

The Story Where V Befriends U

(U has a Secret)

V is for Vetch, Verbena, Valerian and Violets

Michael and Mrs. Applebee started again down Alphabet Path. Michael's bouquet was getting very big. Cheerily, he started singing the alphabet song.

"A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U...U is our next fairy Mrs. Applebee!" he exclaimed.

"Yes! But little tricky U has a secret," she answered. Then, around the bend, Michael saw not one, but two new fairies. "Two?" asked Michael.

"Yes!" said Mrs. Applebee " U and V together!"

"Oh good!" said Michael. "Are there two songs also?"

"No, just one song for two buddies!" said the purple and green fairy. He had his arm around the other fairy. Michael noticed that the other fairy looked rather plain.

"I'm Vetch and this is U. U doesn't have a flower, Michael," said Vetch Fairy.

"May I hear the song so that I know why U doesn't have a flower?"

"Of course!" said Vetch Fairy and he began to sing his song.

Poor Little U

Has nothing to do!

He hasn't a flower: not one.

For U is Unlucky, I'm sorry to tell;

U stands for Unfortunate, Ugly as well;

No single sweet flowery name will it spell --

*Is there nothing at all to be done?
"Don't fret, little neighbour,"
says kind fairy V,
"You're welcome to share
all my flowers with me --
Come, play with them, laugh, and have fun.
I've Vetches in plenty for me and for you,
Verbena, Valerian, Violets too:
Don't cry then, Because you have none."*

(From The Complete Book of the Flower Fairies by Cicely Mary Barker)

"That's very nice of you to share all of your flowers with U!" said Michael "Do you really have Verbena, Valerian, and Violets, too?"

"Yes! But I mostly have Vetch because I am the Vetch fairy!" he said with a laugh.

"Well, do you have a saint for me?" asked Michael "Yes, I do! Just as you got to meet two fairies at this stop, you also get to make two new saint friends, Saint Vincent De Paul and St. Ursula!" said Vetch

"Oh!" exclaimed Michael, "So many new friends at one time, how lovely!"

Vetch smiled and pulled out his red book and read to Michael. When he was finished, he folded his hands on his lap over the closed book and looked seriously at the little boy. "You see Michael, St. Vincent De Paul loved to help anyone that needed help. I like to do the same. And that's why I take good care of my little friend U!" said the Vetch fairy.

"And St. Ursula found the courage to be holy from her wonderful friends," grinned the U fairy as he put his hand on Vetch's shoulder, "That's why having a friend like Vetch is so important to me!"

Vetch handed Michael a vetch flower. Michael said goodbye, then turned to say goodbye to the U fairy. The U fairy, as simple and plain as he was, held out his hands with a sparkling smile. In his hands was a golden ribbon, which when tied into a bow, formed the letter "U."

"I have no golden- stemmed flower to offer you," he said a bit apologetically. "But I *am* a vowel, just the same and so I'm offering you this golden bow."

"What is this for?" asked Michael.

"This is to tie your bouquet together when you've gotten all of your flowers," said the U fairy.

"Thank you!" said Michael "My mother will love this golden ribbon!"

Then Michael and Mrs. Applebee waved a cheery goodbye and walked down Alphabet Path towards the next flower fairy.