

01 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.”

02 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.

03 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!"