

# Benny Finds a Home!

(a CWPD Fairy & Gnome-O-Rama Story!)



Hello, children! Mother Nature here! I want to introduce you to Benny. Benny is a HULDUFOLK, which means he is one of the “Hidden People” who live in the land of Fire and Ice commonly known as Iceland. The Huldufolk include fairies, elves, trolls and gnomes, like Benny!

## SIGN 1

Benny is usually a happy little gnome boy, but he has a problem. First off, he loves snow, but not all the time. He loves his cool gnome home, but it is very cramped with his other brothers and sisters inside. Most of all, poor

Benny can never seem to get rid of his cold. He sneezes all the time! He wants to move somewhere there isn't so much snow and he won't have a cold ... and constant sneezing!

## SIGN 2

One day, Benny quietly left his gnome home and headed toward his favorite waterfall. He found a small group of people there. While they were having fun behind the waterfall, he quietly snuck inside one of their bags and settled in for a brave new journey.

The bag ended up in a suitcase ... which ended up in an airplane ... which ended up in a car ... which finally ended up in a home in a place called Centerville, Ohio. Have you heard of it? When the suitcase was opened, Benny let out a BIG sneeze and stuck his head out of the bag. A girl screamed and Benny jumped out and hid. When she told her family, they said she was just tired from her long journey and she MUST have imagined it.

## SIGN 3

Benny noticed a gigantic forest through the window. He heard panting and big paws on the floor and saw a dog running out a little swinging door that led outside. Benny snuck out the flapping doggie door and into a big yard. The dog saw him and ran over. Benny and Bailey seemed to understand each other. Bailey was so glad to have a playmate. He shared his water with Benny and even pointed out some flowers and mushrooms that Benny ate.

Guess what? No sneezes!

Benny wanted to explore this new land! He needed to find a place where he could build his own Gnome Home. Bailey told him about the walks his human family takes him on every day to the park just outside their gate. It had lots of trees, meadows, prairies and creeks.



Benny hid behind a wood pile in the yard and planned to follow Bailey and his human family on their evening walk in the park.

Still no sneezing!

## SIGN 4

He snuck out of the gate behind Bailey and his family of noisy humans. Bailey turned his head around once and saw Benny wave goodbye as they went separate directions into the woods. Bailey wagged his tail. Benny was in awe of this forest. It should be easy to find a place to live here! As he started into the woods, he realized he hadn't coughed or sneezed all day!

## SIGN 5

Benny found a large tree. He had never seen an oak tree before! The base of the tree had a hollow opening that went pretty high into the tree trunk. He heard a strange chattering from a gray creature with a long fluffy tail who quickly raced down the tree trunk while throwing acorns.

The squirrel said, "I don't know who you are but this is MY home!"

Benny apologized and the creature introduced himself as a gray squirrel named Atticus. Soon the two of them were sitting on the ground telling each other about themselves and their homes. The squirrel gave him some ideas of where to look for a place to live. Benny thanked Atticus and waved goodbye!



## SIGN 6

Benny, the now sleepy gnome boy, entered into a beautiful meadow. He marveled at the beautiful wildflowers blowing gently in the breeze. He hadn't taken more than 20 steps when he came upon a hole in the ground.

"I can fit in here!" he said. He lowered himself down into the hole and was surprised how deep it was.

The passageway went off to the left and right. He took a right turn and came out in the meadow again, but in a different spot. He went back in and took the left turn. All of a sudden he was approached from behind.

A voice said, "Excuse me little boy, but you are entering my living room and you weren't invited."

Benny turned around and met another strange creature a little bit taller than he. Benny introduced himself and apologized for the intrusion. The brown furry creature introduced himself as Finn the groundhog. He said he already knew Benny was coming. Benny was a bit puzzled.



Benny asked about the two entrances to Finn's fine home. Finn stated that he had three entrances and exits for convenience but also for a quick escape in case a predator was chasing him.

"Wow! That is so smart of you, Finn. I really like your home, but I need to find a place to sleep tonight so I can continue my search tomorrow."

