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FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE

Why the Kangaroo Has Such a Long Tail

DONALD and Nurse were seated under the big oak tree at the Zoo. Nurse was waiting for the big, blond Keeper to come along and chat with her. Donald was waiting, curled up on a sheet spread upon the ground, for his eyelids to grow heavy with sleep for his afternoon nap.

Not that he liked to sleep—oh, no! But then, you recall, he very often encountered his queer little friend, the Old Man of the Woods and went with him on pleasant jaunts among the animals—when he was asleep, and only when asleep!

Presently, Donald dozed off into the Land of Nod and then—out of nowhere—sprang up the Old Man. Such a queer old man he was, too, with his humming-bird feather coat, fur trousers and wrinkled small face.

"Good afternoon, my boy," he said. "Come, sit on this magic leaf and we'll sail away to the fangs of the kangaroo in the far corner of the Zoo. I have a most interesting story to tell you about kangaroos. Come—quick—we're off!"

And in less time than it takes you to open and close your eyes the leaf had carried them through the air and deposited them gently on the ground by the side of the enclosure in which the kangaroo was displaying himself.

"Once upon a time, long before there was any such creature as man on the earth," said Donald's strange companion, "the Kangaroo came to me weeping and wailing and begged me to help him. As you will recall, Donald, I was the king of all living things then, and they all came to me to settle their disputes and bind up their wounds."

"Well, the Kangaroo then did not look like kangaroos do now, Donald. No indeed. Now, you see, they have little, short, weak fore-legs and big, long, powerful hind legs—strong enough to kick out with and knock a man senseless. Besides, there is that thick, tremendous tail, tapering out to such a small point."

"But at that time, Donald, the Kangaroo's hind legs were no longer than his front ones, and his tail was about the size of that of a rabbit. Even then he was a swift runner, though he did not hop along, in great bounding leaps, as he does now."

"Oh, oh, oh, Mr. Old Man of the Woods," wailed the Kangaroo—I can remember even now how silly he sounded—please help me to get that Sweetumtite!"

"What in the world is that?" "The Kangaroo stopped wailing, dried his eyes and put his absurd little pocket handkerchief back in his pouch—yes, in those days all kangaroos had them—and looked at me in surprise."

"Sweetumtite?" "Don't you know a Sweetumtite when you see one, Mr. Old Man of the Woods?"

"No! I do not!" I replied somewhat testily, "I'm afraid, and I don't believe you do, either!"

"Come with me, please—and I'll show it to you," he declared. "I was so amazed I could scarcely scramble to my feet to follow him. A Sweetumtite! Could it be that there was something new in the forest, something that I knew nothing about? Well, hardly. Of course you know what a Sweetumtite is, Donald—and the Old Man's eyes twinkled roguishly for a moment or two as he chuckled over the blank, puzzled expression that had settled upon little Donald's face. "There, there," he continued presently, "don't try to remember, Donald, for you never did even hear of a Sweetumtite, much less see one!"

"After a while Kangaroo stopped by the side of some very tall bushes and pointed upward with one of his short, stubby little forelegs.

"There," he cried triumphantly, "there it is, Mr. Old Man of the Woods! Look— isn't it delicious! And, oh, I do so want to eat it! My mouth is fairly watering for it!"

"It was almost dumfounded. So then, a Sweetumtite was something to eat! I looked up in the direction of the animal."

"I thought I would simply burst with laughter, Donald, at that silly Kangaroo; but I managed to keep a straight face. The idea! Poor Kangaroo! And that mischievous Monkey! Then the thought occurred to me that, after all, the Laughing Hyena has to have something to laugh at."

"That Sweetumtite—that beautiful, luscious Sweetumtite—mind you was nothing but a four-ounce piece of the Laughing Hyena and that mischievous Monkey had palmed and hung up in the bushes for the express purpose of playing a practical joke on poor Kangaroo!"

"Well, to make a long story short, Kangaroo flew into a rage and then went miserably back to his quarters. But the worst of it was that when he started to walk early away, the rear end of him was sticking so high up in the air that he could not get to the ground that at every move he would turn a complete somersault. He couldn't even hop along on his hind legs, as kangaroos do nowadays, for he had no long tail, which would balance himself when he hopped!"

"Poor fellow! I almost felt sorry for him. He begged and begged me to make his legs short again. But I reminded him that he had agreed not to object to them, and impressed upon him the fact that his own greedy appetite was responsible for his predicament—just as little boys and girls often get into trouble, you know, Donald, when they insist upon having something that isn't good for them. So I refused."

"Then he pleaded with me to make his front legs long, so they would balance his body. But I refused; and I did so because again I wanted him to be reminded, after his foolishness every time he looked at those stubby little front legs. But finally, when he simply couldn't stand his weeping any longer, I relented and waved my Magic Wand so that his tail grew long enough and big enough to balance him when he hopped along."

"He was overjoyed and promised me to be greedy again. And that, Donald, is why kangaroos have such long tails. It is true they have such a good use for them and would—where! Donald, there's Nurse calling you. Goodbye! I must be off!"

"Donald!" "It was Nurse's voice. "Wake up—it's time to be going home!"

"Um-m-m-m," mumbled Donald, sitting up and rubbing his eyes. There were Nurse and the blond Keeper beaming over him and smiling at him.

"Um-m-m-m," said Donald again. "My, I thought you never would wake up!" exclaimed Nurse. By now Donald was wide awake.

