

The woodland carnival

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In a wood full of tall trees and flowers of every colour lived many different animals. Some ran quickly; others walked slowly. Some roared loudly, while others spoke softly. But they all shared the same home.

One day Lila the parrot had a brilliant idea.

“Let’s hold a carnival!” she suggested, fluttering her green and blue wings. “With music, costumes and a parade!”

Mateu the monkey leapt with joy.

“I can hang garlands between the trees!”

Emma the elephant smiled.

“I can play the drum with my trunk.”

Tita the tortoise slowly raised a little foot.

“I can help decorate… but I’ll need some time.”

Excitement filled the wood. Everyone wanted to join in. Pau the peacock spread his shining feathers.

“I can lead a parade! I have the most colourful costume of all.”

But Zain the fox wrinkled his nose.

“What about those who don’t have shiny feathers or can’t jump very high?”

Everyone stopped to think. Just then Alba the squirrel arrived. She used a little wheelchair made from twigs because her back legs were not very strong.

“I want to take part too,” she said firmly. “I can design masks and help organise the parade.”

The wood fell quiet for a moment. Then Emma spoke.

“This carnival isn’t about who is fastest or most colourful. It is about celebrating our differences!”

Lila nodded.

“Everyone has something special to contribute.”

So they began planning with everyone in mind. Mateu lowered the garlands so the others could reach them. Júlia the giraffe held the lanterns high. Tita patiently painted signs. Alba designed masks from leaves, flowers and bark for anyone who wanted one. Zain planned an accessible route where everyone could move at their own pace.

On carnival day, Rainbow Wood filled with music. Emma played the drum, birds sang, and Leo the lion proudly shook his mane. Even little Tomàs the mole came out of his burrow wearing a sparkling cape.

It did not matter whether someone walked slowly, rolled, jumped or flew. Everyone had a moment to shine.

Tita made her way slowly along the parade, and everyone clapped. Alba rolled forward in her flower-decorated wheelchair, and the whole wood cheered:

“Bravo!”

Pau understood something important. He went over to Zain and said:

“My costume is beautiful, but the most beautiful thing is that we are all here together.”

That night, beneath a sky full of stars, Rainbow Wood discovered that the real celebration was not in the feathers or costumes. It was in celebrating how every animal was different and how, together, they made a wonderful show.

Ever since, they have celebrated carnival each year with one lesson in mind: when everyone can take part, the party shines much more brightly.

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