

The hummingbird and the flower

A very, very long time ago, in a forest at the foot of the Andes mountains, all kinds of animals lived together. This forest was a magical place, full of colors, sounds, and life. In the heart of the forest grew a very special flower—a golden blossom with petals that seemed to be made of sunlight. When the wind blew softly, its fragrance spread everywhere, captivating any animal that passed by. Yet, despite its beauty, the golden flower felt lonely. It did not trust anyone, fearing that if it gave away too much of its nectar, it would lose its strength and wither away.

One morning, as the sun began to warm the forest leaves, a tiny hummingbird flitted from flower to flower in search of nectar. It was swift and playful, its plumage shimmering with greens and blues that sparkled like precious stones. Upon catching sight of the golden flower, it was left completely spellbound.

“I have never seen such a beautiful flower!” it thought. “Surely your nectar is as sweet as your fragrance.”

The hummingbird darted toward the flower and tried to sip its nectar, but at that very moment, the blossom tightly closed its petals.

“What are you doing?” the hummingbird exclaimed, taken aback. “Why are you blocking my way?”

“I am sorry, little hummingbird,” the flower replied in a soft, sad voice. “I cannot give you my nectar. If I give away too much, I will grow weak and die.”

The hummingbird gazed at the flower with wide, understanding eyes. “I don’t want to hurt you,” he said. “But, if you’ll allow me, I can help you. I don’t just want to drink your nectar; I also want to look after you to ensure nothing happens to you.”

The flower, accustomed to being wary, was surprised by the hummingbird’s words.
“Help me? How could you do that, being so small?”

“My colors scare away insects that might harm you, and my wings can carry your pollen to other flowers, making the forest even more beautiful,” the hummingbird replied confidently.

The flower thought for a few moments, then shyly opened her golden petals. The hummingbird approached with great care and drank a tiny drop of her nectar. As he did, he smiled and said,
“This is the sweetest nectar I have ever tasted! Thank you, flower. I promise to protect you and return every day.”

From that day on, the hummingbird visited the flower every morning. He would scare away insects, keep her petals clean, and carry her pollen to other flowers in the forest. Gradually, new golden flowers began to sprout everywhere, turning the forest into an even more magical and vibrant place.

In time, the flower made a remarkable discovery: the more nectar she gave, the stronger she became. Her stem grew sturdier, her petals brighter, and her fragrance even sweeter. One day, she said to the hummingbird:
“I have learned that sharing does not weaken me; rather, it makes me stronger. Thank you for teaching me this lesson.”

The hummingbird, with a smile, replied:
“And I have learned that caring for those we love makes us happier. I will always be here to help you.”

The forest became a place full of life and color, thanks to the friendship between the hummingbird and the golden flower. The other animals and plants realized the importance of looking after one another and sharing their resources.

Questions for discussion with children

Why do you think the hummingbird was drawn to the flower? What was special about it that made it different from the others?

How do you think the flower felt when the hummingbird approached? Has anyone ever made you feel special?

What do you think about the relationship between the hummingbird and the flower? How do you think they helped each other?

What can we learn from this story about friendship and the importance of caring for others—even when they are different from us?

How do you think nature teaches us to value small things, such as the flight of a hummingbird or the beauty of a flower?