



The Crooked Branch

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The jungle rang with chatter.
Danny the bonobo swung from a vine
with a loud “Wheeee!” and landed on a low
branch that sagged beneath his weight.



Zeldon the hare hopped in circles below,
ears bouncing.

“My turn! My turn!”
he squeaked, eyes shining.

Sherry, the tiny chimp, clapped her hands
and giggled.

“Both of you will snap it before I even
climb!” she teased.



Danny bounced once.

Crrreeeak.

The branch wobbled dangerously.

“Strong as stone!” he bragged, pounding his little chest.

Zeldon hopped onto the edge.

“Make room!” he cried. The branch dipped lower.

Crack! With a sharp snap, the branch split at one side and dropped them into the dust.

Thud! Poof!

A cloud of dry leaves puffed up around them.

“Danny broke it!” Zeldon squealed instantly, pointing a paw. “He was jumping like a buffalo!”

Danny scrambled up, leaves stuck to his fur.

“I didn’t! You made it crack when you hopped on! You’re too bouncy!”



Sherry folded her arms and smirked.
“I saw everything. And I’m going to tell Kimaya
you both are branch-breakers!”

Danny’s eyes widened. “Don’t tattle!”

Zeldon stamped his foot.
“Yes, tell her! Danny’s the one!”

“I am not!”
Danny shouted back.
“You’re twisting it!
You made me fall!”

Zeldon’s ears flattened.
“You’re the liar, not me!”

The quarrel grew louder than the parrots
squawking above. Each word was a jab —
blame, complaint, finger-pointing.



Sherry puffed herself taller, enjoying the fuss.
“I’ll tell everyone! I’ll tell Tiara! I’ll tell Mumbo!” she sang.

“Danny is a breaker, Zeldon is a hopper, and Sherry is the clever one who didn’t fall!”

Danny groaned.
“You’re complaining just to make us look bad.”

Zeldon squeaked, “You always complain!”
The branch lay crooked on the ground, split where their weight had bent it. The truth was there for anyone to see, but neither wanted to admit it.

A rustle came from the bushes. Emily the tortoise appeared, head poking slowly from her shell. She blinked at the mess. “What’s all this noise about?”



Three voices tumbled over each other:
“He broke it!” squeaked Zeldon.

“He hopped too hard!” shouted Danny.

“They’re both naughty!” tattled Sherry.

Emily blinked again, calm and steady.
“Strange. I saw the branch bend when both of you climbed.
And I hear a lot of shouting but not one bit of truth.”

Danny shuffled, cheeks hot.
“Well...I might have bounced.”
Zeldon twitched his ears. “And I...I did hop.”
Sherry sniffed. “And I tattled, because it was fun.”

Emily’s wrinkled mouth curved in the tiniest smile.
“Ah. Now the truth peeks out.
Branches break easier when truth bends first.”



Danny frowned. “What does that mean?”

“It means lying or blaming twists things,” Emily said softly. “And twisting only makes the break worse.”

Zeldon’s whiskers drooped.
“So...we both broke it.”

Sherry sighed, “And I made it worse with my complaining.”

Silence settled, except for the rustle of leaves.

Then Danny suddenly giggled.
“We’re a bunch of branch-breakers after all.”

Zeldon squeaked, “Crooked-branchers!”

Sherry snorted, covering her mouth,
then burst into giggles too.



Emily shook her head slowly, amused.
“Better to be honest and laugh, than lie and fight.”

The three nodded, cheeks warm but lighter now.
Together, they dragged the crooked branch aside so no one
else would trip.

Danny and Zeldon worked side by side,
and Sherry actually helped instead of tattling.

When the job was done, they plopped down,
breathing hard, bits of dust on their noses.



“Next time,” Danny said, “we tell the truth first.”

“Next time,” Zeldon added, “we share the blame.”

“Next time,” Sherry chirped,
“I’ll complain less...and maybe giggle more.”

They laughed again, the quarrel forgotten.

The crooked branch was still broken, but their friendship
had straightened itself out.

—THE END—



ACTIVITY

The Tangled Truth Game

YOU'LL NEED:

- A soft ball of string, ribbon, or yarn
- A few chairs or objects to weave the string around (to make a “tangle”)
- Optional: paper labels with small “truth cards” (simple sentences like “I forgot my homework,” “I broke a crayon,” “I spilled water,” etc.)

HOW TO DO IT:

1. Tie one end of the string to a chair.
2. As you move around the room, loop and twist it between objects — making a safe but messy web.

Tell your child, “Each twist is like a story that’s been bent or blamed.”

3. Hand them the “truth cards.” For every honest answer or truth they share (real or pretend), let them untangle one loop.

ACTIVITY

The Tangled Truth Game

4. When the string is finally free, stretch it straight and say, ***“See? The more we tell the truth, the smoother things become.”***
5. End with a fun moment — toss the string gently in the air and laugh, saying, ***“Honesty makes everything lighter!”***

What it builds:

This activity helps children feel what “twisting the truth” does — it makes life messy and tangled. Untangling it by telling the truth shows that honesty brings clarity and ease. It also encourages calm communication and teamwork instead of blaming, reminding them that solving problems together feels much better than pointing fingers.

5 FUN FACTS

About The Secret Life of Branches



Nature's Balancers

Branches grow in patterns that balance a tree's weight evenly on all sides. This helps the trunk stay upright even in heavy wind or rain.

Imagine stretching your arms wide to catch the breeze – that's what trees do every day!

Food Highways

Inside every branch are tiny tubes called xylem and phloem. They carry water and food from the roots to the leaves – like little delivery pipes working nonstop.

Imagine a tree with invisible elevators sending lunch straight to its leaves!



Homes in the Sky

Branches are safe havens for countless creatures – birds build nests, monkeys swing, and insects hide inside bark. A single tree branch can be a whole neighbourhood of life.

Imagine living in a house that sways with the wind and sings with birds!

5 FUN FACTS

About The Secret Life of Branches



Smart Growth

Branches don't grow randomly — they turn toward sunlight through a process called phototropism. Each new shoot bends to find its own patch of light without blocking the others. *Imagine if you and your friends could all grow toward your own sunshine without bumping into each other!*

Nature's Builders

When a branch breaks naturally, trees often "heal" the wound by growing new wood over the broken spot. This protective growth keeps the tree strong.

Imagine having the power to grow stronger right where you were once hurt!



The Torn Kite

Complete the Story

On a windy afternoon, Rohan and Meera were flying their new kite from the terrace. It danced and dipped beautifully – until one sudden gust sent it crashing into a tree.

Rriip! The tail tore clean off.

“You pulled too hard!” Meera cried.

“You let it go!” Rohan shot back.

They argued so loudly that even the crows looked over.

Their father came up and said quietly,
“Arguing won’t lift a kite back into the sky.”

Rohan kicked the step. Meera sighed. After a long pause, they sat together and began fixing the tear with tape. When the kite rose again, its patch shimmered brighter than the rest. Meera smiled.

“Maybe mistakes make things stronger.”

What happens next?

- Do Rohan and Meera fly the kite even higher this time?
- Do they start helping other children fix their torn kites?
- Or does the patched kite surprise them with a new twist in the wind?

See you next Monday
with another interesting story!

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