

# The little dog and the big juicy bone

A fable is a story which tells you about how people behave. There is sometimes a message in the story.

**Before you read**

- Have you ever helped someone to do something?
- Do you share things? Which things do you share?

**Read this story**

## THE LITTLE DOG AND THE BIG JUICY BONE

One day, a little dog was walking through the forest. He was feeling very happy and proud because he had a big juicy bone. On his way, he met a tiny mouse.

"That's a lovely bone," said the tiny mouse. "May I have some?"

"No, you can't!" said the little dog. "It's my bone and I'm going to eat it all on my own," and he trotted off. Then he met a rabbit.

"My, that looks a tasty bone," said the rabbit. "Could I try some?"

"No, you can't!" said the little dog. "It's my bone and I'm going to eat it all on my own," and he carried on along the path.

The little dog said the same thing to the snake and the frog.

After a while, the dog sat down to rest near a lake. He looked down at the water and to his surprise he could see another bone. The bone in the water looked even better than his bone.

"I think I'll have that bone instead," he said to himself. He opened his mouth to reach for the bone and dropped his bone into the water. He watched it sink to the bottom of the lake. He looked for the bone he had seen in the water – but it had gone!

Now the little dog was left with no bone at all. He called out to the mouse, rabbit, snake and frog. "Please help me get my bone back," he begged.

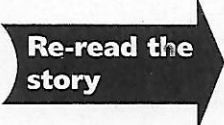
"No, we won't!" they shouted.

The little dog sat down and cried. The other animals soon felt sorry for him.

"Don't worry," said the rabbit, and he asked his friend the fish to swim down to the bottom of the lake to fetch the bone.

"Thank you," said the little dog, and they all sat down together to share the big juicy bone.

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Re-read the story

**Answer the following questions.**

(Use the back of the sheet for questions 8 and 9.)

1. Why was the little dog happy and proud at the start of the story? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Which animal did the little dog meet first? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. How many animals did the little dog meet altogether? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What do you think the dog said to the snake and the frog when they asked him if they could have some of his bone?

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5. How did the little dog get the bone back? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Was there really another bone? Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Why do you think the other animals would not help the little dog get his bone back at first?

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8. Does the story have a happy ending? Why?

9. What do you think the message is in this story?

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