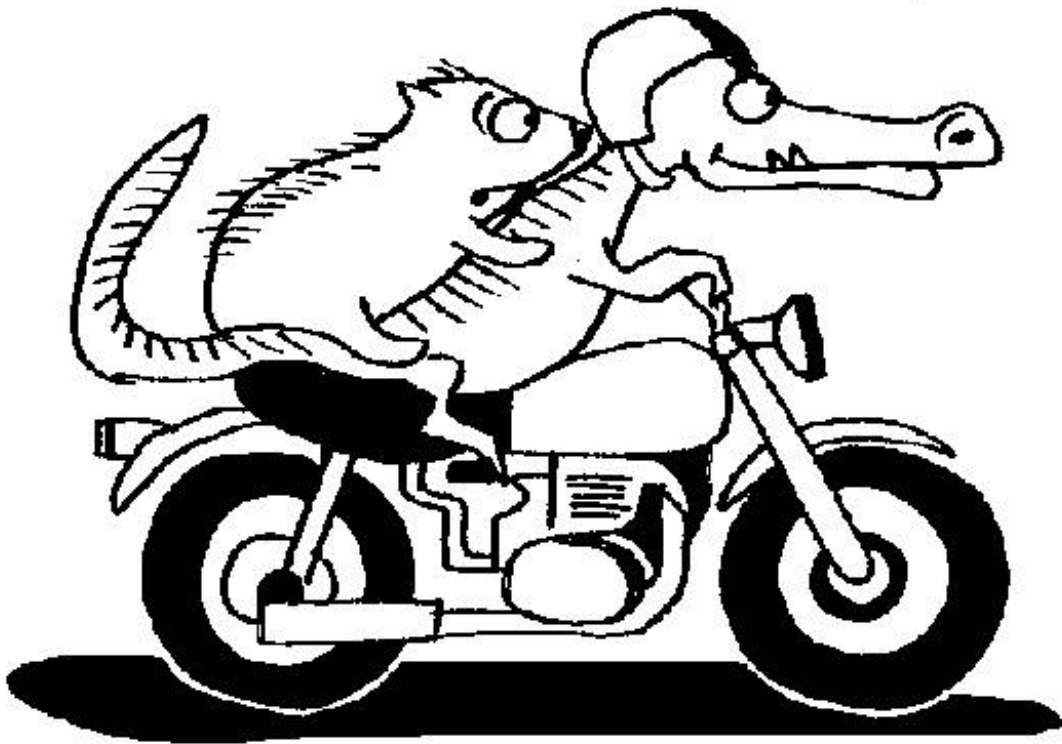


Story 8. Peas and Beans



On Monday, Dog borrowed a bottle of milk from Crocosmile. On Tuesday Dog returned it.

On Wednesday Wombrat borrowed some chocolate sauce from Dog. On Thursday, much to Dog's surprise, Wombrat returned it.

On Friday Cupine asked Wombrat if he could borrow a can of beans. Wombrat who, for once was in a very friendly mood replied, "Sure, I'll go home and get some beans straight away."

Now Wombrat knew that sometimes he forgets things so he had a special way of remembering. "I make up a *Remembering Song*. That way I never forget," he said as he started to sing:

A can of beans, a can of beans *(Tune Jingle Bells)*
I know where I've been.
Cupine wants a can of beans
How happy he will be. Oh!

On the way home he met Crocosmile riding her motorbike. "Hop on she said, and I'll drive you home."

Wombrat climbed onto the back of the motorbike. As they sped off he started singing his *Remembering Song* – over and over again:

A can of peas, a can of peas
I know how to please
Cupine wants a can of peas
How happy he will be. Oh!

Wombrat soon had a can of peas and was on the way back to Cupine's house happy that he had remembered correctly.

Wombrat gave the can of peas to Cupine who looked at them and said, "But I asked for beans but peas will - - - -"

"No you didn't," interrupted Wombrat. "You asked for peas. I know because I sang my *Remembering Song*."

Cupine kept the peas, but he was sure he had asked for beans.

On Saturday Cupine returned a can of peas.

"But I lent you beans," said Wombrat to a very confused Cupine. "I know, because ever since yesterday I have been singing my *Remembering Song*."

*A can of beans, a can of beans
I know where I've been
Cupine wants a can of beans,
How happy he will be. Oh!*

"Doesn't matter. They're both green and they taste the same," said Wombrat.

Cupine felt very sorry for Wombrat. "I must phone Dog and tell her that poor Wombrat is losing his memory. She might be able to help."

