

1. A Jar of Candy

One day, a mother said to her son, "There is some candy in the kitchen. It is in a jar. You can go and take some." The boy loved candy very much. He ran to the kitchen, put his hand into the candy jar, and grabbed a handful of candy. Just then, he realized something was wrong. "I cannot get my hand out of the jar," he shouted. "The neck of the jar is too small. What can I do? HELP ME!"

His little sister, who is a great fan of Harry Potter, came into the room. "What's wrong?" she asked. She looked at his hand and said, "I know what to do!" She took out a magic wand, waved it around and began quietly, becoming louder and louder, "handicus, outicus...shazam!" The boy tried again to pull his hand out, but it was still stuck. "Oh no," he moaned.

His older brother came into the room to help. "It's

easy. You need to pull harder." He said. His brother pulled the jar as hard as he could. "Stop! Stop! That hurts!" the boy shouted and started to cry, but his hand would not come out.

His mother walked into the kitchen and looked at him. "Your hand is full of candy. Drop some. Then your hand can come out."

The boy dropped some of the candy into the jar, and his hand came out. He said, "Next time, I won't be greedy."

2. A Man Who Swallowed a Horse

One day, Mr. Green rushed into Mr. Williams' clinic. "What's wrong with you?" asked the doctor. Mr. Green said, "I have a stomachache. I've swallowed a horse, doctor. I feel very ill." "Oh, when did you swallow the horse?" asked the doctor. "It was yesterday. I couldn't sleep well last night," said the man.

Mr. Williams was a good doctor. He always did his best to help his patients feel better. He thought for a few seconds and said, "All right, Mr. Green, I'll help you. Was it a male horse or a female one?" "Well, I'm not sure," answered the man. "Was it young or old?" asked the doctor. "Sorry, doctor... I can't remember that, either," said the man. "It's O.K. All right. Please lie down on this bed," said the doctor.

The doctor's nurse gave the man an injection. The man went to sleep very soon. The doctor went out quickly to look for a horse in the town. After half an hour he found one, he borrowed it and took it into his office. When Mr. Green woke up, it was there in front of him.

"Here's the horse, Mr. Green," the doctor said, "I've taken it out of your stomach, and it won't give you any more trouble now. Here is your medicine. Don't forget to take it every day."

At first Mr. Green was pleased, but then he looked at the horse again and said, "But, doctor, my horse was white, and this one is brown!"

3. How Zebras Got Their Stripes

Long, long ago, there were no zebras, but there were a lot of donkeys. The donkeys worked hard every day. They had no time to play or to rest.

One day, two donkeys went to a wise old man for help. The wise old man thought for a while, and then he went off to get two pots of paint. First, he painted the donkeys white, and then he painted black stripes over the white paint. When he was finished, the donkeys did not look like donkeys at all. “Everyone will be fooled,” he said, “I will call you ‘zebras’ from now on.”

The two “zebras” went to a field to graze and sleep. No one bothered them. They were so happy that they told other donkeys their secret. The donkeys all rushed to see the wise old man. “P-l-e-a-s-e. Make us into zebras, too,” they pleaded. So the

wise old man painted more donkeys. As he did, more and more donkeys came.

The old man could not paint fast enough. Soon the donkeys became impatient. They began to kick and stir about. CLANK! They knocked over the paint pots. There was no more paint. Therefore, while the painted donkeys ran off to become zebras, the unpainted donkeys had to return to work. This is why there are zebras on earth. This is also why it is important to be patient.

4. The Jackal and the Lion

Once there was a big jungle, and the king of the jungle was a Lion. Whenever Lion was hungry, he walked out of his cave and roared. All the smaller animals were terrified.

They rushed out of their holes and hiding places. Then Lion jumped on them and gobbled them up. Finally, the only animal left in the jungle, except for Lion, was a small Jackal. Thin Jackal knew he couldn't run fast anymore; he would have to use his wits to fool Lion.

So the next time when Lion chased Jackal, he didn't run. Instead, he walked right up to Lion. Jackal bowed low and told Lion that a dreadful greater lion had come out of the woods. Jackal led Lion to a round, deep well of clear water. He pointed into the well and told Lion that the creature in the water was

the lion greater than him. Lion strutted over and looked down into the water. He was shocked to see a lion's face staring back at him!

Lion roared! And the other lion roared! Lion shook his mane! And the other lion shook his mane! Lion showed his teeth! And the other lion showed his teeth! Lion was so furious that he leaped into the well to grab the other lion. Lion flipped and flopped in the well. Finally, he drowned.

