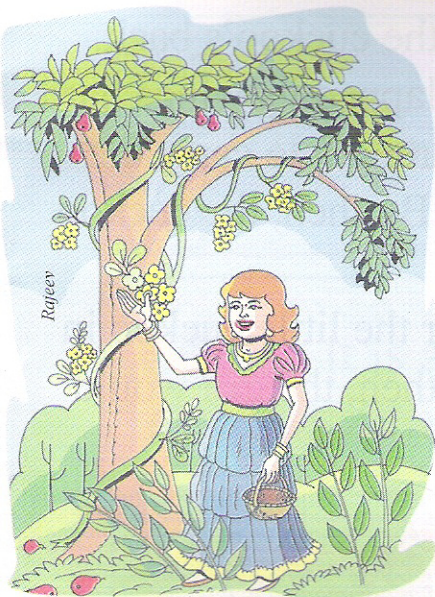# The Cuckoo Clock

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Once, there lived a little girl in a village near a forest. Every day she went to the forest to pick flowers and fruits that grew on the plants and the trees. As she entered the forest, she used to be greeted by a shower of the ripest, yummiest and sweetest fruits and the most beautiful flowers!

The little girl happily picked them up, all the while looking for her unknown friend. She would sometimes call to see if anyone was nearby. And every time she called, a sweet voice answered 'cuckoooo' from the tree tops. Sometimes, she would just sit under the trees from dawn till dusk and her unknown friend would continue to sing 'cuckoo', 'cuckoo' for her.

One day, all of a sudden, when the girl was picking up the fruits in the forest, a thunderstorm started! Thunder clapped, lightning struck and rain poured relentlessly. The little girl was frightened! She could not go home. She was trapped in the forest! She called for help.

After a while, a little bird came and sat near the girl saying, "Cuckoo! Shall I take you home?" The little girl felt very happy and was relieved to see her friend. She climbed onto the cuckoo's back. And the cuckoo flapped its wings hard and used all its strength to carry the girl home safely. By then, the cuckoo was too tired to fly back!

So the girl made a soft and cozy bed for the little cuckoo in her old wooden clock. And every now and then, the girl would come and ask how the cuckoo was and the cuckoo would pop its head out of the clock and say 'cuckoo', 'cuckooo'. The little girl and the cuckoo became best friends and the cuckoo stayed on in the clock and the old wooden clock became 'the cuckoo clock'!!

Some cuckoos still stay in the clocks and when little boys and girls want to play, they come out and say 'cuckoo' every hour! And every summer, all cuckoos hide in the tree tops saying 'cuckoo' every time you call!