

The Stone That Wouldn't Move

A STORY BY ARKEDELIC



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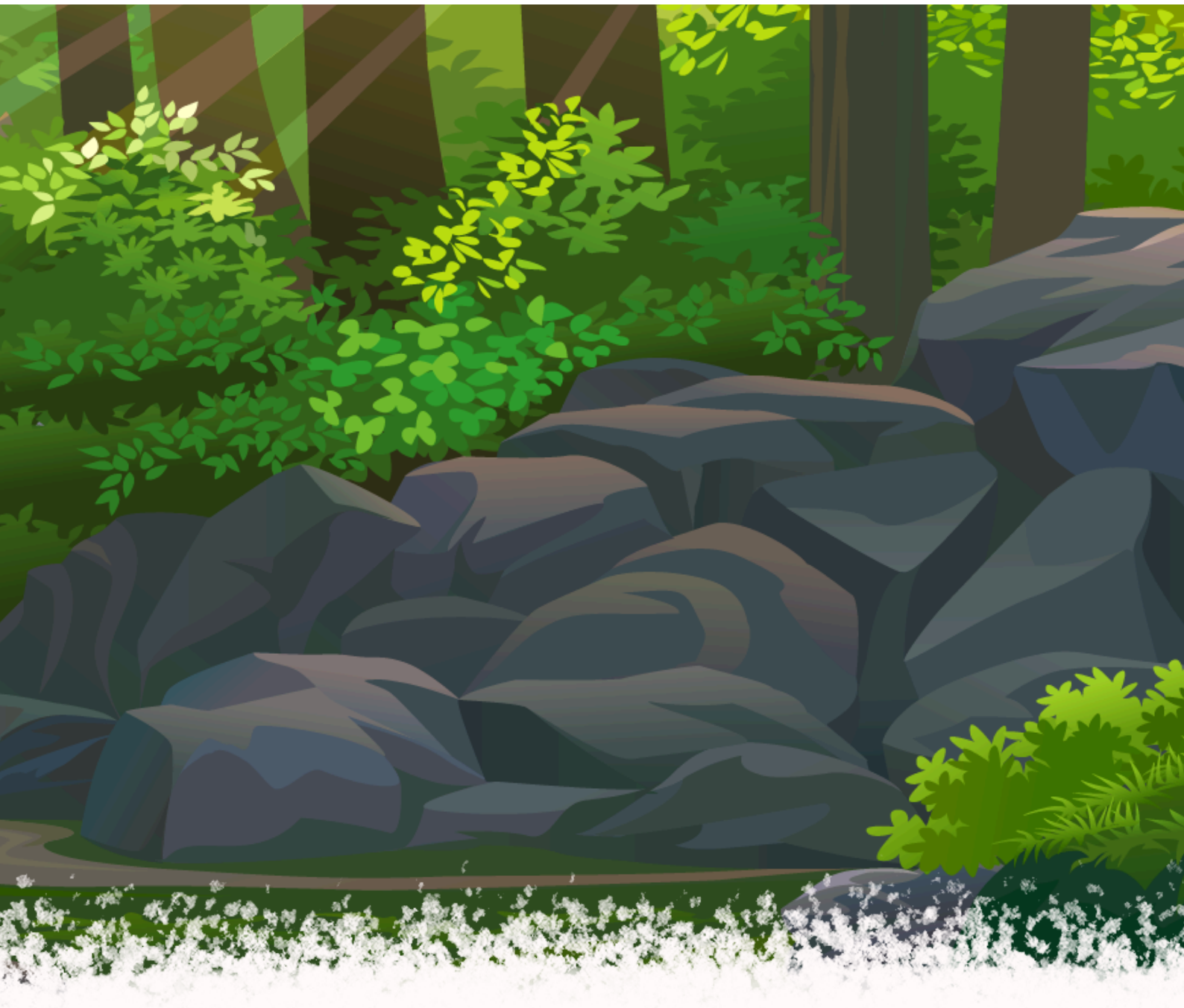
The jungle path curved down to a place where tall reeds whispered in the breeze.

Milo the elephant calf loved this path because it led to a cool mud pool.

Zeldon the hare leveret liked it because he could race ahead and reach first.

And Sherry the little chimp liked it because she could swing down from branches and surprise the others.





But one morning, the three stopped short.
A giant stone sat right across the path.
It was round, heavy, and blocking their way completely.

“Out of my way!” trumpeted Milo, lowering his head.

He pushed and shoved, his little feet digging furrows in
the dust. The stone didn’t budge.

Milo snorted.
“It’s too smooth. No grip!”

“Let me try!” squeaked Zeldon, his ears twitching.

He darted around, scratching at the ground.

“We’ll dig under it.”

Tiny paws scratched, and dust flew. But the more he dug, the more soil slid back in. Zeldon flopped onto the ground, panting. “It’s useless.”

Sherry folded her arms and swung her legs.
“You two don’t know how to use brains. Watch me.”

She clambered up a leaning trunk, leapt onto the stone,
and jumped hard.

Thud, thud!

The stone stayed still.

She jumped again. Thud! Still nothing.

Sherry stamped her feet. “It’s the stone’s fault.
It’s too stubborn.”



Milo puffed angrily. “We’ll never reach the mud pool now.”

Zeldon muttered, “I should have stayed home.”

Sherry snapped, “Don’t blame me!”

The air grew heavy with their sulks.
Just then, a rustle came from the bushes.

Emily the old tortoise poked out her wrinkled head.

“What’s all this noise about?” she asked in her slow, calm voice.



They told her the problem in a rush.
Emily looked at the stone, then at the three young faces.

