

Starkey The Starling Loves The Truth

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One day, Starkey, a beautiful little starling, asked his mother, "What is the most beautiful thing in the world?"

His mother answered, "The most beautiful thing in the world is to tell the truth and never lie."

Starkey was overjoyed, and ruffled his little wings and said, "Have no fear, dear mother, I will always tell the truth, and I will never ever lie!"

Then Starkey flew away flitting from tree to
beautiful tree singing joyously:

I am a bird who does not lie

I love the truth

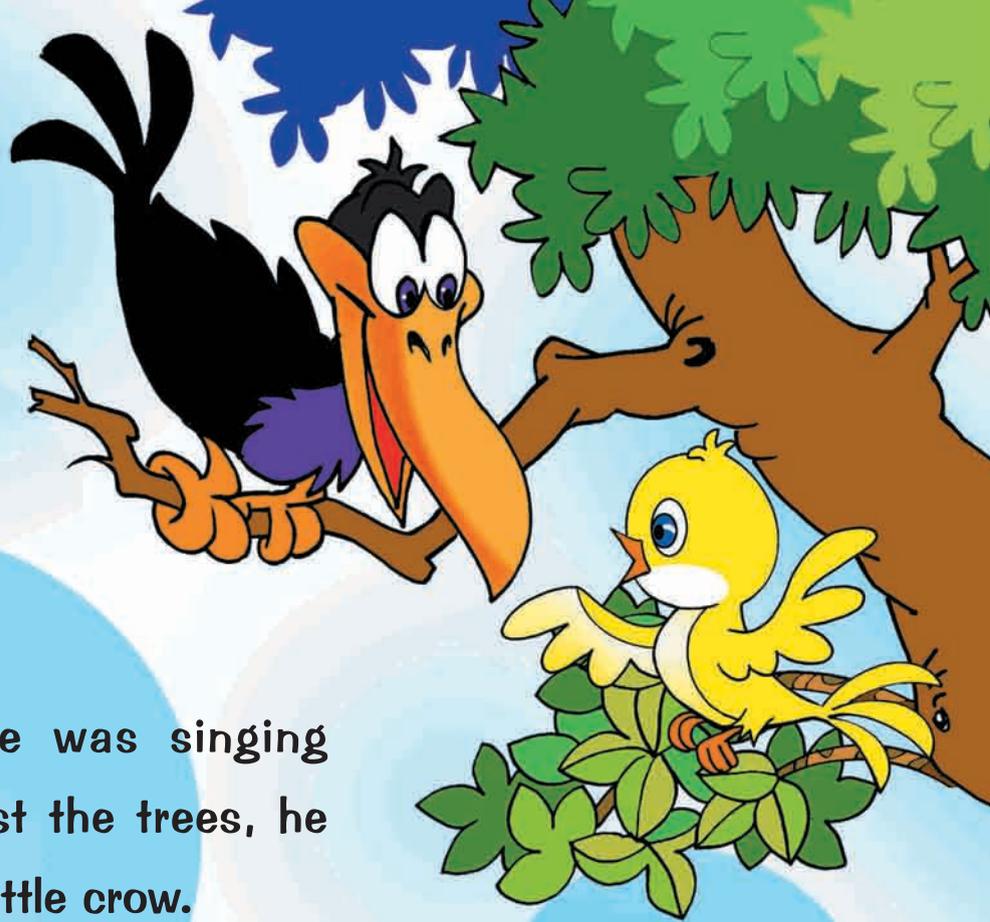
A little bird not afraid am I

I speak the truth

I love the truth

I speak the truth





As he was singing amongst the trees, he saw a little crow.

He said to him, "Did you know, little crow, that I do not lie, and I always tell the truth?"

