

# Max and the Leaf-Coins

A STORY BY ARKEDELIC



**BUILDING BEAUTIFUL INSIDE**

# Celebrate Your Birthday With Us!



## Mega Jungle Party

230  
Pieces



## Jungle Party

155  
Pieces

An all-in-one party planner, the Booshkata Birthday Box brings the jungle to life with fun games, decorations, recipes and much more.

## Order yours today!

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It was Jungle Market Day in Booshkata!

The sun was shining, the vines were bouncy, and the beetles were buzzing with excitement.

Kimaya stood under the old fig tree, smiling.

“Welcome to the market!” she called.

“Each of you gets five leaf-coins to trade for treats.”





“Five? That’s so many!” Max grinned, tail wiggling.

“Choose wisely,” Kimaya added. “You can spend them all at once... or spread them through the day.”

Danny tucked his coins in a curl behind his ear. Zeldon folded his in a tiny pouch. Max just held his in his wide, wobbly mouth.

And then... they were off!



Max dashed to the first log-stand.  
“Three berry-balls, please!”

“Three coins,” said the termite seller.  
Gulp. Gone.

Next, Max spotted a wooden whistle.  
“That too!” “Two coins.”  
Chomp. Gone.

In five minutes, Max had no coins.  
But oh — he had berry juice on his cheeks and  
whistle holes full of dirt.



Meanwhile, Zeldon bought one  
sunflower cracker and saved the rest.

Danny got a shell-ring, ate one leaf-pop,  
and held back two coins.

Max? Max had nothing left.

Not even crumbs.  
By midday, new stalls had opened.



Glow-lanterns! Water-leaf hats!  
A game corner with jumping vines!

Max ran up to Zeldon. “Let’s play the toss-toss game!”  
Zeldon shook his head. “Costs one coin.”

“Oh... I’m out,” Max mumbled.

He turned to Danny.  
“Want to trade your hat for my whistle?”

Danny looked. “It’s all muddy...”  
Max’s ears drooped.





