towards them eagerly, not suspecting any harm.

Two of the biggest brothers seized him, while another ripped off his fine coat. Then, as Reuben had suggested, they threw him into the deep pit. There would be no climbing those steep slippery sides to escape. A little breathless, but well satisfied, the brothers sat down to enjoy their meal. They paid no attention to Joseph's desperate cries for help.

