

A New Friendship



By
Just Like You, Just Like Me

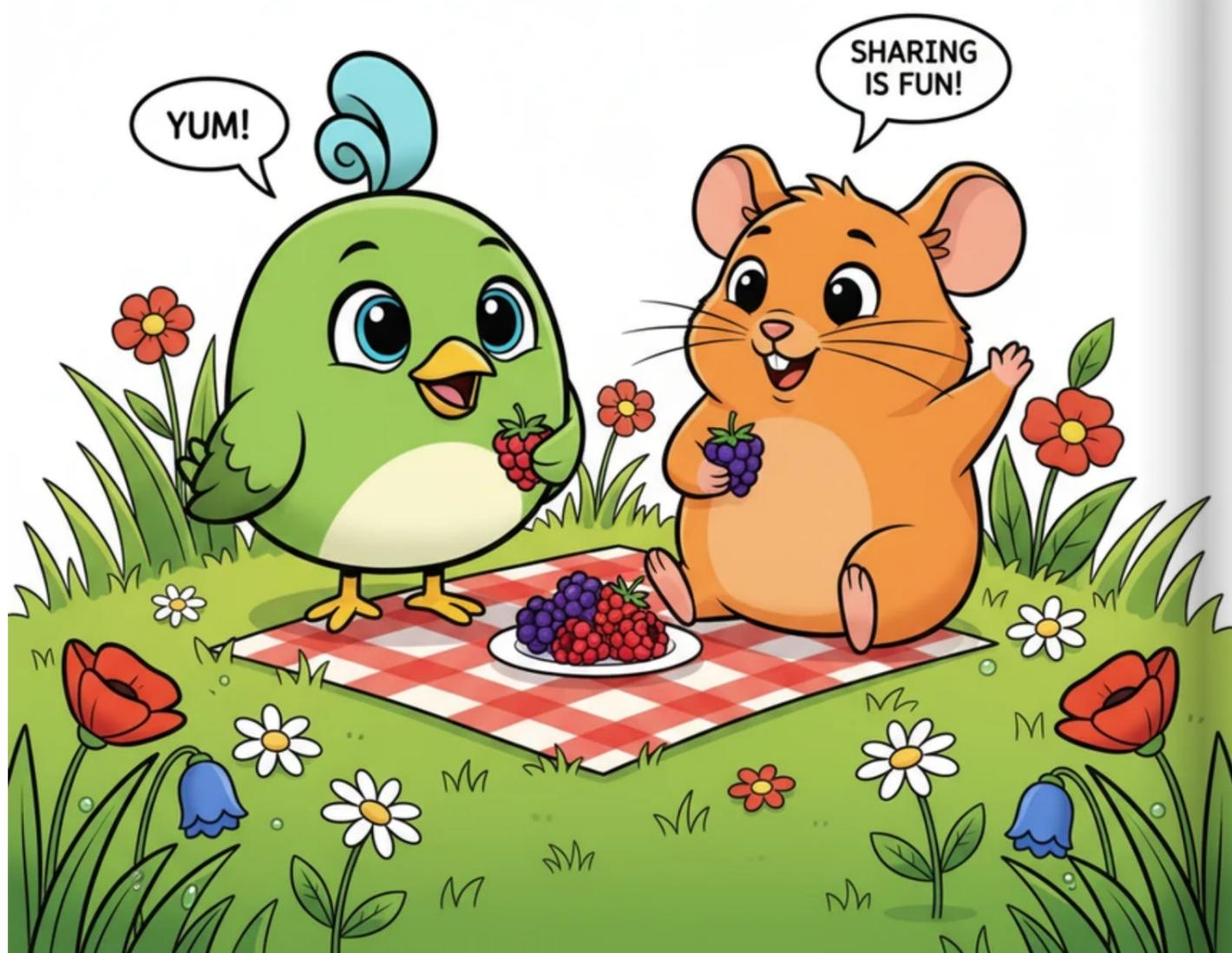
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Pip the blue bird lives high in the leafy oak tree, while Squeak the orange mouse lives deep in the soft grass below. They look at each other from across the garden and wonder how two friends could be so different.



Pip has bright blue feathers and wide wings that help him soar through the fluffy white clouds. Squeak has soft orange fur and quick little paws that help him scurry over round pebbles and fallen twigs.



For breakfast, Pip loves to nibble on sweet, crunchy red berries from the tall bushes. Squeak prefers to munch on tiny, golden seeds he finds hidden carefully in the meadow grass.



Pip's home is a round nest made of thin twigs and soft green moss, high where the wind whistles. Squeak's home is a cozy tunnel lined with dry yellow leaves, tucked safely under the thick tree roots.



Suddenly, big gray clouds gather in the sky and a loud boom of thunder echoes through the park. Both Pip and Squeak stop what they are doing and look up at the sky with wide, worried eyes.



As the rain begins to pitter-patter on the leaves, Pip feels a shiver in his wings and Squeak feels a tremble in his whiskers. Even though they look different, they both feel exactly the same kind of scared.



They both run to the same hollow log to stay dry from the splashing raindrops. Sitting side-by-side in the dark, they realize that their little hearts are thumping at the exact same fast rhythm.



When the sun peeks out from the clouds, Pip lets out a happy chirp and Squeak gives a joyful squeak. They both love the way the world smells fresh and clean after a cool summer rain.



They spend the afternoon playing a game of tag around the yellow buttercups, laughing in their own special ways. Whether flying through the air or running on the ground, the joy of playing feels the same to both of them.



As the stars begin to twinkle in the night sky, Pip and Squeak wave goodbye, knowing they are special in their own ways. They are different on the outside, but in their hearts, they are just the same.