

3 No More Mowing

14 For Uncle Harry, the grass outside his home was becoming too
28 much trouble to take care of. He lived in the desert of Las Vegas,
42 Nevada. It was hot most of the year, and his water bill was becoming
56 very expensive. In the summer, to keep it green, he had to water his
70 lawn twice a day! In the winter, the grass would turn brown when the
84 temperature got too cold. On top of all that, he thought, at seventy-five,
99 he was getting too old to mow it himself. He decided to have his lawn
111 dug out and removed, and put pampas grasses, cacti, and cool looking
119 rocks and smooth stones in his yard instead.

130 First, he hired some men who were looking for work, waiting
141 outside the local home improvement store. Together, they dug out all
153 the grass below the roots. Next, they removed all the sprinkler heads
166 and capped them off, as the plants Harry would be putting in wouldn't
178 need much more than the occasional rainstorm to stay alive. The next
193 step was to smooth out the dirt using rakes and make it flat. After that,
207 they rolled out some thick plastic over the dirt to keep wild grasses and
218 weeds from growing through. Finally, the men opened the bags of

229 different colored smooth stones Harry had bought and spread them out
242 by hand until the dirt was covered. They left open circles where the
250 grasses and cacti would be planted next week.

264 Harry was happy with his work and the work of the men he had
277 hired. He gave them all an extra twenty dollars each over the one
291 hundred dollars each he had promised to pay them for the day. In the
303 next few weeks, after Harry had planted the grasses and cacti, neighbors
314 were stopping by daily complimenting Harry on how nice his yard
323 looked. Some people even asked him which landscape architecture
334 company he had used, and *'could they get the phone number?'*

347 Few people believed Harry and a few men looking for work on a
358 Saturday could have done such a 'professional job'. That gave Harry
370 great satisfaction, along with the relief that he didn't have to mow
381 anymore, and that his water bill would be cut in half.