

“The Bear and the Two Travelers”

Once upon a time, in a small village nestled deep within a dense forest, there lived two traveling companions named Jack and Tom. They were known for their adventurous spirits and love for exploration. One fine morning, they decided to embark on a journey to discover new lands and experience thrilling adventures.

As they ventured further into the forest, their path became narrower and surrounded by tall trees. The air was thick with anticipation, and the whispering of the leaves seemed to echo their excitement. Little did they know that their journey would take an unexpected turn.

Suddenly, a massive bear emerged from behind the thick foliage, blocking their path. Instinctively, Jack scrambled up a nearby tree, finding safety in its branches. Panic surged through his veins as he watched his friend, Tom, frozen with fear. As the bear approached, Tom knew he had to act quickly to save himself. He lay flat on the ground, holding his breath, hoping to fool the bear into thinking he was lifeless.

The bear curiously sniffed Tom, nudging him with its snout, trying to determine if he was prey worth pursuing. Time seemed to stretch as Tom remained still, his heart pounding in his chest. Finally, the bear seemed convinced and left him, searching for an easier target. Tom slowly exhaled, realizing he had escaped a gruesome fate. He was relieved but also disappointed in his friend's actions.

After ensuring the bear was gone, Jack descended from the tree, a smirk playing on his lips. He then inquired of his friend what it was the Bear had whispered in his ear. “He gave me this advice,” his companion replied. “Never travel with a friend who deserts you at the approach of danger.”

Questions:

1. Retell the above story in your own words. Write it in one paragraph.
2. What are the qualities of a good friend?
3. What type of bond did the friends have?
4. What caused the bond to break?

5. Why did the crane agree to perform the deed?
6. Do you think the crane should have helped the wolf?
7. What do you think would happen to the crane now that she helped the wolf?
8. Stories are written to give the reader a message or advice. What do you think was the message or advice in this story