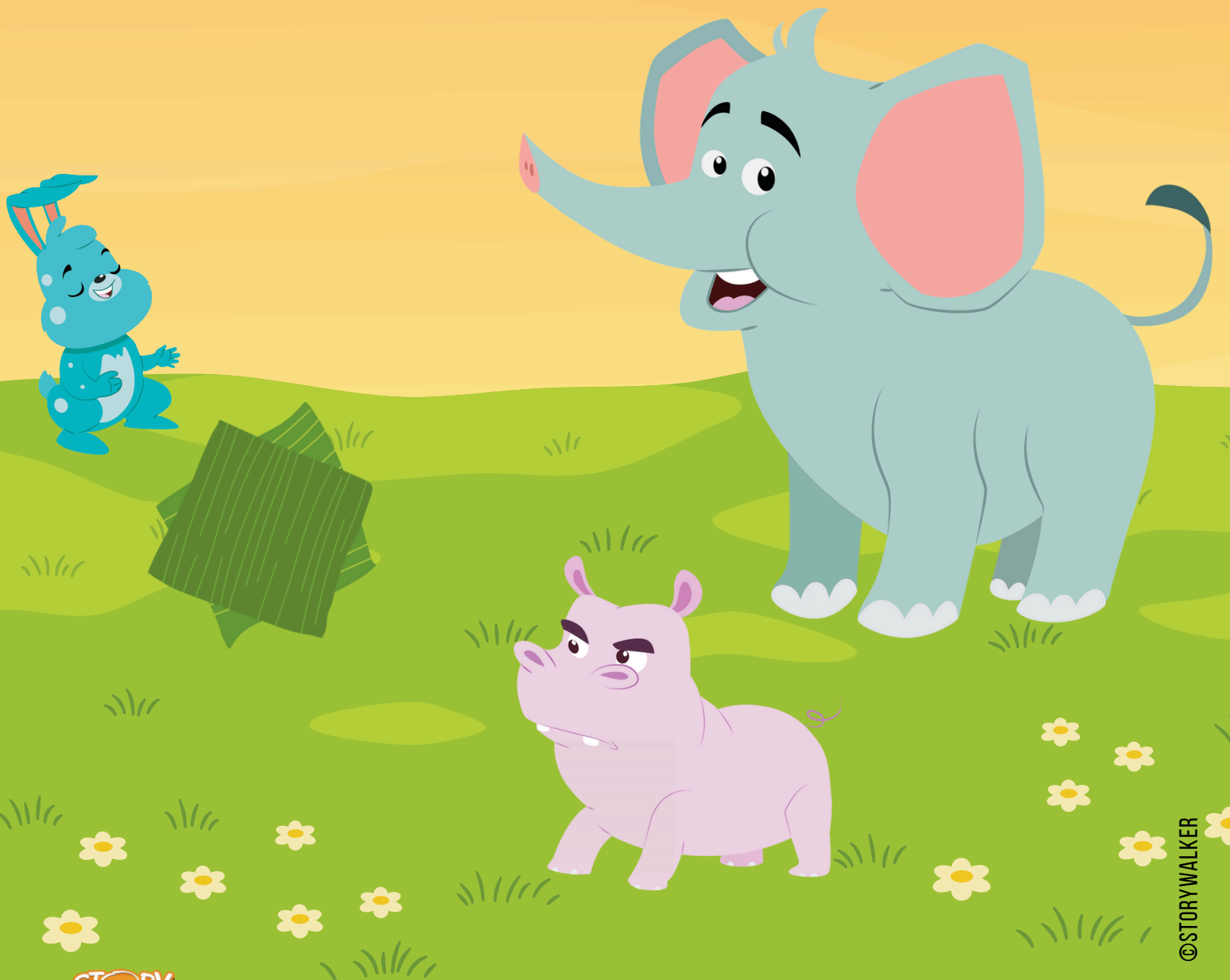
Later, Max spotted a small group laughing near the babbling stream.

Zeldon had set up a tiny leaf-table.

“Welcome to Zelly’s Joke Show!” he announced.  
Max ran over.

“Can I tell a joke too?”  
“Sure!” Zeldon smiled.

Max climbed onto a rock.  
“What did the hippo say when—”



“Wait, wait,” Zeldon said, “it’s a funny joke, right?”

“Yeah!” Max shouted.

“It’s the one about burps and bottoms!”

Danny snorted. Zeldon looked unsure.  
A few younger ones giggled nervously.

Kimaya walked over. “Max,” she said gently,  
“maybe that joke’s best for a quiet puddle-time — not  
the middle of Market Day.”

Max blinked.

“But it’s my best joke!”

“Some jokes,” Kimaya smiled, “are like tickles — fun  
when shared gently, not shouted from the treetops.”



That night, as the firebugs lit the sky,  
Max sat next to Kimaya.

“I spent all my leaf-coins,” he said. “And  
messed up the joke show.”

Kimaya smiled softly. “What do you  
think you’ll do differently next time?”

Max thought.

“Maybe keep one coin in my ear,” he  
said. “And maybe whisper the burp joke  
only to Zeldon.”

“Sounds like a smart plan,” Kimaya said.  
“Also...” Max added, “maybe clean the  
whistle before trading it.”

Kimaya chuckled. “That too.”



And the next Market Day?  
Max still bought the berry-balls.  
But only two.

And he saved a coin.  
And he told a joke — a clean one.

And he didn't shout it.  
He just leaned over to Zeldon, grinned, and whispered,  
“Why don't termites wear socks?”