"By now Donald was wide awake. "Do your kangaroos at the Zoo set Sweetumtites?" "Sweet—what? Sweetumtites?" exclaimed Donald. "Why, I never heard of such a thing! Where in the world did you get the idea, Donald, that—"

"Phaw! Don't mind him, Harry," said Nurse. "He's just been having another one of those foolish dreams of his. Sweetumtite—sounds like something good to eat, doesn't it?"

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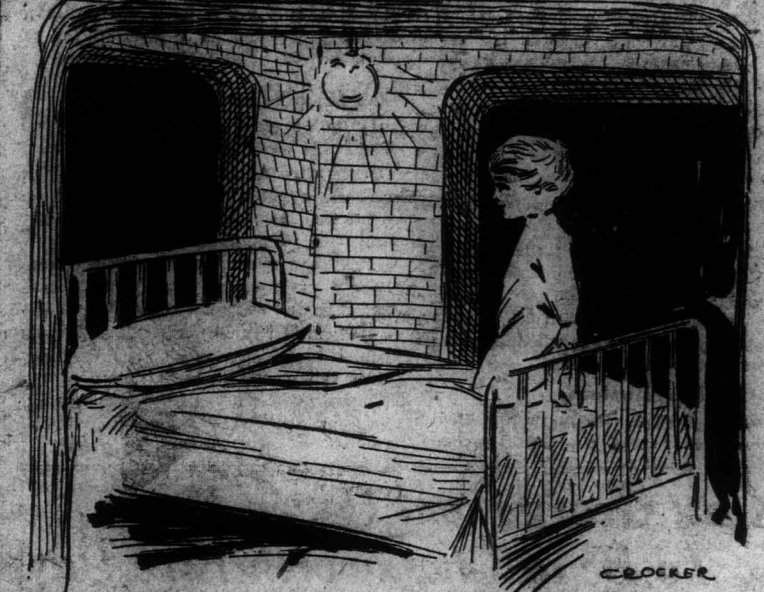


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The Sleeping Porch



HAVE a sleeping porch so I can get acquainted with the sky; My sleeping bag is warm and tight And I crawl in it every night. Then mamma takes away the lamp And I pretend I am a tramp.

NO USE FOR IT. LOUISE was a blue-eyed, golden-haired child seeing her fourth summer. Her grandpa was a churchman and a Bible reader, so the child had been told who sends flowers, the sunshine, the rains, etc.—God. As is the custom, during dry weather her grandpa would put the hose on and sprinkle the lawn and even the street, but at this particular time there had been many days of rain.

One morning her mother pushed up the shade of a window in their bedroom and said, "Oh, Louise, the sun is shining, and the day will be fine," whereupon Louise remarked in her slow, serious manner, "Dad won't have his hose out today, mamma."

BOY BLUE PUZZLE. This is Little Boy Blue. See if you can find a cow in the corn by cutting out the black spots and fitting them together.



Answers to puzzles and other content.

A Patient Kitty



I've got the nicest kitty. As gentle as can be, One that is always ready To play each day with me. He always lets me dress him Up in most anything, And lies still in the cradle While I rock him and sing. He never tries to scratch me Or act the least bit bad; I'm sure no better kitty A girl has ever had.

THE OPOSSUM

A POSSUM is so very sly He does not run away or cry. Nor does he turn about and fight When hunters seek him in the night. But lies quite still and does not stir And looks just like a bunch of fur. He thinks the hunters will be lead To pass him by as something dead.



Bronze Medals of Our Presidents

DO you know that in the vaults of the U. S. mint at Philadelphia, snugly enclosed in oiled wrappings, are steel dies of medals bearing the likenesses of each of the twenty-six Presidents of the United States? And President Wilson's medal is to be placed among them very shortly. Now, no doubt, you have seen many pictures and likenesses of our various Presidents; also, you may have noticed, they are not all alike. Indeed, some of them would be taken for likenesses of entirely different persons. Naturally, these dies want to preserve the features of each of the men who have presided at the White House, so that those who come after us may see exactly what they looked like. But, mark you, the likenesses he keeps on file must be absolutely accurate in every detail. Hence, through all the years, he has had a medal struck off of each of our Presidents very shortly after they took the oath of office. This set is complete. Not one is missing—from George Washington clear down to President Taft. Great pains were taken in the making of the dies for these medals; the most expert engraver of the time being engaged to make them of each of the successive presidents. When the First Congress of the United States met it authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton,

OUR PUZZLE CORNER

SCATTERED PETALS. The petals (letters) of these flowers are scattered. Can you put them together correctly? 1. YHL 2. SOH 3. FOFAN 4. YEDAL 5. ARCANITO 6. MUMMATHYRHOSE 7. TURNAMTUA 8. NIGHROGGA. A BUNDLE OF TEASE (78). Example: A wigwam. Answer: Teepee. 1. A see-saw. 2. Two horses. 3. To instruct. 4. Chewers and biters. 5. 13 to 19 years old. 6. Wearisome.

ANSWERS. SOLUTION TO BOY BLUE PUZZLE. A Bundle of Tease (78): 1. Footstooler. 2. Tawn. 3. Teach. 4. Teach. 5. Teena. 6. Teatoga. Scattered Petals: 1. Lily. 2. Rose. 3. Pansy. 4. Daisy. 5. Carnation. 6. Chrysanthemum. 7. Nasturtium. 8. Geranium.