

# The Missed Party!

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All the animals in the jungle were very excited. They were invited to a garden party at Mr. Lion's palace grounds. Wasn't that nice? Mrs. Bee was making her special honey pie for the party. Mr. Elephant, the



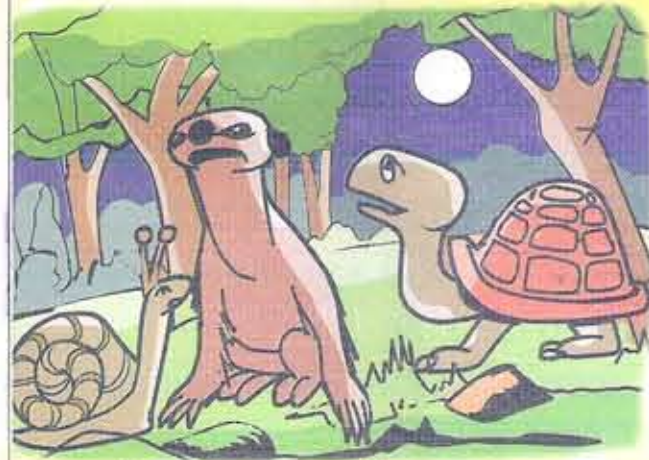
baker, was carrying loads of special chocolate cookies and strawberry jam rolls! Mrs. Bear was preparing French fries for all of them! Oh! It will be so much fun!

Mr. Tortoise, Mr. Sloth and dear little Mr. Snail were busy preparing their special orange and grapefruit salad! It was such a big hit at the last party that everybody had asked them to bring it this time too! They had almost finished making it. They just had to dress up.

The rabbits and hedgehogs were leaving already. The birds also seemed to hurry.

And the three friends could hear Mrs. Pig and her family getting into their carriage. Was it time already? They looked at the clock. It was only three o'clock. The party was at six thirty. Oh... They had lots of time.

Slowly they got dressed and started, each carrying a basketful of fruit salad. It was just a quarter past three. They will surely reach on time! The friends walked on and on till it seemed to grow dark. They did not have a watch. "What time is it?" asked the dear little Mr. Snail. "I don't think it is four o'clock yet," answered Mr. Tortoise. "But it seems so dark and look! The moon is up already," said Mr. Sloth surprised. They did not understand. They seemed to walk very fast. Only the elephants, the monkeys, the hippos and the bears seemed to go past them. The three friends looked at one another. They



were the slowest of all animals, but surely they were not that slow!

"It must be the setting sun and not the moon," said Mr. Tortoise at last and they walked on. But then, Mr. Sloth was very tired and wanted a rest. So the friends

sat under a tree and talked for a little while but they were worried! It really was dark! And while talking, the friends dozed off.

Finally, when they got up, the Sun was back again! The friends were happy. They thought they had walked through a tunnel. Tunnels are dark. Oh! How foolish to think it was night!!

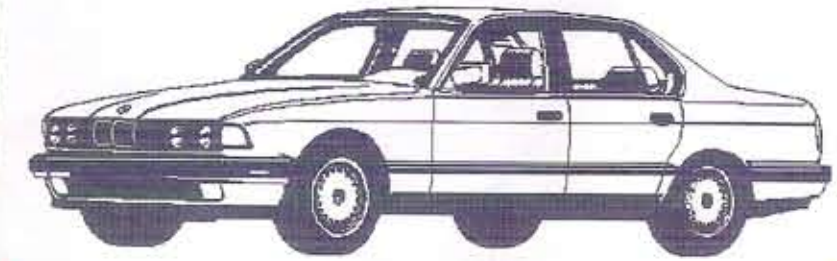
But when they reached the king's palace, nobody was there. "What about the party?" asked Mr. Sloth. "It was over yesterday," said the guard.

Oh! No! Mr. Tortoise, Mr. Snail and Mr. Sloth were really the slowest! They felt so sad. How could they be so late!

Just then, the king came out. He saw the three friends and felt sorry for them. So he invited them to a special lunch inside the palace! The friends sat right next to the king and had a great feast! And the king gave them lovely gifts too! The friends were so happy!



Colour the Car



Dear Parents and Teachers,

Read out this story to the little ones with suitable gestures and voice modulation so that they listen to you with rapt attention.

-Editor