Name: _____ Date: _____

Danny's Short Tail

Reading level 6 · 189 words

Danny Meadow Mouse sat on his front step. He was sad, and he hid his tail under him.

His tail was very short. His cousin had a long one. Danny wished for one, too.

Old Toad hopped by and sat down. "Why so sad, little friend?" he asked.

"I want a long tail," said Danny. "Mine is just a stub. It looks silly."

Old Toad laughed. "A long tail! You would trip on it all day."

"It would catch on every twig," he went on. "You would have to watch it all day."

"Look at me," said Old Toad. "I am lumpy and brown. Nobody calls me pretty."

"But I am glad to be me. I have the sun, and I have plenty to eat."

Danny looked at Old Toad's kind eyes. They had a little twinkle in them.

Danny thought about his own home. He had a warm bed. The sun shone on his step.

"I am sorry I grumbled," he said. "I will be glad of the tail I have."

Old Toad nodded and hopped off. Danny pulled his tail out. The sun felt warm on it.

Questions

1. What did Danny wish for?

A. A long tail
B. A new house
C. A big hat

2. Who came to talk to Danny?

A. Reddy Fox
B. Old Toad
C. A hawk

3. What did Old Toad say about a long tail?

A. It would be warm
B. It would be pretty
C. It would catch on twigs

4. What does "grumbled" mean in this story?

A. Complained
B. Sang
C. Ran

5. How did Danny feel at the end?

A. Glad of what he had

B. More sad

C. Cross at Old Toad

Words to know

stub: a short end

twig: a small stick

grumbled: complained

twinkle: a bright spark

Answer key: Danny's Short Tail

1. A. A long tail
2. B. Old Toad
3. C. It would catch on twigs
4. A. Complained
5. A. Glad of what he had