

A Miser and His Gold

An old miser lived in a house with a garden. The miser hid his gold coins in a pit under some stones in the garden. Every day, before going to bed, the miser went to the stones where he hid the gold and counted the coins. He continued this routine every day, but not once did he spend the gold he saved.

One day, a thief who knew the old miser's routine, waited for the old man to go back into his house. After it was dark, the thief went to the hiding place and took the gold. The next day, the old miser found that his treasure was missing and started crying loudly.

His neighbor heard the miser's cries and asked about what happened. On learning what happened, the neighbor asked, "Why didn't you save the money inside the house? It would have been easier to access the money when you had to buy something!"

"Buy?" said the miser. "I never used the gold to buy anything. I was never going to spend it."

On hearing this, the neighbor threw a stone into the pit and said, "If that is the case, save the stone. It is as worthless as the gold you have lost".

(word count: 212)

Two Frogs to See the City

Two frogs had lived in a village all their lives. They thought they would like to go and see the big city that was about ten miles away. They talked about it for a long time, and at last they set off to see the city.

It was a hot day, and they soon began to feel tired. They had only gone a little way when one said to the other, "We must be nearly there. Can you see the city?"

"No," said the other frog, "but if I climb on your back I might be able to see it."

So he climbed up on the back of the other frog to see the city.

Now when the frog lifted up his head, his eyes could only see what was behind, and not what was in front. So he saw the village they had just left.

"Can you see the city?" asked the frog who was below.

"Yes," answered the frog who had climbed up. "I can see it. It looks just like our village."

Then the frogs thought that it was not worthwhile going any farther. They went back to their home and told the other frogs in the village that they had seen the city.

(word count:208)

A Kind Villager

Once a gentleman was traveling in a train. He felt thirsty and got off at a station in search of water. No sooner had he reached the water tap than the engine whistled and started. He ran back but missed the train.

It was getting darker and he decided to spend the night at the station.

The next morning he enquired about the next train. He learned that the next train was on another day. So he decided to find a place for a day's stay. He went to the nearby hotel to ask for a room but found none. It was getting darker and he could not find a room.

At last he reached a small house in the village. He asked the owner of the house whether he could stay for a day. The villager readily agreed. That day the villager served him food and gave him a room to stay but did not ask or expect anything in return.

At night, when the clock struck seven, the gentleman heard a knock at the door. The villager opened the door. A man dressed in rich and gaudy clothes entered the hut and demanded the villager pay his debts.

The gentleman realized that the kind villager was in need of money. The next morning he slipped a pocket with money in it under the door of the villager's room and left.

When the villager found the pocket, he saw that there was a note addressed to him. It read, "You helped me but did not expect anything from me in return. Yesterday I heard the conversation between you and the man and came to know that you were in need of money. This is what you deserve."

(word count:309)

An Elephant Who Wants Friends

A lone elephant wandered the forest looking for friends. She came across a monkey and asked, “Will you be my friend, monkey?” “You are too big and cannot swing on trees as I do. So I cannot be your friend,” said the monkey.

The elephant then came across a rabbit and asked him if she could be his friend. “You are too big to fit inside my burrow. You cannot be my friend,” replied the rabbit.

Then the elephant met a frog and asked if she could be her friend. The frog said, “You are too big and heavy. You cannot jump like me. I am sorry, but you cannot be my friend.”

The elephant asked a fox, and he got the same reply. The fox also said that she was too big. The next day, all the animals in the forest were running in fear. The elephant stopped a bear and asked what was happening and was told that a tiger had been attacking all the animals.

The elephant wanted to save the other weak animals. She went to the tiger and said, “Please sir, leave my friends alone. Do not eat them.” The tiger didn’t listen and asked the elephant to mind her own business. Seeing no other way to solve the problem, the elephant kicked the tiger and scared it away.

She then went back to the others and told them what had happened. On hearing how the elephant saved their lives, the animals agreed in unison, “You are just the right size to be our friend.”

(word count: 260)

A Trapped Lion

In a dense forest, lived a fierce lion. He was very cruel. One day the lion was caught in a hunter's trap. One by one, many animals passed by. "Please help me!" pleaded the lion. But none of the animals listened to his plea.

After a while, a man happened to come into the forest. He saw the lion. The lion said, "I will die of hunger and suffocation. Please help me out." The man was thoughtful. "I assure you that I will never harm you. Please help me now. The hunter will be here anytime now," said the lion.

The man felt sorry for the lion and set the beast free. As soon as the lion was free, he let out a fierce roar. "I have been trapped in the cage for a long time. I am hungry. I will have to eat you," said the lion, looking at the man. "But you promised that you would not harm me," said the man, in a terrified tone. "Yes, I said that. But only to convince you to free me. Now, I am terribly hungry," said the lion.

The terrified man thought quickly. He said, "Alright, you can eat me. But let a judge decide if you are right in eating the person who has rescued you."

The lion agreed. He was sure that no animal would speak against him. Just then a fox came that way and the lion asked the fox to be the judge. He addressed the lion, "Sir, would you please show me how it all happened?" The lion didn't think twice. He entered the cage and closed the cage door. The fox immediately locked the cage from the outside.

"Now the lion is trapped again. Run away, you foolish man! And never offer help to anyone without thinking," said the fox. The frightened man ran for his life. And the ungrateful lion was trapped in the cage again.

(word count: 321)

The Best Fruit

Though it looked like a dark, deep and haunting forest, it was full of amazing things. The grass was fresh, crisp and green, and the squirrels were playing in and out of the shady trees. Then a monkey with a long tail came jumping from one tree to another in search of the best fruits in the forest.

The daily routine of the monkey was to reach a tree, find the fresh fruits, eat them and move to the next tree. The monkey was so busy that it never took a rest from his task. The search was not about the hunger but to excel above all others.

Even though he tasted every fruit of the forest, he never felt satisfied and started blaming himself for not finding the best ones. The monkey slowly became depressed and felt hatred towards his life. It felt like nothing was new.

It was mid-summer and as usual the monkey went in search of fruits, but he couldn't find any. The jungle was burning with scorching sunlight and all the rivers and lakes had dried up.

The monkey didn't find even a drop of water. He felt like dying. Unexpectedly, the monkey found an old tree with a few fruits hanging on its branches, which were like a ray of hope. The monkey jumped over the tree to pluck a piece of fruit. At that very moment, he was amazed at the sweet, ripe, mouthwatering smell of the fruit. Unable to resist, the monkey took a big bite. The fruit was so fresh, juicy and delicious. The monkey ate to its heart's content and then found that it was the same old tree to which he once paid less attention.

The monkey then realized the importance of enjoying the present moment rather than running after the future.

(word count: 331)