Jackal, who was overjoyed, ran to spread the word. And soon, other animals came to live in the jungle once again.

5. The Boys and the Frogs

"Let us go to the pond and have some fun," said George.

"What fun can we have there?" asked Frank.

"The pond is nothing but an old mud hole. We cannot swim in such water."

Down at the pond the sun shone warm, and an old mother frog and her children were sunning themselves on a log. Now and then one plunged into the water with a chug and then crawled out on the bank. That was a happy time in frog land.

In the midst of their play, they heard a sound which made the mother frog tremble. It was only a boy's laugh, but as soon as the mother heard it, she said, "Into the water, every one of you. The giants are coming!" And they all jumped into the water.

The giants had armed themselves with pebbles.

Each one had a pocketful. As soon as they caught sight of the frogs, they cried, "Now for some fun!" Before the mother frog could reach the water, a stone hit her on one of her feet. The one-sided battle had begun.

The mother became very angry. She lifted her head boldly above the water. "Cowards!" she cried. "If we could sting, would you fight us? If we could bite, would you be here? You have great sport tormenting us, because we cannot fight for ourselves. You are cowards! Cowards!" And all the little frogs echoed, "Cowards! Cowards!"

6. Tall or Short

Long ago, there were a camel and a pig arguing about whether it was better to be tall or short. The Camel said, "Nothing like being tall! See how tall I am!" The Pig who heard these words said, "Nothing like being short! See how short I am!" The Camel said, "Well, if I can't prove what I said is true, I will give up my hump." The Pig said, "If I can't prove what I said is true, I will give up my snout." "Agreed!" said the Camel. "Just so!" said the Pig.

First, they came to a garden enclosed by a low wall without any opening. While the Pig could hardly see the plants in the garden, the Camel was tall enough to reach them and made breakfast on them. So he said jeeringly to the Pig, "Now, would you be tall or short?"

Next, they came to a garden enclosed by a very

high wall with a wicket-gate at one end. While the camel could only stay outside, the Pig was short enough to enter by the gate and ate his fill of the vegetables within. So the Pig said happily to the Camel, "Now, would you be tall or short?"

Then they thought the matter over, and came to the conclusion that the Camel should keep his hump and the Pig should keep his snout because they found out...

"Tall is good, where tall would do;

Of short, again, 'it's also true!"

7. There's Something in My Attic

I was never afraid of anything when we lived in the city, but now we live on a farm. At night, when the lights go out, I get scared, because I can hear a nightmare in the attic right above my head. Mom and Dad say it's probably mice. But it sounds too big to be mice.

I decided to lasso that nightmare to show them. I'd just be brave and sneak quietly into the attic with my lasso ready. I thought it was lying behind some boxes. Something weird was going for sure. Then I heard it creeping up the stairs.

There it was, standing in front of me with my brand-new teddy bear. It had just stolen from my room. "Hey!" I called. "That's my teddy bear! Give it to me!" But the nightmare tried to sneak back down the stairs. So I chased it. Then I lassoed it. It was

hugging my bear as hard as it could. I tried to get my bear back, but it wouldn't let go. So I pulled it down the hall to my parent's room. I flipped on the lights to show them the nightmare. I hoped them to help me get my bear back.

But the nightmare was very tricky, and it just slipped away. Mom and Dad told me that was just a dream. Then they gave me a sweet kiss good-night.

That's OK. I'll just have to get my teddy back and show them tomorrow.

8. The Three Little Butterfly Brothers

There were once three little butterfly brothers, one white, one red, and one yellow. They played in the sunshine, and danced among the flowers, and they never grew tired because they were so happy.

One day there came a heavy rain, and it wet their wings. They flew home, but when they got there they found the door locked and the key gone. So they had to stay outdoors in the rain, and they became wetter and wetter.

By and by they flew to the red and yellow striped tulip, and said, "Friend Tulip, will you open your flower-cup and let us in till the storm is over?" The tulip answered, "The red and yellow butterflies may enter, because they are like me, but the white one may not come in."

But the red and yellow butterflies said, "If our

white brother may not find shelter in your flower cup, then, we'll stay outside in the rain with him." So the butterflies flew away.

But the sun, who was behind a cloud, heard it all, and he knew what good little brothers the butterflies were, and how they had held together in spite of the wet, so he pushed his face through the clouds, and shone brightly on the garden.

He dried the wings of the three little butterflies, and warmed their bodies. They ceased to sorrow, and danced among the flowers till evening, and then they flew home, and found the door wide open.