

## Passages

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### Passage 1

#### The Prince Who Learned Wisdom

To prepare for the time when he would become king, the prince studied hard every day, until one day, a thought came to him. "My teachers give me a lot of useful knowledge, but am I gaining the wisdom that a ruler needs?" He decided that to gain wisdom, he would require a new plan.

The prince informed his father that he wanted to visit a group of philosophers in a nearby country. He would ask them to share their wisdom. "Wisdom comes from a good education," the king declared firmly. "Your teachers are preparing you well." Still, he supported his son's plan.

Early the next morning, the prince set out, dressed in ordinary clothes and carrying his belongings on his back like anyone else. By afternoon, he sat down in a nearby field to eat his lunch, and he soon became drowsy.

The prince was awakened by the crackling of dry leaves. A thief was scurrying away with his pack! Luckily, his gold coins were hidden inside his coat. As he continued on, pondering what had occurred, he came to a realization: "When I become the ruler, I will make sure that everyone in my kingdom has a safe place to sleep."

As evening approached, it began to rain heavily, so the prince stopped at an inn and crawled peacefully to bed. *CRREEEEAK!* A young woman tiptoed into the shadowy room and quietly picked up the prince's boots. As she tried to creep out, the prince leaped up and yelled for the innkeeper. The outraged prince informed him that the woman had been stealing his boots.

"No, she wasn't; she was taking them to the fire so they would dry before morning," the innkeeper replied.

Feeling embarrassed, the prince reflected over what had happened. "When I am king, I must get all the facts before I make a judgment," he concluded. Instead of continuing on, the prince returned home, where his father asked about his plan. "In just a day, I gained enough wisdom to know that it was not the most advantageous plan. Wisdom can be discovered anywhere by simply paying attention and listening."

From that day forward, the prince left the palace twice a week to listen to the people, and when he finally became king, he was a very wise ruler indeed.

### Passage 2

#### Bear River

In a faraway forest, the grizzly bears gathered to discuss the problem of the river's tributary, or stream. The great, roaring river they called the Majestic danced through their woods and provided a variety of fish for them to eat. The trouble was, one very important stream had almost dried up.

"We need that stream," said the biggest grizzly of all, named Kingly.

"Yes," agreed Ada. "That is where the salmon come upstream in their time of season. They give us food, but they also need to move to their nesting grounds."

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"How can we fix this?" Harley said. He put a paw full of berries into his giant maw and chewed.

The bears discussed two ideas: try to get a message to the salmon to change their route, or try to do without the salmon for a season and find another major food source. But both ideas were quickly set aside. Finally, they decided to divert more of the waters from the Majestic to the salmon stream.

Working in teams, the bears dug out deeper trenches near the mouth of the stream. They built up the sides of the banks with rocks, pebbles, and other materials from the forest. Even with these efforts, the water didn't flow rapidly from the Majestic to the stream.

"What can we do to make this work?" Kingly asked, his voice more of a growl.

"We need a waterfall," Ada said. So the bears set to work again, using their giant paws and claws to dig out the ground near where the Majestic met the stream. They added earth and stone to make a hill at the place where the two rivers met. Soon, water flowed from the Majestic and into the salmon stream. Slowly but surely, the stream awoke from its long slumber. And when the season came, so did the salmon, swimming against the downward waves of the falls to get upstream to their nesting grounds.

### Passage 3

#### The Spider Monkey and the Marmoset

*based on Aesop's Fable "The Ant and the Grasshopper"*

In the rainforests of Brazil lived two friends, Spider Monkey and Marmoset. Spider Monkey loved to spend his days swinging through the trees, eating as much fruit as his belly could hold. The generous trees provided Spider Monkey with lots of delicious fruit.

Marmoset loved to eat fruit, but he knew he had to plan for the future. The elder marmosets spoke of times when finding fruit was difficult. Sometimes, the fruit would get a terrible disease, or cruel, vicious winds would whip through the branches and knock the fruit to the ground. So, Marmoset saved two bites of fruit for every bite he ate.

Spider Monkey laughed at Marmoset as he saw him carrying fruit, shrieking, "Silly Marmoset! We will never be out of fruit, for it leaps off the tree, glad to be your snack."

Marmoset ignored Spider Monkey and still collected fruit. "Someday," Marmoset would say, "Spider Monkey will regret making fun of me." Soon, Marmoset's storage place was full and Marmoset smiled with contentment.

Not long after this, Marmoset and Spider Monkey noticed the fruit drooping on the branches. One day, great numbers of fruit plummeted to the ground. That is, the fruit fell off the branches fast and hard. Soon after this, it began to become difficult to find fruit to eat.

At first, Spider Monkey was amused, chortling, "It makes for a great game! The fruit is playing hide and seek with me." But in a short time, Spider Monkey realized that it would not be easy to find enough fruit to fill his belly.

Then he remembered the storage place of his friend, Marmoset. "I know!" Spider Monkey said

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excitedly. "I'll just ask Marmoset to share with me. He is such a great friend that I know he will be generous."

Spider Monkey swung through the trees to find Marmoset, who was resting near his storage place. When Spider Monkey approached, Marmoset opened one eye and looked at him warily, asking, "How can I help you, Spider Monkey?"

"I have come to share your fruit," Spider Monkey announced triumphantly. "You were so smart to plan ahead, and I am forever grateful for your planning."

Marmoset slowly shook his head before responding. "Spider Monkey," he began, "this fruit is for my family. We don't know how long it will be difficult to find fruit, so I can't share what I've gathered. I'm sorry, but you will have to find food elsewhere. You should have been planning for a day like this yourself." Marmoset turned from Spider Monkey and took his place in front of the entrance to the storage place. He set up his position as guard in front of the food.

Spider Monkey's mouth hung open, speechless, for he was not expecting this from his friend. Slowly, he turned to walk away from Marmoset. As he swung through the trees, in search of food, he thought of Marmoset's words. "Maybe," he thought, "I should plan ahead."