**The Selfish Crocodile**

Deep in the lush, green rainforest, on the banks of a wide, silvery river, there lived a large, and rather selfish, crocodile. This unpleasant reptile wouldn’t let anyone else drink or swim in the river. For this reason, the river was completely empty - no flying fish, no scuttling crabs and no wriggling water snakes.

All the other jungle creatures were afraid of the selfish crocodile. His teeth were as sharp as razors, and his jaws looked like they could snap a tree trunk in two. The crocodile didn’t care – he was happy lying on his back on the muddy riverbank, picking his teeth.

Early one morning, a loud groan rang out across the rainforest. It was the crocodile! He was crying like a baby and holding his swollen jaw.

The other creatures drew closer, but not too close. The sloth slid slowly down her tree to take a better look. ‘What’s the matter with him?’ squawked the toucan.

Suddenly, a little mouse appeared, sniffing the air. She ran along the crocodile’s tail and onto his tummy. As the jungle animals watched in amazement, the mouse scuttled along the crocodile’s big neck and into his open mouth!

The brave mouse took hold of something and pulled and pulled and pulled…. until out popped a huge, rotten tooth. The astonished creatures gave a loud cheer. Looking much happier now, the crocodile sat up and said, “The pain’s gone! Thank you, little mouse. I’m sorry I’ve been so selfish.”

From that day on, the rainforest creatures weren’t afraid to drink and swim in the river anymore. Although the crocodile was sometimes a little snappy, they grew to love him. And soon the river was full of flying fish, scuttling crabs and wriggling water snakes once again.

Adapted from The Selfish Crocodile by Faustin Charles