

The Rabbit and the Crocodile

During a dry spell, Rabbit realized that all of the fields of fresh, green, tender grass were now brown. After surveying the situation, he set out to find new fields of moist, tender, green grass. After a day of travel, Rabbit finally found just what he had been looking for, thousands of new, green shoots of grass in a large field. What kept him from getting too excited was the fact that the grass was on the other side of a wide river. He sat down next to the river to think about what to do. As he sat there, he saw the brown scaly head of a crocodile bobbing in the river. "Ahhhh, that's it" exclaimed Rabbit, "I will ask the crocodile to carry me on his back across the river." He was so excited that he shouted his words out loud. A bird, sitting in the tree above rabbit heard what he said. "Now Rabbit," said Bird, "that would not be very wise to ride the crocodile because he would eat you half way across the river. You are a clever fellow, think about this problem, you can find a solution." With that, Bird flew away. Well, Rabbit did think about his problem. Suddenly he saw another crocodile in the river and in a flash he had an idea. He walked to the edge of the river and began talking to the crocodiles. "Hear ye, hear ye. I am Rabbit the Crocodile Counter. I am here to count all the crocodiles in the river." The crocodiles made fun of Rabbit saying he could not possibly count all of the crocodiles in the river. "You just call your friends, neighbors, and cousins and tell them to come to this spot and I will count them all" rabbit boasted. Soon the river was filled with scaly bodies. Rabbit instructed them to stretch out. Nose-to-tail and nose-to-tail across the river. As soon as they spanned the whole river, Rabbit jumped on the back of the first one and hopped to the next, and the next, each time counting. When he jumped from the last crocodile he landed in the soft green grass with a shriek of delight. Looking back he shouted. "Thank you for helping me cross the river, goodbye." The crocodiles swam away looking confused.