

Fable Series

The Snail and the Squirrel

Dr Cecilia Chu

<http://eltforward.com/index.html>

There was once a Snail who likes travelling. Snail often went to various places for exploration and discovery of interesting things there.

One day Snail met his friend Goat. Goat learned from Snail that he would go on a trip to Happy Forest which was ten miles away.

“Could you mind delivering this birthday card to my friend Peter Squirrel who lives in Happy Forest? We talked on the phone yesterday, and I said I would send him a birthday card,” Goat said.

“Oh, my pleasure, indeed,” replied Snail merrily.

The next day, Snail set out on a journey to Happy Forest. He walked (or crawled in a Snail manner) on and on, with a light heart.

He paused from time to time to smell the fresh grass and sweet flowers; he bathed himself in the rain; he feasted in the soil; and he enjoyed himself so much along the way.

Finally, he came to Happy Forest.

Following the address on the envelop given by Goat, Snail reached a cottage, and he knocked on the main door.

A young squirrel opened the door.

“Good afternoon, my name is Snail and my friend Goat asked me to see Mr Peter Squirrel and give him this card. And, you are Mr Squirrel?” Snail introduced himself.

“Hello, Mr Snail. Peter is my grandfather. But he passed away one year ago,” young Squirrel said sorrowfully.

“Oh, my God. I am very sorry for your loss. But my friend Goat had talked with Mr Peter on the phone just one day before I started the journey. This is very unfortunate,” Snail said.

“Uncle Goat? Oh, I remember. They had a chat on phone one week before my grandfather felt sick and after that he could not make it,” young Squirrel recalled the encounter.

“For a snail walk, I am sorry that I did not tell Goat that my speed of walking is extremely slow. I did not realize that it would take a year to finish this journey. Anyway, I have kept my promise and completed the mission,’ Snail sighed.

Then Snail handed the birthday card to young Squirrel and left.

A promise is a mission to be completed.

Questions:

The following questions challenge your thinking skills of comprehension, analysis and evaluation.

1. What did Goat ask Snail to help with?
2. Did Snail enjoy his trip to Happy Forest?
3. Who received the birthday card from Snail?
4. Do you think Snail was at fault with the delivery mission?
5. After reading the story, do you agree to the following statement? Give your reasons for your answer:

Before making a promise, one must think clearly.