

THE **LEGO** STORY



Many years ago There (be) _____ a skilled and hardworking carpenter. His name (be) _____ Olley. He (have) _____ his own company, but times (be) _____ hard. He (not have) _____ much money, so he (close) _____ down his workshop and (dismiss) _____ the last worker. He (feel) _____ very sad. And soon another big drama (happen) _____. He (lose) _____ his wife. But Olley (be) _____ a special person. He (not be) _____ the type that (give) _____ up. He (have) _____ 4 sons and (need) _____ to take care of them. One day he (get) _____ an idea. He (put) that idea into action very soon. He (decide) _____ to make wooden toys. It (make) _____ his boys really happy.

Time (pass) _____ by. And even Olley (be) _____ a skilled carpenter and (have) _____ a good eye for quality and detail, sales (be) _____ very slow. Luckily, one of his sons (start) _____ helping him. Together they (manage) _____ to keep the production. Soon more and more people (know) _____ about his wonderful wooden toys.

One day a man (drive) _____ into their town. He (be) _____ a wholesaler and (place) _____ a big order before he (leave) _____. He (buy) _____ toys for his store. Olley and his sons (build) _____ toys day and night to get the order finished on time.

In the middle of their work Olley (receive) _____ a letter where he (know) _____ that a wholesaler (file) _____ for bankruptcy and (not can) _____ buy the toys he (order) _____.

Olley (become) _____ very sad.

Suddenly he (find) _____ a way out. He (pack) _____ his car with toys and (go) _____ to sell them in town. Unfortunately, he (not be) _____ a good salesman. In the end he (sell) _____ all the toys but (not receive) _____ much money. But he (be) _____ happy because he (have) _____ food for his family.

Time (pass) _____ by. Olley (think) _____ that his company (need) _____ a good name. He (find) _____ a short word 'leggo'. In Latin it (mean) _____ 'I put together'. Everybody (like) _____ this name and soon the company (start) _____ to move forward.

He (dream) _____ to improve the quality of the toys and (buy) _____ a milling machine. Now he (can) _____ produce toys for shipping abroad. For Olley every detail (matter) _____. He (believe) _____ in high quality and honesty to customers.

In the late 1930s Lego (make) _____ a good profit. He (try) _____ to make the best even of the most difficult time. Nothing (can) _____ go wrong. But a stormy night in 1942 (change) _____ their luck. There (be) _____ a fire in the workshop. When the firemen (arrive) _____, they (not can) _____ save it. The workshop (burn) _____ to the ground. Olley almost (lose) _____ his company and hope. But He (think) _____ about his

family and workers all the time. It (inspire) _____ him. Soon he (rebuild) _____ the factory. They (construct) _____ a new one. The production of wooden toys (start) _____ again. The little company (fight) _____ its way back into the market. Gradually it (begin) _____ to run smoothly and Olley (start) _____ looking for new challenges.