

STRANGE ANIMAL

by M. Smith

Part one

There were many people to tell that boy what to do. There was his mother and his father, his grandfather, and his older brother. And there was also an aunt, who was always saying: 'Do this. Do that.' Everyday this aunt would shout at him, and make a great noise that would frighten the birds.

The boy did not like his aunt. Sometimes he thought that he might go to some man to buy some medicine to put into her food to make her quiet, but of course, he never did this. In spite of all his aunt's shouting and ordering about, the boy always obeyed her, as his father said he must.

'She has nothing to do but shout at you,' the boy's father explained. 'It keeps her happy.'

'When I'm a big man I'll come and shout in her ear,' the boy said. It was good to think about that.

There was a place that the aunt knew where a lot of fruit grew. It was a place, which was quite far away, and the boy did not like going there. Near this place, there were caves and the boy had heard that a strange animal lived in these caves. One of his friends had seen this strange animal and had warned people about going near that place.

But the aunt insisted on sending the boy to pick fruit there, and so he went, his heart a cold stone of fear inside him. He found the trees and began to pick the fruit, but a little later, he heard the sound of something in the bush beside him. He stopped his task and stood near the tree in case the strange animal should be coming.

Out of the bush came the strange animal. It was just as his friend had described it and the boy was very frightened. Quickly he took out the drum, which he had brought with him and began to beat it. The strange animal stopped, looked at the boy in surprise, and began to dance.

All day the boy played the drum, keeping the strange animal dancing. As long as he played the drum, he knew that there was nothing that the strange animal could do to harm him. At last, when night came, the strange animal stopped dancing and disappeared back into the bush. The boy knew that it had gone back to its cave and so he was able to walk home safely. When he reached home, though, his aunt had prepared her shouting.

'Where is all the fruit?' she shouted. Thinking that he had eaten it, she then began to beat him until the boy was able to run away from her and hide in his own hut.

The boy told his father the next day of the real reason why he had been unable to bring back fruit from the tree. He explained that there had been a strange animal there and that he had had to play his drum to keep the animal dancing. The father listened and told the story to the aunt, who scoffed at the boy.

'There are no strange animals at that place,' she said. 'You must be making all this up.'

But the father believed the boy and said that the next day they would all go to the fruit place with him. The aunt thought that this was a waste of time, but she was not going to miss any chance of shouting, and so she came too.

When the family reached the tree there was no strange animal. The aunt began to pick fruit from the tree and stuff it into her mouth. Calling to the boy to give her his drum, she hung it on the branch of a tree in a place where he would not be able to get at it easily.

'You must pick fruit,' she shouted to the boy. 'You must not play a drum in idleness.'

The boy obeyed his aunt, but all the time he was listening for any sounds to come from the bush. He knew that sooner or later the strange animal would appear and that they would then all be in danger.

Ex. 1. Mark the sentences as True or False

- 1) The boy's aunt constantly shouted at him.
- 2) The boy planned to put medicine in his aunt's food to stop her shouting.
- 3) The boy liked going to a place where a lot of fruit grew.
- 4) The boy was scared of a strange animal that lived near the fruit place.
- 5) The boy managed to keep the strange animal away by playing the drum.
- 6) The boy's aunt believed him when he told her about the strange animal.
- 7) The father refused to believe the boy's story about the strange animal.
- 8) The aunt trusted the boy's story and went with the family to the fruit place.
- 9) The aunt found the strange animal when they reached the fruit tree.
- 10) The boy's aunt enjoyed eating the fruit from the tree.
- 11) The boy's aunt asked the boy to stop playing the drum and pick fruit instead.
- 12) The boy continued playing the drum while his aunt picked fruit.
- 13) The strange animal appeared while the boy's aunt was picking fruit.
- 14) The boy's aunt believed the boy was telling the truth about the strange animal.
- 15) The family was in danger when the strange animal appeared.

Ex. 2 Complete these sentences with the words from the text

The boy did not like his _____.

The boy's _____ would shout at him every day.

The boy always obeyed his _____, as his father said he must.

The boy thought that he might go to some _____ to buy some medicine to make his aunt quiet.

In spite of all his aunt's shouting and ordering about, the boy always _____ her.

Near the place where a lot of fruit grew, there were _____.

One of the boy's friends had seen a strange _____ near the caves.

The boy took out the drum to scare away the _____ animal.
 While the boy played the drum, the _____ animal danced.
 The boy knew that as long as he played the drum, the strange animal couldn't _____ him.
 The strange animal disappeared back into the bush and went back to its _____.
 The boy's aunt believed that he _____ all of the fruit.
 The boy's aunt did not believe his _____ about the strange animal.
 The boy's _____ agreed to go to the fruit place with him.
 The boy's aunt hung his drum on the branch of a tree so he couldn't get to it _____.
Ex. 3 Make up questions. Пишем предложение полностью
 Why did the boy always obey his aunt?

Why/ aunt's food/ did /the /boy / putting /about / think / medicine/ in /his/?
 Why _____?
 How / happy/ did /the/ aunt's/ her /shouting /make/?
 How _____?
 What/ to do /did /the boy / plan /a big man / when/ he /became /?
 What _____?
 Why /did / the fruit /the boy/ not like / /to the place/ going/ where /grew/?
 Why _____?
 Why /did/ heard/ the boy / his drum /when/ he/ /the strange/ animal /take out/?
 Why _____?
 Why /was /the boy /the drum / safely /walk home / after / able to /playing /?
 Why _____?
 What /did / without the fruit/ the aunt / the boy /of/ when/ he /returned/ accuse / home/?
 What _____?
 Why/ the strange animal / believe /the father/ the boy's /story /about/ did /?
 Why _____?
Ex. 4 Choose the correct prepositions of movement



Preposition	Number in the picture
through
across	
into	
over	
Past	
along	
Towards	
Out of	

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