

ARE YOU THE FOREST KING?

By Penny Reyes-Velasco

*This story has a VIDEO CARTOON version
(in English and Filipino)*

YOUNG BOY: Are you the forest king?

I am not the forest king. I am a mushroom.

I eat the rotten bark of trees
Lying on the forest floor.
And when I'm full, I give trees food
To make them bigger than before.

I give them the best there is to eat
Even though I am so small –
The cleanest water and good air to breath
Make them strong and tall.

YOUNG BOY: Are you the forest king?

I am not the forest king. I am a beetle.

Flying here, there or anywhere,
I go about my busy day,
Wearing jewels on my back,
Munching leaves along the way.

NARRATOR

But before the beetle could fly or hide,
A sticky tongue appeared.
And in a blink of an eye,
He suddenly disappeared!

YOUNG BOY: Are you the forest king?

I am not the forest king. I am a frog.

With my long legs, I hop about
Searching for the buzzing flies.
But it's the small tasty beetles
that make me stout,
And it so happened that one passed by.

YOUNG BOY:

Then from between the leaves,
I heard a snake's hungry hiss.
I said, "Froggy, take care
because your coat is hard to miss!"
When the snake appeared
with its mouth open wide,
I said, "Froggy, over here,
hurry, jump and hide"
Are you the forest king?

I am not the forest king. I am a snake.

I am not as bad, as many people think.
Only when I need to will I eat or drink.
Because I don't have teeth, my food I do not
chew,
That's why small frogs are always on my menu.

YOUNG BOY:

The snake slithered on as he bid me goodbye.
But before he left he said, he's scared of
eagles that fly by.
As he looked above the trees, to the clouds
that were so high,
What a surprise! A pair of claws swooped from
the sky!
Are you the forest king?

I am not the forest king. I am an eagle.

With my big wings I soar high above
In the big blue sky that is my home.
I search for a lot of food to eat
Because I am not alone.

To the forest I go, to my favorite tree
where my young nestlings wait.
The snake on my claws I carry with me
to share with them and my mate.

Are you the forest king?

I am not the forest king. I am A young Tree.
Only one bird family has a made a nest in me
But if you will let me grow, for thirty years or so,
Countless animals you will see.
Just leave me alone and let me be.

Higher than ever, my branches will stretch
As I form many canopies.
On the forest floor, my roots will spread
farther than the eye can see.

Are you the forest king?

**A long time ago I ruled over the land,
I was a bad king, I am called man.**
By planting food to eat, I helped feed man.
I cut the trees and burned them down,
in the higher upland.
But years after that, nothing grew on the
ground
No, not even mushrooms could be found.

To get my wood, I cut million of trees.
Then, almost nothing was left in the forest but
me.
I saw my bad ways and cried for every lost
tree.
For wounding the earth, I am so very sorry.

For every dead tree, I planted a seed.
These seeds then grew into the young trees,
The trees all around, that you now see.
Please leave them alone, and let them be.

A King I was many years before,
But no, no, no, I am not anymore.
The real Forest King i am sure you will find.
He is full of wisdom and very, very kind.

Are you the FOREST KING?

**If you come closer to me,
The answer you will see.
I am a tree stump, old as can be.**

A long time ago, when many old trees
were still alive,
I was the tallest tree, on me all things relied.
They all used to say I was a king
without a seat.
And you now rest upon what
used to be my feet.

Come snuggle up close and
gently rest upon me
I have secrets to be told to you, and you only. .
A true forest king loves
all things great and small,
And in this earth we live in, he is one with all.

A Forest King makes sure that
his seeds are filled with love.
So that a new tree will grow,
filled with life from above.
But only seeds from old trees like me,
in the forest will survive,
And it is LOVE that will keep all trees alive.

Now stretch out your hand,
this seed i give to you.
I can see the love in your heart,
and there is much to do!
The forest needs your help so plant a tree,
or maybe two.
And even though it's hard to believe,
I've got news for you!
YES, it's true! You are the Forest King, too!

YOUNG BOY: I AM THE FOREST KING!

Oh, tiny seed of hope upon my hand,
In you I see the future of our land.
In you I see the many children of this wounded
world we live in.
Loving all things be they great or small,
Living in harmony being one with all.

Soon our earth will be a better place for me,
filled with towering trees,
as far as my eye can see!
If it takes a hundred years, I will wait patiently,
Because someday soon, it will all come to be...