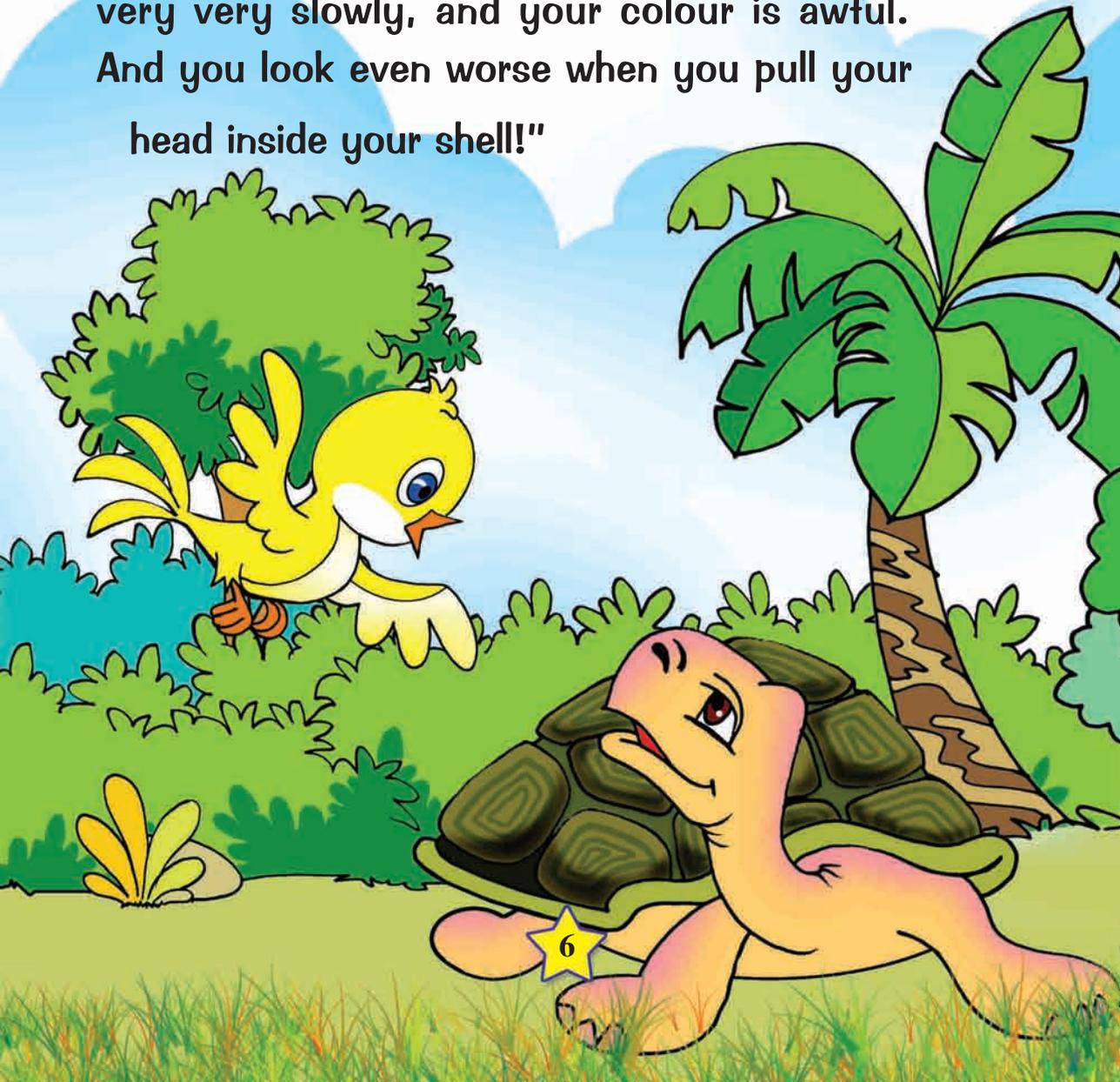
"So I will tell you the truth : You are an ugly crow; you are black, and your voice is frightening."

Then Starkey flew away flitting from tree to tree singing joyously.

Soon Starkey saw a tortoise walking along slowly. He flew up to her.

The tortoise was happy to see Starkey, but before she could say hello to him, he said, hurriedly, "I speak the truth; I never ever lie.

And the truth; is you are very lazy. You walk very very slowly, and your colour is awful. And you look even worse when you pull your head inside your shell!"



Then Starkey left the tortoise, surprised and sad.
He said to himself, "Why did that tortoise get
angry from hearing the truth!?"

"I did not lie to her!! I only told her the truth!!!"
And he kept flying along singing,

I am a bird who does not lie
I love the truth
A little bird not afraid am I
I speak the truth





Starkey stopped flying and rested in a big tree. He saw a small movement under the tree. He saw a small mouse coming out of his nest.

Starkey called out to him, "O mouse, O mouse, stop! Please do not run away. I want to talk with you. I do not lie. I tell the truth."



The mouse was surprised.

He said to Starkey, "What do you want? And what do I have to do with it?"

Starkey flew down from the tree and said, "I want to tell you the truth. You are a cowardly animal.

I hate you, because you destroy crops and you bring sickness to people."



Starkey flew off, leaving the mouse amazed.

While Starkey was flying from tree to tree, he saw a big fat pig. He cried down to him, "O pig, do you know that I tell the truth?"

"The truth is that you are a filthy pig. You eat filth, you live in filthy places, you stink, and have a horrid and offensive smell, you are ugly, and you carry disease !"



Starkey took off flying, leaving the pig amazed.
Then he saw a donkey and he called out to him.

"O donkey, O donkey !"

The donkey answered, "What do you want, little bird ?"

Starkey said, " Do you know that I tell the truth,
and I never ever lie ?"

