

02 Two Friends and the Bear

Tom and John were two friends. One day they were passing through a dense forest.

John said, “Friend, I am afraid there are wild animals in this forest. What will we do if a wild animal attacks us?”

“Don’t be afraid, John,” said Tom, “I will stand by your side if any danger comes. We will fight together and save ourselves.” So, they went on their journey.

But suddenly they saw a bear coming towards them. Tom at once got up the nearest tree. He did not think about what his

friend would do.

John did not know how to climb a tree. He had no way of escape. He was helpless.

But soon he had a plan. He fell flat on the ground like a dead man.

The bear came up to John. It smelled his nose, ears and eyes. It thought John was dead so it went away.

Then Tom came down from the tree. He said to John, “What did the bear whisper in your ear?”

John said, “The bear told me, ‘Do not trust a friend who leaves his friend in danger.’”