

The Mysterious Giant of Barletta

(Grade 3 Theme 3 Selection 2 Summary)

In a small town in Italy called Barletta, there was a giant statue of a boy. He stood in the town square year in and year out. All the people lived their lives around him. Barletta was a peaceful town. The people thought it would always be that way.

But one day, the people heard that an army was coming to destroy their town! Everyone was scared. They did not have any way to protect themselves. The oldest woman in town, Zia Concetta, was very sad. She began talking to her old friend, the giant statue. She wished he would come to life to help protect the town of Barletta. And that is what he did!

Zia Concetta made a plan to save Barletta. While everyone in town hid, the giant went to sit outside of town with an onion. When the army arrived, they were stopped by the sight of a giant boy sitting in a puddle of tears. The captain of the army asked the giant why he was crying. The giant said he was sad because he was too small and weak to play with the other boys of his town. The army was scared. They began to wonder: If this huge boy was too small to play with the other boys, how big must the men in his town be? They did not stay to find out. They ran away from Barletta as fast as they could. And the giant returned to his spot in his peaceful, happy town.