Wombrat was feeling sorry for Cupine, "I must phone Dog and tell her that poor Cupine is losing his memory. She might be able to help."

On Tuesday Geelaugh asked Happypotamus if he could borrow ten dollars. The banks were closed and he had to buy petrol for his new pink car. Happypotamus gave him the money saying, "You must repay it tomorrow so I can do my shopping."

On Wednesday Geelaugh did not repay the money.

On Thursday Geelaugh did not repay the money.

Friday morning, Happypotamus was dressed and ready to go to the supermarket but she still had no money. "I hope Geelaugh comes today to repay the ten dollars," she said.

All of a sudden, Geelaugh sped past in a new car. He didn't stop. He didn't wave. He just kept going. Five minutes later he returned and skidded to a stop next to Happypotamus. "Lovely day he said," his head sticking out the sunroof.

"Do you have my ten dollars?" asked Happypotamus. "I need it to do my shopping."

Geelaugh got out of his red car. He pretended to cry. "Oh Happypotamus, I don't have ten dollars. I spent it on a new mobile phone. I'll have to go to the bank. I'll pay you next week. OK?"

Happypotamus didn't often get angry, but today she did. She snatched the phone from Geelaugh saying, "I need the money now. I'll sell your phone and then I can do my shopping."

This time Geelaugh really did cry. "Please," he said. "Without my phone I can't ring the garage to order my new car. Without my new car I can't go to the bank. Without the bank I can't get your money. Please!!" Tears ran down his long neck.

Happypotamus felt sorry for Geelaugh. He seemed so sad. Without money she could not do her shopping. But she had some food left over from her last party and there were still a few vegetables in her garden. "Oh, forget about the money. It doesn't matter. You don't have to repay me - ever." She gave the mobile phone back to Geelaugh.

Geelaugh stopped crying very quickly, phoned the garage to order his new purple car and then sped away. He didn't even say 'thank you' to Happypotamus.

On Saturday Crocosmile saw Geelaugh filling his purple car with petrol. "Can you lend me two dollars?" she asked. "Until tomorrow?"

"Just until tomorrow, I can - but no longer! You must repay me tomorrow," said Geelaugh pulling hundreds of dollars from his pocket. He gave Crocosmile two dollars saying, "Just until tomorrow."

On Sunday, Geelaugh met Crocosmile. "You owe me two dollars. I want it now. Straight away. No excuses. Now."

"I don't have the money," replied Crocosmile. "Please don't make me repay it now."

"Now! I want it now," said Geelaugh.

"I don't have your money. Tomorrow maybe," replied Crocosmile.

"Now! Tomorrow is no good," said Geelaugh. "If you can't pay me now I'll take your helmet and sell it so I can get my money back."

Crocosmile couldn't pay so Geelaugh snatched her motorbike helmet, jumped into his purple car and raced off to sell the helmet. "Fancy not paying back what you owe. If you can't trust your friends, who can you trust?" said Geelaugh as he turned up the CD to play the loudest music.

The next day, Happypotamus happened to meet Crocosmile. She could see that Crocosmile was very sad. For once she was not riding her motorbike. "What's the matter?" enquired Happypotamus.

Happypotamus listened as Crocosmile told her what had happened. "And I can't ride my motorbike because I don't have a helmet."

Happypotamus became even more angry than she was on Friday. She said to Crocosmile, "I forgave Geelaugh ten dollars. He should forgive you two. The rascal. Wait until I see him next."

When Happypotamus met Geelaugh she glared at him through the window of his new grey car, growled and then snatched his new mobile phone from his hand. Then she shouted in a very angry voice, "You can have your phone back next week maybe - or maybe next month. But only after you repay the ten dollars and when you've bought Crocosmile a new helmet."

And then she added, “I let you off the ten dollars you owed me. Don’t you think you should have let Crocosmile off the two dollars she owed you?”

Happypotamus dropped the phone into her handbag, did up the clip, turned her back on Geelaugh and walked home singing a happy tune

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Source Notes and Discussion

Story 8. Peas and Beans

Parable of the Unforgiving Steward: Matthew 18: 23 - 35

The happy ending to this parable is also questionable. But unlike the previous story, children will recognize it as being ‘fair’. But fairness is not the rationale for the parable nor should the emphasis be on borrowing. The emphasis should be on forgiveness. “Forgive and you shall be forgiven” could be rewritten “forgive as you have been forgiven.”