

The Silent Pool

A STORY BY ARKEDELIC

Note to Parents



STORY
WALKER
365

BUILDING BEAUTIFUL INSIDE

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The jungle was loud that morning.
Birds screeched, monkeys chattered,
even the cicadas buzzed in noisy rhythm.

But one place stayed quiet:
the pool hidden deep among the reeds.

Milo the elephant calf stood at its edge,
trunk curled tight. His wide eyes stared at
the still water.

Plip. Plop.

Only a few drops fell from the trees above.



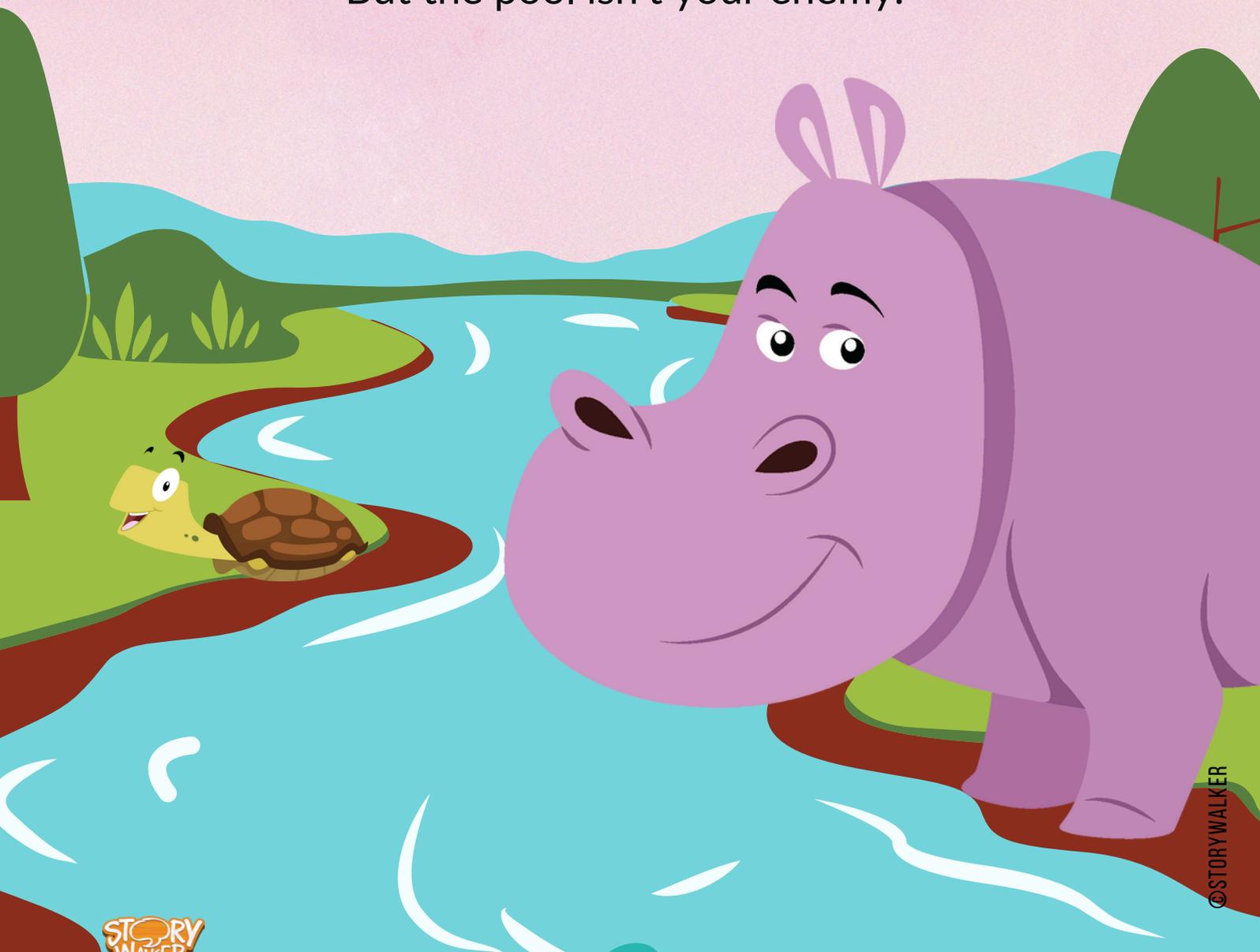
Mumbo, the great hippo guardian, waded nearby,
half his body sunk in the cool shallows.

“Come in, Milo,” he rumbled gently.
“The water is safe.”

But Milo shook his head, ears flapping nervously.
“No. Last time...I slipped. I thought I would drown.”
His little legs trembled. “I don’t want to go in again.”

Emily the tortoise ambled slowly to his side, her shell
catching the sun. “You’re shaking like a leaf, little one.”

