Dodo and the Muddy Masterpiece

A story about trying a new idea



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AGES 4-7



Dodo pressed a lump of clay into a smooth round tile. It was going to be a picture of the sun, with neat lines reaching all around it.



He turned to choose a wooden tool. Just then, Pip the duckling waddled across the table. Plip, plop! Muddy footprints appeared right in the middle of Dodo's clay.



"Oh, Pip!" Dodo cried. His lovely smooth circle was spoilt. Pip stopped beside the water bowl and looked back. He had only been trying to reach his friend.



The teacher looked over. "Would you like to smooth the marks away?" Dodo picked up the flat tool. Then he noticed that one footprint looked like a tiny tree.



"Could this be a forest instead?" Dodo asked. He smoothed the extra prints, keeping two. "It is your picture to explore," said the teacher as he turned the tile.



With a blunt stick, he drew a trunk below one footprint. He added little branches to the other. Suddenly, two strange, wonderful trees stood in his soft clay forest.



Pip gave a quiet peep. "I didn't mean to walk on it." "I know," said Dodo. "Please ask before stepping on my work. Would you help make another tree?"



This time, Dodo pointed to an empty place. Pip pressed one foot down, then lifted it carefully. Dodo drew a small trunk. Their third tree leaned towards the others.



They added more trees, then searched for interesting marks. A leaf left a pattern of lines. The end of a wooden tool made dots like little forest stones.



Dodo left one smooth space winding between the trees. It became a path. He followed it with his eyes and imagined walking through the forest on a misty morning.



When the tile was finished, the teacher moved it safely to dry. Dodo washed his paws. Pip splashed one tiny foot in the bowl, then remembered to ask first.



Dodo's picture was not the sun he had planned. It was a forest nobody had imagined before. He smiled at Pip. "Next time, let's decide together where the footprints go."



The end

How did Dodo turn the marks into a new picture?

What could an unexpected shape become?

Little adventures. A kinder tomorrow.

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Designed for reading together, ages 4-7.