



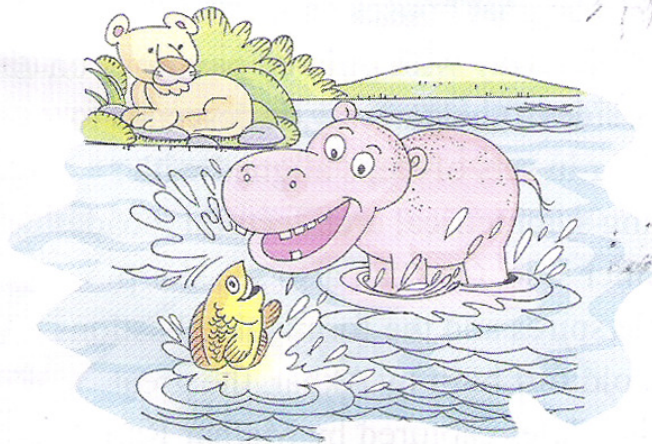
Bashu

Finds Friends

Dr. Rohini Chintla, Hyderabad



Once upon a time, in the jungle, there lived a shy little lion cub called Bashu. He loved playing, but he had to play all alone because he was very shy. There was a river flowing near his den. Everyday Bashu would sit on the banks of the river and watch a little pink hippo and a goldfish play. Oh! How Bashu longed to play with them! But he just couldn't ask! He was too shy!



One day Bashu went to the river as usual. But the hippo didn't come. Maybe, she was late! The little goldfish was all alone. He kept popping his head out of water looking for the hippo. And just then, he spotted Bashu. "Hello!" shouted the goldfish in glee. "I am Mittu, the gold fish. Would you like to be my friend?"

Bashu was surprised, but also very happy. "Hi! I... I am... Bashu" he blurted out shyly. "Yes! I know," said Mittu. "You live in the den up there. I and Kittu, the pink hippo, talk all day about you and the lovely cakes your mother bakes".

"Really! You like the cakes so much?" asked Bashu. "We love them," replied Mittu.



"Oh! She has just baked a few today. I will get them," said Bashu and ran away. "And I will get my mother's special strawberry milk shake," shouted Mittu and dived into the river. And when they came back, surprise of surprises! Kittu hippo was waiting for them with a basket full of juicy yellow mangoes!

Bashu, Mittu and Kittu had a wonderful picnic together. They had lots of fun. Bashu finally found two good friends! He was very happy! Aren't you happy for him too!!