She lifted her wrinkled face kindly.
“But the pool isn’t your enemy.”



Milo stamped a foot. Thud! “It was scary!
Everyone laughed when I splashed.
And the fish touched my leg!”
His trunk wobbled as he squealed.

Mumbo snorted, sending ripples across the
surface. “Rules keep you safe in water. If you
follow them, the pool will never harm you.”
His voice was steady, like the earth itself.

Milo pouted. “Rules, rules, rules. Always rules!”
He turned away, but his big eyes kept sneaking
back to the dark surface.

Emily blinked slowly. “Do you know why this
place is called the Silent Pool?”
Milo tilted his head. “Because it’s quiet?”



“No,” Emily whispered.

“Long ago, when fire swept across the grasslands, many animals ran here. The pool gave them shelter. They hid in the water, and the fire passed. The silence after saved their lives.” Her eyes shone.

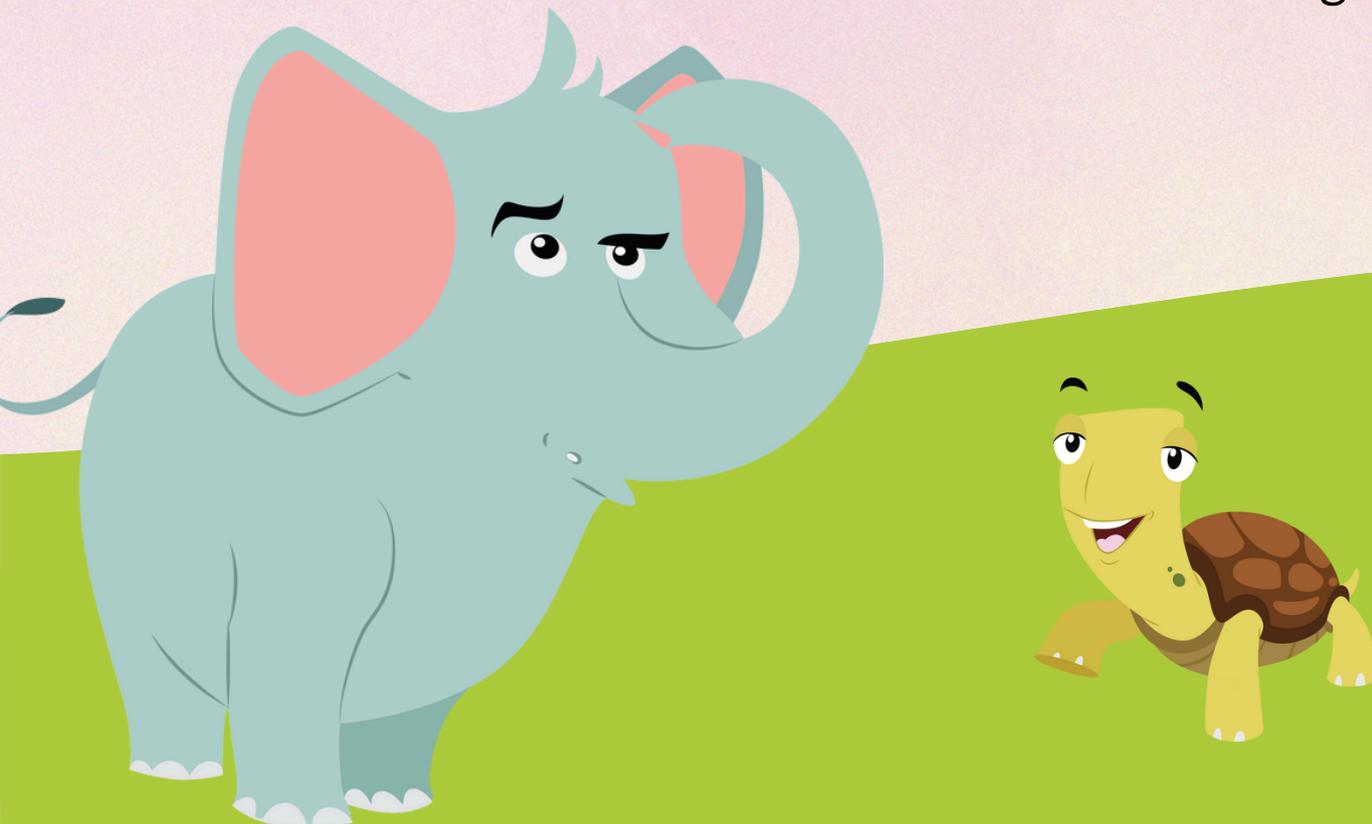
“This water has history. It remembers.”

Milo’s ears drooped. “Really?”

“Really,” Emily said, her voice like leaves brushing stone.

The calf’s fear shifted into curiosity, but only for a moment. A dragonfly skimmed the surface with a sharp zzzip!

