

### Cat and mouse go boating

Once upon a time, Cat and Mouse were great friends. They lived in the tropical forest together and were perfectly happy. Cat mainly ate small birds, and Mouse mostly enjoyed coconut. One day Cat became restless.

“Mouse,” said Cat, “I think we should leave the forest and find a village to live in. There will be lots of houses there, and you know how careless humans are. We’ll find plenty of food lying about without us having to hunt for it. Our lives will be much easier.”

“But,” said Mouse, “we live on an island where there are no villages. How are we going to reach the mainland?”

“I’ve thought of that,” said Cat. “We could hollow out a boat from a particularly big coconut tree. However, I cannot help you because my teeth are not good to nibble the wood.” What do you think of that?

“I think I’d enjoy making the boat on my own!” laughed Mouse. And so he did.

Cat and Mouse set sail a week or so later. Their boat was seaworthy, but it was heavy to paddle. Before long, Cat and Mouse were exhausted. They were very far from the land.

Of course, they were getting hungry, too. One night, while Cat was sleeping, Mouse found himself looking longingly at the boat made from the coconut tree. Just a little nibble couldn’t hurt...

One little nibble turned into a lot of big nibbles, and before Mouse knew it, the boat began to leak. At once, Cat woke up.

“Mouse, I know exactly what you’ve been up to! When we reach land I’m going to eat you!” he cried. Before long both Mouse and Cat ended in the sea and had to swim towards land. Once on the shore, Cat looked hungrily at Mouse, but Mouse urged him to wait. “I’m very dirty and salty,” he said. “Let me just give myself a wash before you eat me. Here’s a little hole where I can do it.”

Mouse disappeared...and did not reappear. He dug a little tunnel and escaped. So you can understand, can’t you, why Cat and Mouse are no longer such great friends?