The groundhog really liked this tiny little boy and welcomed him to stay the night. Benny was thrilled to stay in such a cool and safe place. Finn thought Benny might like to go with him into the meadow to find food: sweet flowers, clover, berries, June bugs, snails and grasshoppers. The two new friends left immediately to find yummy treats to fill their tummies before bedtime.

After a good night's sleep, Benny hugged his new groundhog friend and said he would visit him again once he found his own home.

## SIGN 7



He came upon a prairie with tall grasses. He could see animal trails going into the prairie. He followed one. He noticed several thick mounds of grass pushed tightly together to form small shelters with soft grass forming a lovely place to rest. He sat down to rest inside one of the grass dens when a familiar creature came hopping by that reminded him of home.

"Hello, little bunny!" he called out. "I am a gnome named Benny and I'm looking to build my own home. Do you think this would be a good place for me to build a home of grass?"

The brown cottontail rabbit's name was Allie. They rubbed their noses together so say hello. Allie said she was expecting him. Benny was puzzled again. Allie said she has lived there all her life and the tall prairie grass might make a good home, but she feared he would be too exposed to coyotes, owls, hawks and foxes. She didn't think he could run as fast as a bunny! She suggested he head back into the woods and go downhill to the creek. There are lots of rocks, boulders and trees around there to build a stronger, safer home.

## SIGN 8

Benny continued going deeper into the woods on something called the Yellow Trail. Soon he was going down hill and he could hear the sound of water. He walked off the trail to a mound he saw. He walked around to the other side of the mound and saw a nice sized little den dug into the mound and even better, it had a view of the creek.

He decided he could add a nice rug of moss to the floor to sleep on and build an area inside to store food. Suddenly he heard sniffing. All of a sudden a red fox did a flying leap into the air with her nose landing right at Benny's feet!



“Oh, hello, fox. I’m sorry, is this your den? I didn’t know anyone was living here.”

The very beautiful red fox’s name was Lena. She stated that this was her den and this is where she will be having her kits (baby foxes) soon.

“My home is away from the trail and people. I like that it is on the side of a fairly steep hill so if someone looked down this way they won’t see an opening. If it rains, the water flows right by my den.”

He told her about looking for a home. Lena gave Benny directions down the hill to the creek. He looked down the steep hill and Lena, said “Little Gnome Boy, hop on my back and I will safely get you down the hill.” Benny smiled and got on Lena’s soft, smooth back.

## SIGN 9

“We’ve been waiting for you, Huldufolk!”

Before him was such a beautiful creature! It looked like a reindeer, but a bit smaller. The creature was surrounded by Atticus, Finn, Allie and Lena.

“I am a white-tailed deer. I am a buck as you can see from my antlers. My name is Josh. Welcome to what people call Bill Yeck Park! We call it Mother Nature’s home!”

Benny thought Josh was the most magnificent white-tailed deer he had ever seen. Josh said, “Follow me!”



Benny and the others walked behind the buck. They followed the creek for quite some time as they went deeper into the woods. Finally, Josh stepped aside. Before the little gnome stood the biggest tree he ever saw and it was white ... just like home! It was a giant sycamore tree with a massive trunk. At the bottom of the trunk there was a triangle-shaped hole twice as high as him! He slowly walked inside. It was enormous, flat and dry. He walked around the entire inside and was already planning where his bed would go, where his table and chair would go and where he would store his food. He went back to the entrance and looked out over the hillside to the creek. He looked at the other trees, the flowers, the plants and what he could see of the blue sky above.

Finally, he looked at each of his new friends and shouted out loud, “This is the best home EVER and you are the BEST FRIENDS EVER! I am HOME!”

Benny, the little gnome boy, became part of the family of creatures that live peacefully in Bill Yeck Park. When you are hiking you may never see them. But they are there.

Benny never caught a cold or sneezed again, except, that is, when he was smelling flowers.

Bye, Bye!  
Mother Nature