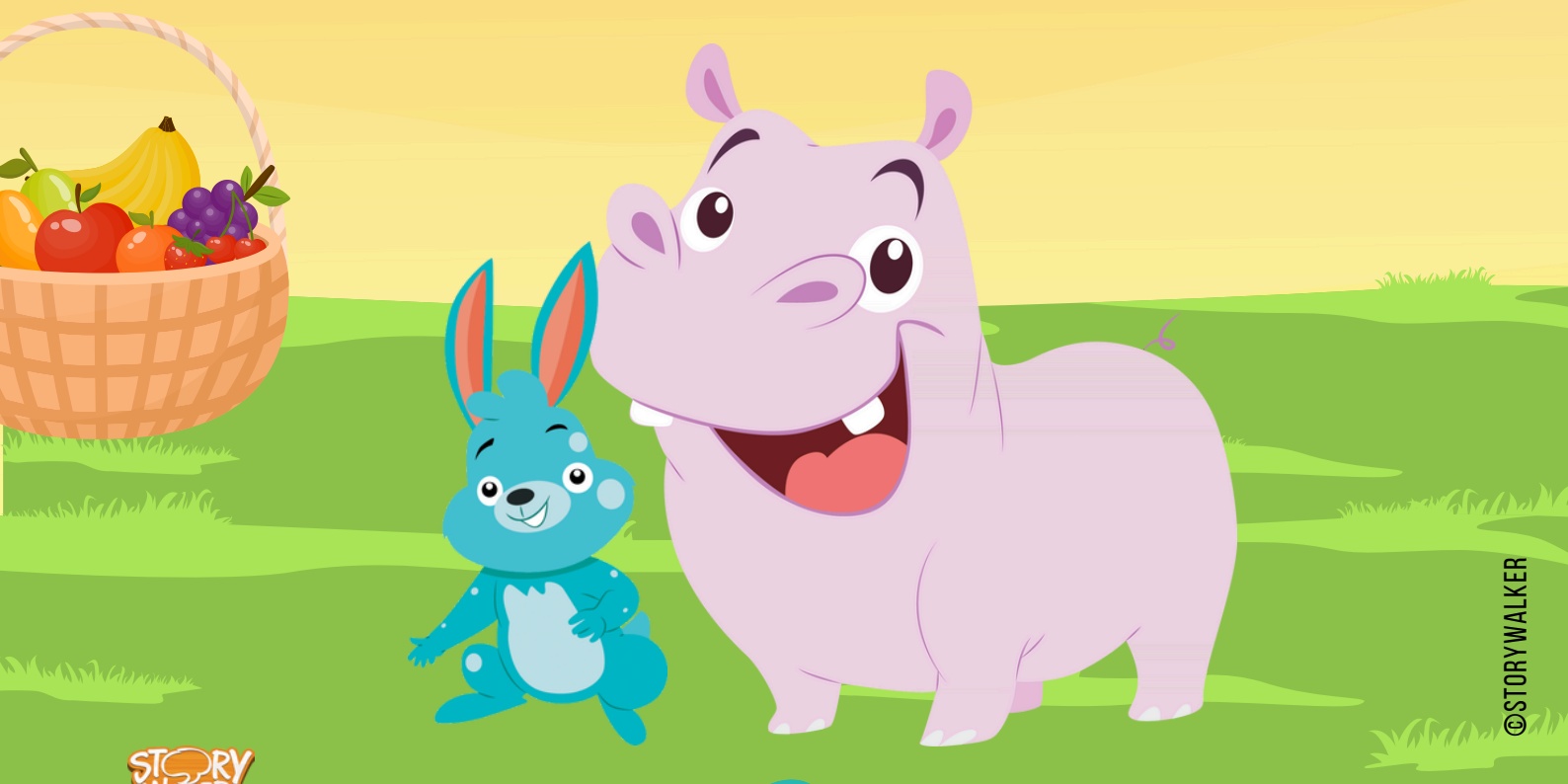
Zeldon blinked. “Why?”

Max grinned. “Because they eat them first!”

Zeldon laughed so loud he dropped his cracker.

And that joke?  
That one... was perfectly spent.

