



LITTLE CROCO

Little Croco was enjoying rolling about in the soft muddy soil and his Mama was sleeping peacefully right next to him.

He kept pulling his Mama's tail till she finally opened one eye, gave a big yawn, moved a little further and went back to sleep. Feeling frustrated, little Croco wriggled and pulled her tail with all his might.

Shocked, Mama opened her eyes.

"Mama! Mama! Look at me! I am bored Mom!

Can you see? These leaves are stuck in my teeth!

Even the stems! I tried to get rid of them with my tongue!

But I couldn't. Mama, Tell me Mama! What do I do?" Little Croco's patience was running out.

"Hey Sonny boy! It's all right. Just open your mouth wide enough and lie down on the riverbank.



It will go away on its own. It will disappear in the air.”

When he heard his Mama’s words little Croco felt scared. He felt confused.

Little Croco shut his mouth tightly and kept crawling back and forth in the slush.

He tried raking mud with his right paw. Then he started digging a hole in the middle of the mud with his hind paws. When he got bored doing it, he began to scratch his neck by rolling over in the mud. He tried just about everything except what Mama had told him to do.

Now Mama was unhappy.

She rolled her big eyes around and yelled, “Croco, do exactly what I have told you to do. Keep your mouth wide open. If you don’t open your mouth, then the thing that’s stuck in your teeth won’t come out and disappear in the air. Come on! Open your mouth!

Or

I will have to cancel the visit to grand ma’s house on this weekend.”

Croco didn’t want to miss visiting his grand ma and playing with his cousins. Who were also visiting her this weekend?

He hesitated a little and then said, “But Mama, what if I kept my mouth wide open and all my teeth flew away? I mean disappeared. Then how will I eat or drink? How will I talk? No Mama! No! I won’t lie on the bank with my mouth wide open.”



Ha ha ha ha ha...Mama couldn't stop laughing for a while.

Then she said, "You silly little thing! Hey! You are not going to lose your teeth, my little one. I said the stuff that's stuck in your teeth would go away. You just try doing what I have told you sweetheart!"

Mama saw that little Croco was still not convinced. He was still confused.

Then Mama thought she must tell him the reason.

Her little one would be an adolescent in no time at all. "Croco, when you open your mouth, a little Kingfisher would dive down from the sky; take out the stuff that is stuck between your teeth, sore high up in the sky again.

Croco was still not ready to open his mouth.

He was scared. He kept his mouth shut.

He just raised his tail and kept staring at his Mom.

But

..Then Mama didn't get mad this time and didn't yell at him.

She simply crawled close to her baby Croco. She just caressed him with her paw. Rubbed her nose on his. He snuggled up to her. She held him tightly and kissed him.

Now Little Croco felt great! He was very happy.



Cuddling again very close to her, he said, "Mama but what if that little bird happens to be just a wee bit crazy? Will she then pick out my teeth instead of the stuff that is stuck? Then what would I do Mama?"

Mama was listening to him very carefully. She realized what was bothering Croco.

She smiled and said, "Wait a minute! I think I will show you something interesting."

Then she crawled on the bank and opened her mouth. She kept it wide open and lay quietly on the riverbank.

A mama Kingfisher who had perched on the nearby tree saw the crocodile with her mouth wide open. She dived down and stood in front of the Crocodile.

Mama smiled and winked at her friend.

Kingfisher hopped into her mouth.

Mama closed her eyes.

All the leaves, stems, moss, thorns, and bones stuck in Crocodile's teeth were picked out within seconds by the friendly little bird.

She took what she needed and threw off the rest...

Mama's jaws had started aching because she had kept her mouth wide open for so long.

Then she burped aloud! Burrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrp!



Oh boy! Was it loud!!!

Then her kingfisher friend spread her wings and took off.

And then she closed her mouth.

Little Croco was coolly watching it all from a distance.

He crawled closer to his mother and grumbled, 'Mama, how did you know that the bird had flown off ? I saw that you had closed your eyes.'

"Oh my silly willy Crocodi, that's why I burped so loudly. That was the signal for the bird. As soon as the bird heard it she flew away."

"Yeah! Now I understand!

You didn't close your mouth immediately after burping!

You gave some time to your friend to fly off. That is cool Mama."

"That's my smart little Croco!

Ok! Now are you ready to open your mouth?" Mom smiled and patted him with her tail..

Little Croco opened his mouth wide and lay on the bank of the river quietly.



Nothing happened for a long time.

“Oh! Nobody’s ever going to come to me! The stuff in my teeth is going to remain there for ever.” thought Croco.

But then after a little while came a little bird hopping and stood hesitantly before little Croco.

He fluttered his wings. Looked all around. Started preening himself. But did not at all look at little Croco.

Little Croco was excited and confused. He didn’t know what to do! So he burped aloud and quickly closed his mouth.

The bird too felt confused. He too didn’t know what to do.

“This is weird” said the scared little kingfisher and spreading his wings he took off.

That looked so funny.

Both the mothers laughed aloud!

Both of them explained to their kids once again what they were supposed to do.

Then little Croco opened his mouth again.



And the little kingfisher came back again and stood before him.

Then Croco winked and opened his mouth wide.

Kingo was scared at first. His feathers started shivering. He glanced at his mother hesitantly.

Mom puffed up and gestured that everything was all right.

She hopped about to cheer him up!

Kingfisher felt stronger. His shivering stopped. He happily hopped and then coolly entered Croco's mouth.

"Tuk Tuk Tuk Tuk TukTukTuk.

Tac Tac Tac Tac Tac Tac Tac

Kut kut kut kut kut kut kut .

Tuk tuk tuk tuk tuk tuk tuk"

All done! All right!

Clean and bright!

Croco saw Kingfisher flying off to the sky.

Still he burped aloud!



Then he waited for sometime and then closed his mouth.

Croco's Mama was proud.. ..

and said to Kingfisher "WELL DONE SONNY BOY!"

And who proudly said "WELL DONE" to little Croco?

Can you tell?

The answer in your heart is the real answer!

So well done you little readers!

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