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The Duck with the Long Tale

525 Words

It was time for duck to be home.

Mother duck had warned him not to be late, again.

As duck appeared, something was different. His tail feathers were so long they no longer were upright, but trailed on the ground behind him. Mother stood with her wing tips on her hips.

“I know, I know. I’m sorry. Let me tell you why I’m late. Should I start at the beginning or the end?”

“Start at the beginning and we’ll get to the *end*,” said Mother duck looking at duck’s long tail.

“I went to play in the park with the human kids, but that made me hungry so I had to go foraging for food because I remembered what you say about how breadcrumbs aren’t good for me. I looked very long for the healthiest choices.”

“I do say that,” nodded Mother Duck.

“Then, it took so long to eat. I remembered what you say about not eating too fast.”

“I do say that,” nodded Mother Duck.

“All the food made me sleepy so I decided to take a nap. I remembered how you always say we need to let our food settle *and* how important sleep is so I did both at one time.” “I do say that,” nodded Mother Duck.

“When I woke up, it was still early in the day, and I remembered how you always say exercise is important - not just your wings, but your legs, too. So, I went for a long walk, leaving a trail of breadcrumbs to find my way back.” “I do say that,” nodded Mother Duck.

“It took me a while to find my way back because something must have eaten the breadcrumbs and all that walking made me really thirsty so I had to look for water. The

first creek I came to was crowded so I had to find another one. I remembered what you said about sharing and if someone has something first you should let them finish playing with it." "I do say that," nodded Mother Duck.

"Then, I ran into our neighbor, Mrs. Goose. I remembered what you always say about being polite, so I helped her up. She was so happy to see me and asked about you. Mrs. Goose had a lot to say, and I remembered what you say about not always talking, but also being a good listener." "I do say that," nodded Mother Duck.

"Then, I was back at the park and the ice cream truck was there. Some kid ordered a scoop of every flavor and I remembered what you say about studying being important." "I do say that," nodded Mother Duck.

"I got so caught up in practicing my numbers and colors, I must have lost track of time." "So, that's why I'm late," said duck. "I see," said mother looking at duck's tail feathers again.

"Am I grounded?" asked duck.

"I didn't say that," said Mother duck.

"That's up to you," said Mother Duck.

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Duck tried and tried to fly, but found he was grounded by his very long tale.