The donkey said, "I do not understand. What do
you want ?"

Starkey said, "I want to tell you the truth."



The donkey was surprised.

He said, "But I did not ask you to do that!"

Starkey said hurriedly, "The truth is that you are a stupid animal, your voice is annoying, you are ugly, and your ears are long!"

Starkey flew off singing happily.

The donkey brayed angrily and ran after Starkey. He wanted to fight.



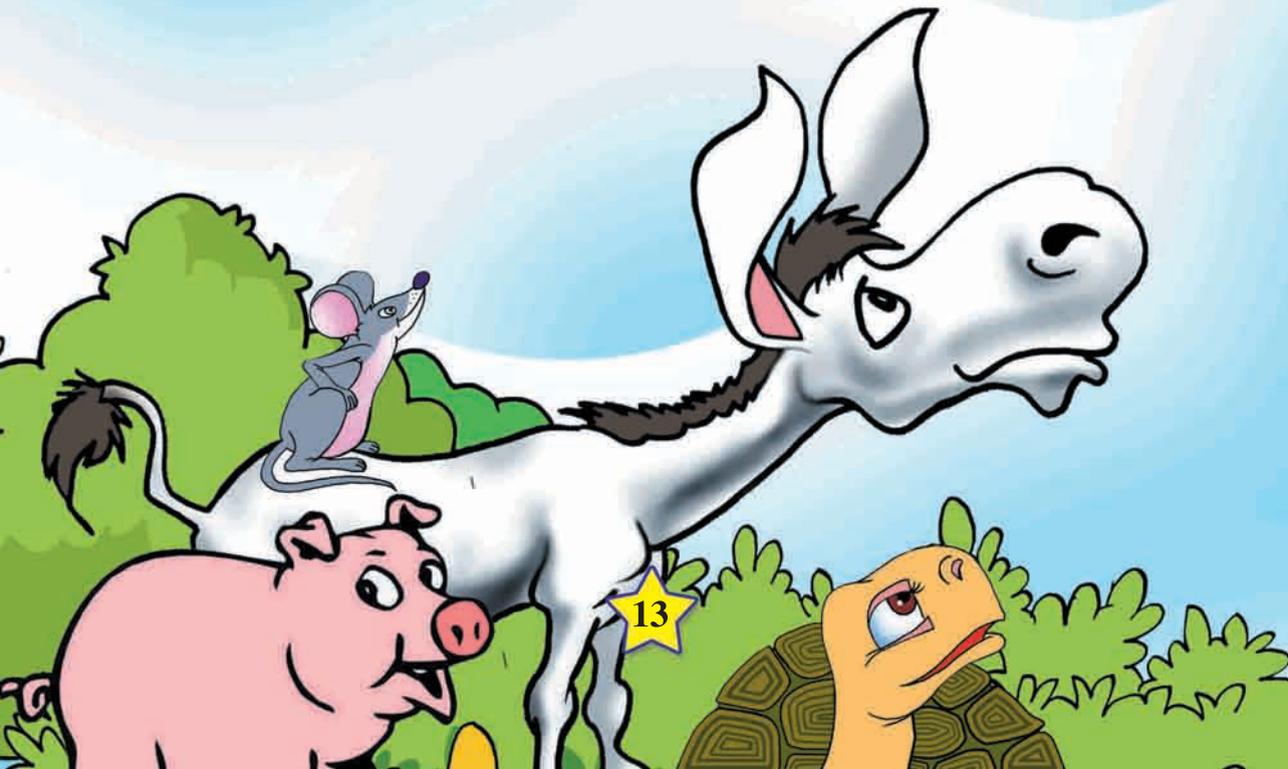


All the animals and birds were angry with Starkey.

They went to his mother to complain.

His mother said she was sorry for what he had done.

She promised that he would not do it again.





Starkey went home happily to his mother.

He said, " I am so happy, mother. I spoke the truth to everyone I met."

His mother said, "You are a weak, unreliable little bird! You do not help anyone in anything.

Your voice is weak. Your wings are puny, and your beak is short. You are useless."



Starkey was sad. He looked at his mother.

She said, "Don't you love the truth, Starkey?"

Starkey said, "Yes, I do mother. But your words make me sad."

His mother said, "You become sad when someone tells you the truth"

Starkey looked at his mother in surprise.

"No, no."

His mother told him, "Telling the truth does not mean we search for the faults in others, and then tell them. We must be polite when we speak to others."



Starkey said to his mother, "I can see that I made a mistake with my friends the animals. I must tell all of them that I am sorry."

His mother said to him happily, "Allah bless you, my son."

Starkey said, "I will speak the truth. But I will choose pleasant words so that I hurt no one, and so that everyone will love me."

Then his mother was happy. She hugged him with her big strong wings.