Jori and the Wrong-Sized Gift

A story about gifts made with care



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AGES 4-7



Jori the giraffe had made a gift for Miri. It was a round, soft cushion with yellow and red patches. He carried it carefully through the orchard to her cottage.



Miri the mouse came out holding a gift too. "For you!" she squeaked. Her little blue scarf had taken many evenings to knit. Jori bent low to receive it.



He tried to wrap the scarf around his neck. It reached only partway. Miri tried to carry the cushion inside. It was wider than her whole front door.



They looked at the scarf. They looked at the cushion. Neither friend spoke for a moment. Then Miri's ears drooped. "I thought it would be just right," she whispered.



"I did too," said Jori. He sat beside the cottage so their faces were closer. "I chose these patches because yellow and red are your very favourite colours."



Miri rubbed the blue scarf between her paws. "I chose soft wool because I wanted you to feel warm." Jori smiled. The gifts were full of careful thoughts.



"May we try some new ideas?" he asked. Miri nodded. They spread the scarf on the grass. It looked like a tiny blue path between two fallen leaves.



Jori noticed his basket leaning against the tree. Its handle sometimes rubbed his hoof. He wrapped the scarf around it. "A soft handle!" he said. "Will you help tie it?"



Miri tied the scarf ends in a neat bow. Jori lifted the basket gently. The wool made a lovely cushion for his hoof. Miri's ears stood up again.



They rolled the enormous cushion beneath the apple tree. Miri climbed onto its middle and stretched out. "There is room for me and all my cousins," she laughed.



Jori brought Miri's picture book from the doorway. She sat on her new reading cushion while he rested on the grass. His blue-handled basket waited beside them.



The gifts had not fitted where they first expected. But under the apple tree, both friends found a comfortable place. Miri opened the book, and Jori leaned close to listen.



The end

What did the gifts tell the friends about each other?

What new use could you find for something you have?

Little adventures. A kinder tomorrow.

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