—THE END—





# ACTIVITY

## Leaf-Coin Market Play

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- 10–15 paper circles or cardboard cutouts (you can colour them green to look like leaf-coins)
- Crayons or markers
- Small household objects, healthy snacks, or toys to act as “market items”
- A table or floor space to set up stalls
- A paper bag, pouch, or envelope for each child to keep their leaf-coins

### HOW TO DO IT:

1. Help your child colour the paper circles green — these will be their leaf-coins.
2. Set up a few “market stalls” on the table or floor, each with different items (for example: two biscuits, a small toy car, a sticker, a fruit slice).
3. Put price tags on each item (1–3 leaf-coins each).

# ACTIVITY

## Leaf-Coin Market Play

4. Give your child a set number of leaf-coins (e.g., 5) and explain they can spend them all at once or save some for later.
5. Open the market and let them choose! You can add “new stalls” after a while to show the benefit of saving coins for later.
6. After the game, talk together about what they enjoyed most and whether they liked spending all at once or saving some coins.

**Purpose of the Activity:** This activity helps children practice early money sense — planning, making choices, and understanding the idea of saving. It also builds decision-making skills, patience, and self-control in a fun, hands-on way.

# 5 FUN FACTS

## About Real-World “Money” in Nature!



### Shell Money Under the Sea

Some hermit crabs trade shells like we trade houses! If a crab finds a bigger shell, it might swap with another crab that has the right size.

Imagine having a neighbour who says, “I’ll swap you my home for yours — deal?”

### Birds That Pay in Pebbles

Adélie penguins sometimes collect perfect, shiny pebbles to give their mate — it’s like saying, “I like you, here’s a gift.” The best pebbles can be hard to find!

It’s a bit like giving someone your favourite shiny marble to show you care.



### Squirrels’ Secret Bank

Squirrels store nuts in hidden spots so they have food for winter. They don’t write it down — they just remember (most of the time).

It’s like having a secret snack stash that only you know about... unless you forget where you put it!



# 5 FUN FACTS

## About Real-World “Money” in Nature!



### Fish That Rent Homes

Some goby fish “rent” burrows from shrimp. The shrimp digs and cleans, while the goby stands guard and warns of danger. It’s like paying rent with your eyes instead of your coins!

### Monkey Food Trades

Capuchin monkeys have been seen trading food for other food they like more — swapping bananas for apples, for example. It’s like saying, “I’ll give you my cookie if you give me your cupcake!”





# The Pebble Pouch

## Complete the Story

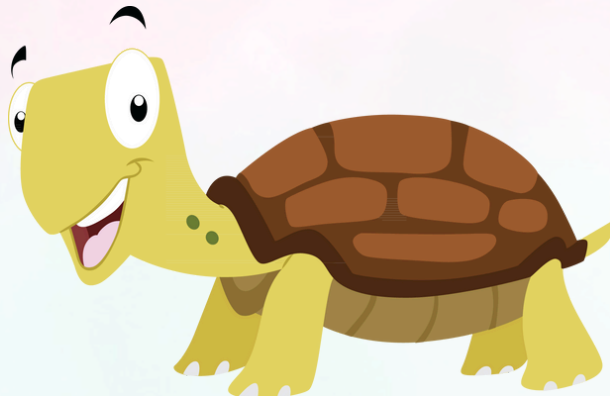
Tami the little tortoise had a pouch full of smooth, flat pebbles she found by the river. She had been saving them for days, thinking she might use them to decorate her favourite sunbathing spot.

One afternoon, she saw Lolo the lark selling sweet berries — two pebbles for a bunch.

Tami's mouth watered. But just down the river, Pip the pangolin was offering shiny leaves for the same price, and she wanted those too.

- She only had four pebbles left.
- Should Tami spend them all now?
- Should she save some for the big flea market under the baobab tree next week?
- Or could she find a way to trade and get a little of everything?

*Write away in your own way*



**See you next Monday**  
**with another interesting story!**

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