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The Water Elephant

"Who's that in the lake?" said Little Elephant. She was looking at the water, and there seemed to be another elephant staring back at her. "It looks like me," she said. "I wonder why it's under the water, all on its own?" She slowly wiggled her trunk from side to side. "Oh!" she said. "The water elephant is wiggling its trunk too…" Then she flapped her ears up and down… and the water elephant did the same. "Well," she said, "it's nice to meet you, but I have to go now."

She walked along the shore, but the water elephant followed her every step of the way. "Mummy," she called, "I think this elephant is lonely." Mummy Elephant looked at the lake. "There's no elephant in the water," she chuckled. "It's just your reflection. And it's nearly time for bed now." "But there is an elephant," said Little Elephant. "It flapped its ears at me. It's got no one to look after it."

Mummy Elephant came and stood on the bank, and put her trunk around Little Elephant's shoulders. "Is that better?" she said. "Oh yes!" said Little Elephant. "Now it has a mummy who looks like you. Will its mummy be there all night?" Mummy Elephant cuddled Little Elephant closer. "All night long," she said.

Little Fox's Friend

It was a sunny spring evening, and Little Badger was dipping his toes in the stream. Then Little Fox came along. "Hello, Little Badger," he said. "Do you want to be my friend?" "I don't know," said Little Badger. "What does friend mean?" "Oh," said Little Fox, "I'm not sure. But I think it's something nice." And he sat down and put his toes in the stream. "But I don't understand," said Little Badger. "How can I be a friend if I don't know what it is?" "I see what you mean," sighed Little Fox. They sat there for a while, and neither of them said anything. "Well," said Little Fox, "Bye-bye now." "Bye," said Little Badger.

Little Fox walked off into the woods. But then he heard footsteps behind him, and he turned around to see Little Badger standing there. "You know when we both had our toes in the water?" said Little Badger. "Yes?" said Little Fox. "Well," said Little Badger, "I think I liked that better than when I was sitting there on my own." "I liked it too," said Little Fox. Little Badger thought for a while. "I think that's what friend means," he said. "Yes," said Little Fox, "I think you must be right." "What else do friends do, apart from dip their toes in the water?" said Little Badger. "I don't know," said Little Fox. "Shall we go and find out?" "Let's do that," said Little Badger. And off they went.