

## Fable Series

### The Crabby Rabbit

Dr Cecilia Chu

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

Liam was a little rabbit living with his parents and his younger brother, Sam, in a cottage near a forest. The parents looked after Liam and Sam with great care and love. However, Liam was never easy to be satisfied. Indeed, he tended to get crabby. In fact, Liam had an irritable mood and did not like to wait or share with others.

‘Why do we have apples? I want carrots! Carrots!’ Liam screamed to his mother at breakfast.

Before Sam trying to touch the racing toy car on the floor, Liam rushed to grab the car and said bluntly, ‘This is mine, not yours.’

One day, Liam had a tiff with Sam over who should have the last bowl of celery leaves. Mum decided and handed the bowl to Sam. Liam was agitated. He stormed out of the house and ran into the forest.

After walking for half an hour, Liam was still angry. But what he needed was some water to quench his thirst.

‘If I were at home now, mum would give me juice,’ Liam reflected. At this moment he felt a droplet fall on his head. Looking up he saw water droplets trickling from the leaves of a tree.

‘Oh, my goodness!’ Liam was excited. But he needed to wait patiently during the regular intervals for each dropping of water from the leaves.

After consuming the hard-earned water, Liam continued to ramble in the forest. He came across a hen who was sitting motionless in her nest.

‘What are you doing?’ Liam asked the hen.

‘I am hatching my eggs. They will be born at any time,’ mother hen said.

Liam was interested and wanted to see the arrival of the baby chicks. He waited and waited and was getting impatient as time went by. But the eggs were not cracked. Mother hen still remained unmoved for her work. Liam felt that mother hen was truly a loving mum.

When Liam turned to go away, he heard some weak cries behind him. Three yellow chicks were struggling their way out of the cracked shells.

“Gosh, it is nice to see you, my little friends!” Liam felt it was rewarding to wait for this moment.

He had to move ahead as his stomach was rumbling. Liam tried but could not find his way home. He was on the verge of throwing a tantrum. But he knew no one would care about his temper. He needed to solve the problem on his own. He recalled the spots he had passed through. After a good effort, he saw his home cottage eventually.

Pushing open the door, Liam was a bit ashamed to find his mum cooking busily. Mum gave Liam a big hug. ‘Where have you been? We are worried about you. Are you hungry? But dinner has not been ready yet.’ Mum’s tone was bit tentative as she predicted the response of her ill-tempered son.

‘Yes. I am hungry. But I can wait. And I can help you so we can have dinner soon,’ Liam replied.

Sam was playing with Liam’s racing toy car. He tried to hide it behind his back when Liam was walking into the house.

Liam walked to Sam and said, ‘It is fine. I can share my things with you, little brother.’

Mother rabbit was happy to see Liam’s change of behaviour although she did not know what experiences Liam had gone through.

**\*\*\*\**Experiences foster maturity*\*\*\*\***

## Questions:

Answer the following questions.

1. What do you think about the relationship between Liam and his family members before his exploration in the forest?
2. What did Liam learn from his encounters in the forest?
3. Describe the changes of Liam after he returned from the forest.
4. Did you make complaints and demands to your parents when you were a child?