“You all tried,” she said, “but you gave up too quickly.”

Milo stamped. “I did push! It wouldn’t move.”
Zeldon twitched. “I did dig! It filled back in.”
Sherry tossed her head. “I did jump! It ignored me.”



Emily blinked. “When something is too heavy for one, you mustn’t stop at sulking. Try together. And if one way fails, don’t be afraid to try another.”

The three looked at each other. Milo grumbled, “But I already tried.”

Emily smiled. “Yes, but did you try after listening to each other?” That made them pause.



So Milo pressed his head to the stone again, this time steady
and not in a rush.

Zeldon dug just enough to loosen the soil on one side.

Sherry swung down with a long stick,
wedging it beneath the edge. “Push now!” she yelled.

Together — shove, dig, lever — the stone gave a shiver.
With a loud scrape, it rolled just enough to the side.





They all gasped. The path was clear.
Milo's ears flapped. "We did it!"

Zeldon leapt in circles. "We really moved it!"
Sherry banged her chest. "And my idea worked too!"

Emily chuckled softly. "Not just yours, little one. All of
your ideas mattered — once you accepted them."

Milo lowered his head. “I thought only strength mattered.”

Zeldon twitched. “I thought only speed mattered.”

Sherry scratched her ear.
“And I thought only cleverness mattered.”

Emily blinked her wise eyes. “Sometimes it is strength,
sometimes speed, sometimes cleverness. But most times, it is
listening, trying, and not giving up.”

The three looked at the stone, now resting off to the side. It
no longer seemed stubborn or scary.
It seemed like a reminder.





Sherry grinned.
“Maybe we’ll find another big stone tomorrow.”

Milo trumpeted.
“Then we’ll move it together!”

Zeldon’s whiskers quivered.
“And try new ways, not give up.”

The three bounded down the path,
their laughter echoing among the reeds.

Behind them, Emily the tortoise plodded on,
smiling to herself.

—THE END—

ACTIVITY

Bucket Brigade — Make the "Stone" Move (for real)

YOU'LL NEED:

- A bucket filled with water (safe, heavy-but-manageable)
- 1–2 mugs or a small jug
- A towel (to place under the bucket for sliding)
- Optional: plants to water, a second helper ("Emily")

HOW TO DO IT:

1. Put the full bucket across a "path" (hallway/balcony). Ask the child to move it alone. Notice: it's too heavy.
2. Try teamwork carry: loop hands through the handle together, count "1–2–3," lift a little, set down, rest. What helped?
3. Try "lighten the load": use mugs to water nearby plants. After every few mugs, test-lift again. When does it become liftable?
4. Try "slide, don't lift": place a towel under the bucket and carefully pull the towel together to move it aside.
5. High-five: "We moved it by trying different ways and working together!"

ACTIVITY

Bucket Brigade — Make the "Stone" Move (for real)

Why this works:

The resistance is real, so kids experience the honest “stuck → think → try differently → succeed” loop. They see three strategies — share the load, lighten the load, and reduce friction — mirroring how the friends combined ideas to shift the stone.

What it builds:

Persistence, flexible problem-solving, listening to suggestions, and the confidence that tough tasks often need new methods plus teamwork.

Safety notes:

Choose a weight that’s challenging but safe, supervise water/spills, and stop if anyone strains.

Apartment tweak: use a detergent bottle or stack of books in a tote instead of a big bucket.

5 FUN FACTS

**About When Nature Works Together, Thinks Smart,
and Never Gives Up.**



Elephants That Clear the Way

In African jungles, elephants sometimes push or roll fallen logs to open forest paths — not just for themselves but for other animals too. Their teamwork makes real “roads” through the wild. Imagine being the jungle’s road builders, using trunks instead of bulldozers!

Ant Engineers

Army ants build living bridges by linking their own bodies together so others can cross gaps. Each tiny ant becomes part of a giant moving team that never stops adapting.

Imagine turning teamwork into a real bridge — one that walks!



5 FUN FACTS

**About When Nature Works Together, Thinks Smart,
and Never Gives Up.**

Otter Toolkits

Sea otters carry a favourite rock in their armpit to crack open shellfish. They'll dive, float, and tap again and again until the shell finally opens. Imagine having your own pocket rock that helps you solve every tough nut in life!



Bees That Beat the Heat

When their hive gets too warm, honeybees gather at the entrance and fan their wings in perfect rhythm to cool it down. No one tells them what to do — they just know it works better together. Imagine if everyone at home waved together to make a natural breeze!



Salmon's Climb Home

Salmon swim hundreds of kilometres upstream, leaping over rocks and waterfalls just to return to the place they were born. Many never make it, but they keep trying until they do. Imagine finding your way home by swimming against the strongest current — and still smiling at the end!



The Box That Wouldn't Open

Complete the Story

Lara and her cousin Tim found an old wooden box in the garden shed. It had no key, no handle, and wouldn't open no matter how much they pulled or pushed.

Tim tried using a stick. Lara tried twisting a spoon into the gap. Nothing worked. They sighed and sat down, staring at it in frustration.

Then Lara noticed sunlight glinting through a small hole on one side.

“What if it's not stuck?” she whispered.

“What if there's just something inside holding it shut?”

What happens next?

- Do Lara and Tim figure out a clever way to free what's inside?
- Do they discover the box opens only when they both press together?
- Or do they learn that sometimes, solving a mystery takes more listening than pulling?

*Go ahead and use your imagination
to complete the story.*



See you next Monday
with another interesting story!

Got feedback or a suggestion? We would love to hear it!
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