

Sable hastened away, and as soon as he was a safe distance from the Snake, he began to sing. Weasel, by his magical powers, heard the words of the song and knew that Sable needed him, so he hurried through the forest until he came to the spot where Sable was standing.

“What is the matter?” he asked. “Why are you afraid?”

Sable told him all about the Snake and how he had been sent out to find a straight stick with which to be killed.

“Do not be afraid,” replied Weasel. “I will kill the Snake.” Then pointing to a large tree which was lying on the ground, he said, “I shall lie down behind this hemlock tree. Now, you go and search for a stick. Just pretend that you are looking for a straight one and pick up the most crooked one you can find. Take it to the Snake, and when he complains that it is not straight enough, tell him that you know how to straighten it. Then hold it in the fire, and