

Friendship in flames

„Forestfire protection in Poland and Europe.“



Not so long ago and not beyond the mountains and forests, there lived a boy and a girl. They have known each other since childhood and have had a good time every day. Their favorite way of spending free time were trips to a nearby forest where they would meet their friends - forest gnomes. Forest gnomes liked playing with children hide and seek, dancing with them in the forest , eating berries and wild strawberries, and in autumn collecting some mushrooms.



However, this summer was different. One time the children greeted the gnomes very sadly.

-What happened? Tell us! - the gnomes said chorally.

-We have a very bad news for you - replied the children - we cannot visit you so often, tomorrow we are going to school! The gnomes sighed with relief and replied:

-Dear children, you should be happy! A school is a great place! Surely you will like it. And don't worry about us. There is always time for friends. All you need is want.

Children seemed calmer and spent the rest of the day playing with their friends as always.





The next day the children went to school instead of the forest. The most interesting was natural science. The teacher told them a terrible story. He said that a hundred years ago in a nearby forest there was a huge fire. There were no trees after this fire and the fire was so great that the memory of it survived to our times. Children came out of the lesson at the verge of crying. As soon as they had finished their school lessons, they rushed into the forest.

-Dear friends!- called the children running -We are worried about you! You are in great danger!

-My fiends, calm down, let's take a moment and tell us slowly what's going on. -So during science the teacher told us that long ago, there was a fire in this forest that burned everything to the ground, everything!

-There was nothing left! And the teacher said that such a fire could happen again! We need to save you! You are our friends ... -the girl was crying.

The gnomes looked worried. Finally, one of the gnomes said:

-If we only knew what to do. We can not protect ourselves and we have only you. If there was a fire, we don't know how to escape.

The fire would destroy the forest and us, too.

But the boy did not give up.

-No, I do not believe that there is no way to protect the forest from the fire. There must be something we can do. We just do not know what!

-We need to ask a wise man!- the girl said.

-Yes! Let's ask our neighbors-animals living in the forest. Maybe they will come up with an idea!

And so the cheerful group set out to find an answer.





The rabbit was the first one they met.

-Have you heard of the terrible fire that was in this forest long ago?

-Of course I heard about it. It was a tragedy. All the carrots burned down...

-You're right, it was a tragedy! But do you know what we can do to protect the forest from the fire?

- Protect? If I knew, I would gladly protect my carrots ... But you know what? Let's go to the squirrel! Maybe she has any ideas?

The squirrel was in the process of stacking the nuts into her hollow. She was not delighted with the unexpected guests, but when she found out that it was about such a terrible thing like fire, she became anxious.

-Did you think that fire could burn my nuts?!

-Unfortunately yes... there would be no nuts left.

-Oh it's monstrous! What can you do to prevent this?

- We have just wanted to ask you about it! Do you have any ideas?

-Hmmm ... I do not, but I think we can talk to the deer.

Unfortunately, the deer had no idea how to protect their forest home from fire. Therefore, they visited other animals. They asked the fox, frog, ants, deer, wild boar, but no one knew the answer. Everyone seemed to be discouraged and sad. The day was over, the sun set. All animals, gnomes and children sat together thinking what to do next. Suddenly, the owl flew.

- Why are you all so sad sitting here? Something happened? - the owl asked.

-Oh, you are our salvation, you are the wisest! - the animals shouted for joy.

The children explained the owl why everyone was so sad. The Owl nodded and said:

-I know what you worry about. The fire in the forest is the most dangerous thing. I have been worrying about it many times. But there is someone who cares about our security. It is the forester!



-Oh yes, the forester!-the animals exclaimed happily.

-Forester? Who is that?- the children asked.

-The forester is such a great man always dressed in green, who is guarding that no plants and no animals is harmed - the gnomes explained to the children.

-Yes! He is taking care of my carrots! - the rabbit shouted for joy.

-And about my hollow, too - the squirrel added.

-We will talk to the forester tomorrow. It is getting late, we have to go to sleep - the gnomes said.

The next day the children ran to the forest after the lessons. Animals and gnoms had been waiting for them.

And so all the cheerful crowd went to meet the forester.

The forester seemed to have been surprised seeing them.





-Welcome, my dear. Why are you here?

-Dear Sir, you must help us!- said the boy.

-A great danger is threatning us- said the girl.

-Calm down, my dear! Let's sit down and you will tell me what worries you so much?

And explanation began. There were also a lot of concerns and questions. Mr. Forester listened to everyone attentively.

-I understand your fear. It is very noble that children are so worried about their friends. I also understand you, animals, that you are afraid. Fire in the forest is very dangerous! Just a small spark, and the effects can be catastrophic!

The roe cried bitterly.