Milo squealed and leapt back. “See! Even insects attack!” Mumbo let out a deep chuckle, bubbles rising around his broad head. “That’s no attack. That’s life buzzing.”



Then his voice grew firm.
“Milo, rules: Step carefully. Don’t rush.
Keep your trunk up. Stay near me.
Break these rules, and yes—you’ll slip.
Follow them, and the pool will hold
you steady.”

Milo shuffled his feet.
He wanted to believe.
But the memory of falling still stung.
His heart thumped, his little body torn between
fear and trust.

Emily stretched out her neck toward him.
“Courage isn’t forgetting fear.
It’s stepping forward even while afraid.
The pool is waiting to be your friend again.”



The tortoise's words settled softly, not sharp, not heavy — like a blanket draped across Milo's back.

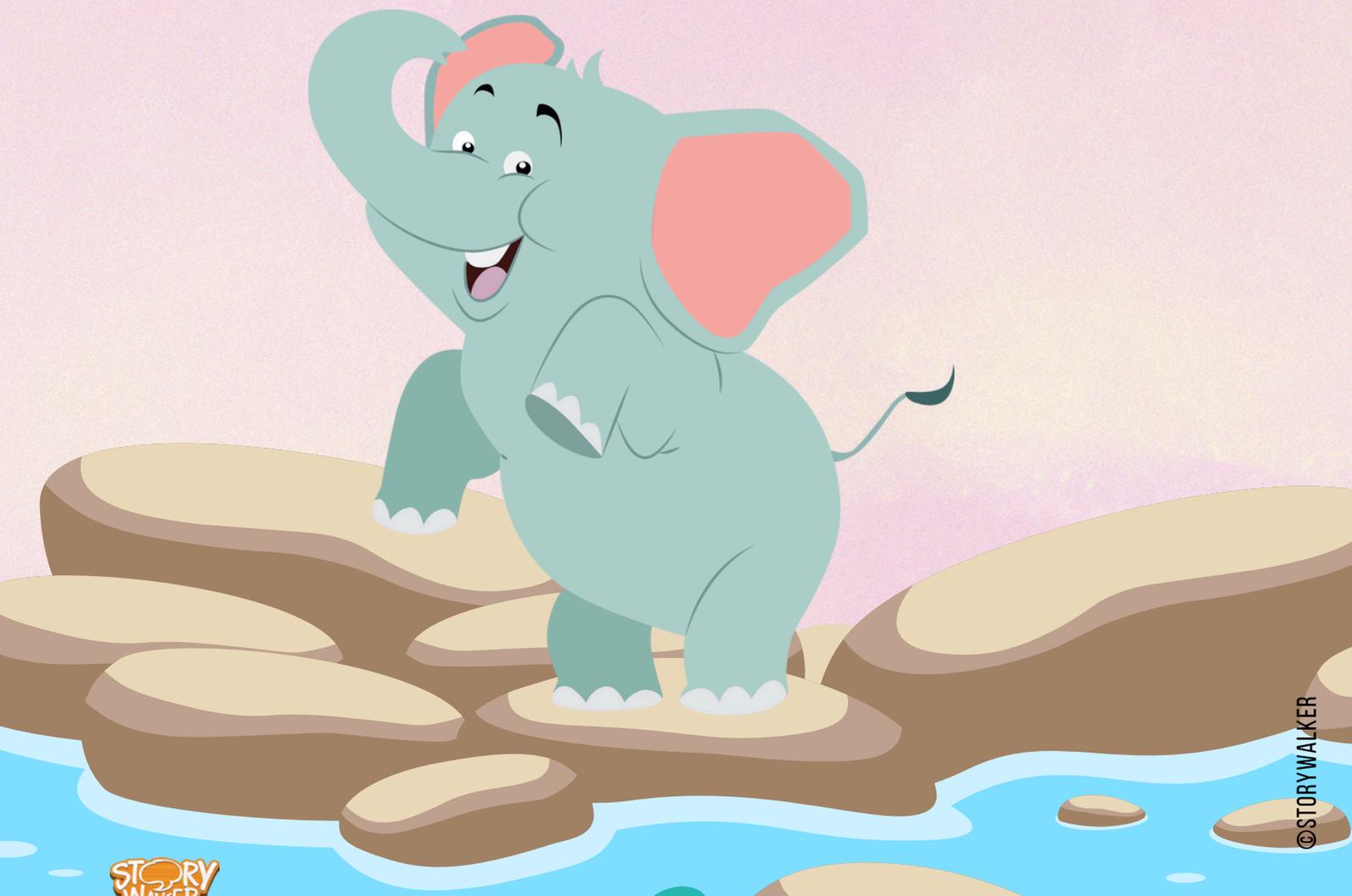
He took a shaky breath.

Mumbo moved closer, his massive form like a wall of safety. "With me beside you, you will not fall."

