

### 3. The Two Friends and the Bear

Leo and Max were the best of friends. They loved exploring the forest near their village, discovering new trails and picking juicy berries.

One sunny afternoon, they were happily gathering berries when suddenly, they heard a loud rustling in the bushes nearby. Out of nowhere, a huge brown bear stepped into the clearing! Max's heart pounded, and without thinking, he scrambled up the tallest tree he could find. He climbed quickly, hoping to stay safe above the bear. Leo wanted to climb too, but he wasn't fast enough. He froze, remembering something he had read about bears: if you stay very still and don't move, the bear might lose interest. So, Leo lay flat on the ground and held his breath. The bear sniffed around, coming close to Leo's ear. Leo stayed as still as a statue, even though his heart was racing.

After a few tense moments, the bear seemed bored and wandered off into the forest. Max peeked down from the tree once the bear had disappeared. He climbed down carefully and rushed over to Leo.

"Are you okay?" Max asked nervously. Then, with a smile, Leo said quietly, "The bear whispered to me something important." Max's eyes widened. "What did he say?" Leo smiled. "He told me, 'Real friends never run away and leave each other behind in danger.'" Max's cheeks flushed with shame.

He realized he had been scared and left Leo alone. “I’m sorry, Leo,” Max said earnestly. “I promise I’ll never run away again. I’ll always stand by your side, no matter what.”

From that day on, Leo and Max became even closer friends. They learned that true friendship isn’t just about having fun together—it’s about courage, loyalty, and never giving up on each other, even when things get scary. Whenever they went back to the forest, they made a promise to always watch out for one another. And no matter what challenges came their way, they faced them together, just like true friends should.

#### 4. The Magic Pencil

Jenny loved to draw more than anything else. Every afternoon after school, she would rush to her room, grab her favorite pencil, and fill her sketchbook with animals, castles, and candy-colored clouds.

One rainy Tuesday, something strange happened to Jenny. She loved to draw and sat by her window, listening to the raindrops on the glass. When she opened her pencil case, she saw a pencil she had never seen before. It was golden and shiny, with a little silver star on the tip.

"Where did this come from?" Jenny wondered, rolling the pencil between her fingers. Suddenly, she felt a warm tickle in her hand. She grew curious and decided to draw a cat. The moment she finished the last whisker, something amazing happened—the cat blinked, stretched, and jumped right off the page!

"Meow," said the cat as it walked around her room like it had always lived there. Jenny's eyes went wide. "No way!" she said.

Filled with excitement, Jenny quickly drew a butterfly. As soon as she finished, it came to life and started flying around her head. Jenny laughed and clapped her hands. Next, she drew a big tree beside her bed. Magically, the tree grew tall, and its green leaves touched the ceiling. Tiny apples appeared on the branches.

"This pencil is magic!" Jenny shouted.

She drew more wonderful things—a tiny pink elephant that danced and blew bubbles, a rainbow that stretched across her room, and a little dragon that purred and curled up near her feet. She even drew a snowy mountain, and suddenly, tiny penguins slid down the slopes, laughing as they went.

Jenny was having so much fun, but soon, the sky grew darker, and Jenny felt sleepy. She hugged her new cat, laid the special pencil carefully on her desk, and went to bed.

When Jenny woke up the next morning, her room was back to normal. There was no cat, no dragon, no rainbow. Only the golden pencil was on her desk. Beside it was a small note. Jenny picked it up and read, "Magic only works when you believe."

Jenny smiled. She understood that the real magic was inside her, in her dreams and her imagination. From then on, Jenny used the golden pencil to create pictures full of hope and wonder. And every time she believed—even just a little—something special always happened in her world.