-But you do not have to worry so much! After all, there are ways to prevent fires and protect the forest. Come on, I'll show you how we take care of our forest!

They were all excited as if they were having a great adventure! And so they went out through the forest.

They stopped by the water. The roe said:

-Oh, this is my favorite mirror! I always look at my reflection!

-And when I'm thirsty, I come here to drink - added the moose.

-You see! And this is neither a mirror nor a waterhole. This is the point of taking water! In case of emergency, the water will help us extinguish it!

-It's amazing! And we thought it was a normal pond - the gnomes said.

-But ... can I look at my reflection in the mirror?-the roe asked with fear.

-And I? Can I drink this water? -added the moose.

-Of course! You all can use it, it's yours! And if it's necessary, this will help us to extinguish the fire! Go ahead!

The forest crowd's mood has improved a bit. Everyone looked a little bit calmer but still curious. So, they went further.



This time bunny started the conversation:

-Dear Mr. Forester? Why do trees not grow here? There is such a ... sad plough of land, only grass grows! Is it also supposed to protect the forest from fire?

-Yes, bunny! This "sad piece" is a anti-fire zone! It separates the forest from places that may be a threat to all living creatures. Do you see those cottages in the distance? If there was a fire there, the forest would be at risk, too. This zone helps to avoid it and protects the forest from fire.

-I understand! It is very good that we have such a belt!-bunny said

-There is another very important thing that we do not see in the forest, and which is located in a nearby town. This is a firefighting equipment. When there is a fire, there are various things that help to put out the fire.

-It's great! A fire that will be put out soon will not do such a damage! - the children said.

-You are right! The most important thing is that the threat of fire is detected as soon as possible. The small fire is easy to extinguish -said the forester - very important are people who, after seeing the fire in the forest, call the fire department and report the threat. In many forests in which there is a fire hazard, there are special information boards. In our forest there is a special sign! Do you want me to show you this? -asked the forester.

-Of course!

-Follow me!- said the forester.



After a while, they found themselves near a sign with a caption "If you see a fire-call.,,

-It's a really interesting idea! Time is very important. Every second counts -the girl said gravely.

-And anyone can contribute to something good- the boy remarked.

-Unfortunately, people more often than to good things contribute to the bad ones.

-Why?- the boy asked sadly.

-You see my dear, people like to come to the forest, they like to be here." But they can not respect what they find here.

-But what is wrong with their deeds?- the girl asked.

Everyone listened very carefully. There was a tense atmosphere.

-People just do not clean up after themselves. They come here for a family picnic and then leave here their bags, bottles, cartons ...

-Yes it's true.I see quite often candy wrappers in the forest -said the owl.

-I have seen it, too - noted the bunny-and yet we, the animals, did not bring here these candy wrappers.

-I'm so small -said the frog -For me candy wrappers are a great obstacle, practically insurmountable.



-I agree with all of you - said the forester-and can you see this glass bottle there under the tree? Leaving such bottles is very irresponsible. It is even more dangerous the cigarette butts. Just a small spark and fire appears - the forester made a pause, but nobody dared to speak -If people pose danger themselves, no protection will help. Hope is in you, dear children. You have to explain others and teach them responsibility. After all, the forest is for all people. But do not worry. There are more and more good people. We all have to believe that by working together we will be able to protect the forest from fire. I assure you that the methods we use are effective. You do not have to be afraid that something will happen to you! You are protected! Dear children, your friends are safe!



-Thank you, sir, for telling us all that -the girl said.

-The pleasure is all mine! I am very proud that you took the matter so seriously. It's very noble that you care about your friends and you want to look after the forest.

-And you are our superhero! You love this forest with all your heart! -said the girl in rapture.

-Thank you for appreciating me, but this is my job - said the forester modestly -I hope I helped you understand how to protect the forest from fire.

-Yes, we know everything now! Thank you once again! - children said happily.

-And remember! If you still have any questions, I will always be nearby.

-We will remember! Goodbye! See you forester!

-See you, my dear ones!



And so the children said goodbye to the forester, and they said goodbye to the animals, and everyone went their way. There were only children and gnomes left - just like at the beginning.

-How much happened that long day! -gnomes said sentimentally.

-But how much good happened! Doubts dispelled, we can play as always. We will tell all of this to our Science teacher and children in the classroom tomorrow. Everyone needs to know how to prevent fires -the children added.

-Thank you that you take care about us. We love you so much-the gnomes said.

-So do we! It is our duty - we are friends - children said without hesitation..

-Time flies so fast. It's getting late, I think you have to go now-the gnomes said sadly.

-We'll see you tomorrow -the girl said.

-We'll go to you straight after the lessons- the boy added.

-See you tomorrow!- children responded and went off to their homes to meet again tomorrow...



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