Milo touched the edge with one hoof. Squelch.

The mud clung, cool. He lifted his trunk high.

Step by step, he waded in until the water touched his knees. The pool held him. The ripples danced around his legs. Nothing grabbed him. Nothing pulled him under.



Milo's eyes widened. "It feels...nice."
"Good," Mumbo rumbled. "Now breathe."

A fish darted past with a silvery flash. Milo squeaked, almost jumping, but then laughed nervously. "It tickled!"

Emily's old eyes softened.
"The pool has forgiven you.
And you have forgiven yourself."

Milo splashed his trunk, sending an arc of water sparkling into the air. "I did it! I'm not scared!"

His voice rang across the jungle.



Mumbo gave a proud snort.
“Remember, Milo: safety lives in listening to rules.”

Emily added, “And respect grows when you know the stories of places that came before you.”

Milo nodded, chest swelling.
“The Silent Pool saved lives. And now it saved me too.”

The pool shimmered quietly, holding not only water but memory, rules, and the courage of one small calf who had found his way back.

—THE END—



Building Beautiful Inside

VALUE LESSONS FROM 'THE SILENT POOL'

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD FEEL SAFE AGAIN AFTER A SCARY EXPERIENCE—EVEN IF IT WASN'T A “BIG” THING?

Context in the story: Milo was afraid to return to the Silent Pool after slipping once and feeling embarrassed. With gentle guidance from Mumbo and Emily, he slowly found courage to step in again.

Real-world connection: Even small incidents can feel huge to children — a fall, a loud noise, or a teasing remark can stay in their minds as a lasting fear. These fears can grow if ignored, making them hesitant to try again. With patient support, children can rebuild confidence and learn that one bad experience does not define what comes next.

How parents can use the story: Listen to your child's fear, even if it seems small to you, and show empathy for their feelings. Offer gradual steps back into the situation, staying close to give reassurance. Praise each small victory so they notice their own progress. Over time, this helps them feel safe again and build resilience for future challenges.

Building Beautiful Inside

VALUE LESSONS FROM 'THE SILENT POOL'

HOW CAN I TEACH MY CHILD WHY OBEDIENCE AND FOLLOWING RULES MATTERS?

Context in the story: Mumbo reminded Milo that rules in the water — stepping carefully, keeping his trunk up, and staying close — were there to protect him. By obeying, Milo avoided slipping and discovered the pool could be safe.

Real-world connection: Children may see rules as restrictions, without realising they exist to keep them safe and help everyone live together peacefully. Ignoring rules can quickly lead to accidents, conflicts, or hurt feelings. Understanding the “why” behind rules helps children respect them rather than resist them.

How parents can use the story: Explain rules in simple, clear ways so your child sees their purpose. Connect rules with safety or fairness, showing real-life consequences when they are ignored. Be consistent so your child knows boundaries matter. With time, they will begin to see rules not as punishments, but as guides that protect and support them.

Building Beautiful Inside

VALUE LESSONS FROM 'THE SILENT POOL'

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD UNDERSTAND AND VALUE HISTORY?

Context in the story: Emily shared how the Silent Pool once saved animals from a great fire, helping Milo realise the water was more than just a place to swim. Hearing its story made him respect the pool's past.

Real-world connection: History may feel distant to children, but when they learn the stories behind places, traditions, or people, they see their world differently. Knowing what came before them builds respect and a sense of belonging. It also helps children understand that they are part of a bigger story stretching across time.

How parents can use the story: Share simple, meaningful stories of the past with your child, whether about family, local places, or larger events. Encourage them to ask questions about “how things used to be” and explore those answers together. Show how history connects to the present – why we live, celebrate, or protect things in certain ways. These connections help children value history as a living thread that still matters today.

Assessment Questions for 'THE SILENT POOL'

Five assessment questions to encourage children's understanding and emotional intelligence:



1. Afraid of the Water

Purpose: To explore fear after a small scare.

Question: Why was Milo afraid to return to the Silent Pool?

Follow-up: Can you remember a time when you felt scared even after something small?

2. Rules of the Pool

Purpose: To highlight the importance of obedience.

Question: What rules did Mumbo give Milo to keep him safe in the water?

Follow-up: What rules keep you safe at home or school?

3. The Pool's Secret

Purpose: To introduce history as meaningful.

Question: What story did Emily tell about the Silent Pool long ago?

Follow-up: Why do you think it's important to remember stories from the past?

4. Courage Returns

Purpose: To reflect on recovery after fear.

Question: How did Milo finally step back into the pool?

Follow-up: What helps you feel brave again after you've been scared?

5. Respect for the Past

Purpose: To connect history to belonging.

Question: How did learning about the pool's history change Milo's feelings about it?

Follow-up: What special place or story from the past do you respect?

See you next Monday
with another interesting story!

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