

## HOW THE CAMEL AND THE OCTOPUS GOT THEIR HOMES

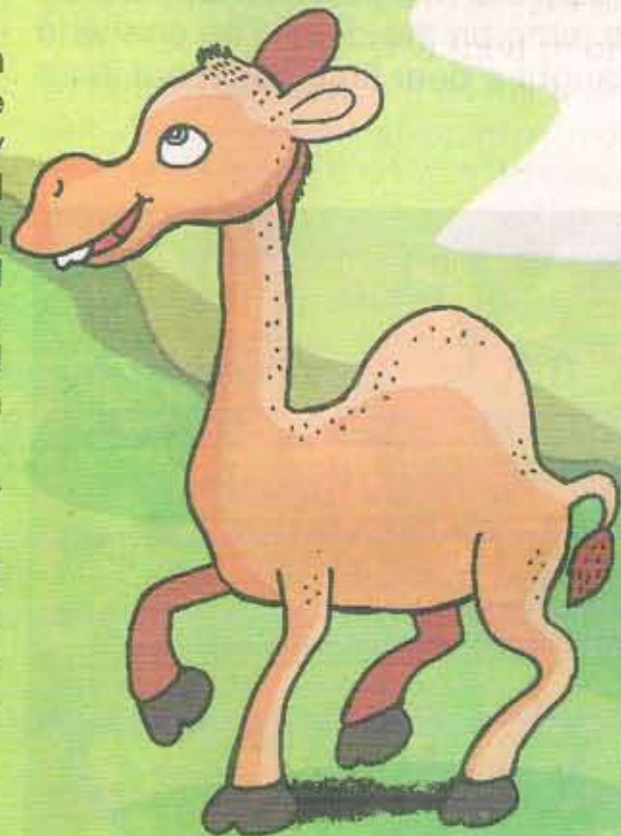
Once upon a time, a camel, an octopus, and a tortoise lived on the banks of a river in a jungle. Every day, they bathed in the river, and sat on the riverbank talking to each other. The tortoise was very slow, and he would come out of the river last. The camel and the octopus laughed at him, teased him, and called him names.

"Hey, slow coach!" they would shout, "we can run around the world a hundred times before you finish your bath!" Then



they would burst out laughing. The tortoise felt upset, but did not say anything. The camel and the octopus were very proud of themselves because camels have large humps on their back, and octopuses have eight arms! But the tortoise had only an ugly hard shell!

One day, a storm hit the jungle the animals were living in. The tortoise



was the first to hear about the storm. It went to the camel and the octopus and told them about the coming danger. "Let's go and find a safe

place," the tortoise pleaded.

The arrogant camel and octopus laughed.

"I have special lids to shut the nostrils of my nose. When a storm comes I can close my nostrils. So, no dust or sand will get into my nose!" boasted the camel.

"I have eight strong hands. My arms are very strong and can hold food very tight. I will cling onto a rock when storm comes," laughed the octopus.

The tortoise pleaded with them to come with him, but they refused. So, the tortoise crept off to safety, curled into its hard ugly shell, and sat tight. The storm hit the river that night. The storm was so hard that it blew the camel off into the desert, and the octopus straight into the sea! And from then on, the camel always lived in the desert and the octopus lived in the sea.

After the storm was over, the tortoise came out of its shell and lived happily on the riverbank!

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### WHAT CHILDREN LEARN

- Camels have special lids to shut the nostrils of their nose.
- This helps them during storms.
- Octopuses have eight strong arms.
- Octopuses can hold on to things very strongly with their arms.
- Tortoises have hard shells on their back.
- Their shells help tortoises to remain safe from danger.

