

The little sparrow

There are always pieces of cloth lying around Grandma Teresa's house, in all the colors you can imagine. That's because Grandma Teresa is a seamstress. And she also likes telling stories. The story she likes telling most starts like this:

Once upon a time there was a little sparrow who was small and skinny, but very clever. One day he went ice skating. Apart from being smart, the sparrow was very daring and tried to do a pirouette. But he didn't get it right and bam! He slipped and broke his leg.

"Oww!~, oooohh, it hurts so much! I've broken my leg!" wailed "The Little Sparrow".

The little sparrow had a friend who was a parakeet. The parakeet was a bit of a know-it-all. He was one of those parakeets who had an answer for everything and always wanted to have the last word. Even so, the little sparrow loved the little parakeet, and the parakeet loved the sparrow. When the parakeet heard the sparrow's moans and groans, he flew to him to see what was wrong.

"I fell," said the parakeet, "and the ice is so hard and strong that I broke my leg!"

"Yeah, it sure is," said the parakeet. "But the sun is stronger than ice because the sun's heat can melt it."

"You're right," said the sparrow. "The sun sure is strong because it can melt the ice that broke my leg."

Then the parakeet thought of something that was even stronger than the sun. So he said,

"Clouds are stronger than the sun because they can block it out."

"That's right," said the sparrow. "Clouds sure are strong because they block the sun that melts the ice that broke my leg."

But for the parakeet, clouds weren't the strongest of all:

"The wind is even stronger than the clouds because it can blow them away in one strong gust," he said.

And the sparrow had to admit that that was true.

"The wind sure is strong because it can blow away the clouds that block the sun that melts the ice that broke my leg."

The parakeet frowned and said that it wasn't quite true.

"Walls are even stronger than the wind because they can stop it."

And the sparrow couldn't contradict him.

"You're right, parakeet. Walls sure are strong because they stop the wind, that blows away the clouds that block the sun that melts the ice that broke my leg."

Then the parakeet said,

"And water is even stronger than walls because water can pass through walls."

And the sparrow agreed and said:

"Water sure is strong because it passes through the walls that stop the wind that blows away the clouds that block the sun that melts the ice that broke my leg."

But the parakeet was convinced that there was something even stronger than water and he said:

"An ox is stronger than water because it drinks it all up."

And the sparrow couldn't disagree with that.

"You sure are smart, parakeet. And the ox sure is strong because it drinks the water that passes through the walls that stop the wind that blows away the clouds that block the sun that melts the ice that broke my leg."

"But rope is even stronger than the ox because you can tie up an ox with rope," said the parakeet.

"That's very true, said the sparrow. "Rope is stronger because it ties up the ox that drinks the water that passes through the walls that stop the wind that blows away the clouds that block the sun that melts the ice that broke my leg."

And when they seemed to have found the strongest of all, the parakeet said,

"Fences are even stronger than rope because the rope is tied to it."

And the sparrow had no choice but to say:

"Fences sure are strong because they're used to tie the rope down that ties the ox that drinks the water that passes through the walls that stop the wind that blows away the clouds that block the sun that melts the ice that broke my leg."

The sparrow thought there couldn't be anything stronger than a fence, but the parakeet, who as we remember, was very wise, said:

"Fire is even stronger than fences because it can burn them down."

And the sparrow said:

"Fire sure is strong because it can burn the fences that hold down the rope that ties up the ox that drinks the water that passes through the walls that stop the wind that blows away the clouds that block the sun that melts the ice that broke my leg."

Then the parakeet asked:

"Is there anything stronger than fire?"

The parakeet said no, that he couldn't think of anything stronger than fire.

"Then since we've found out what's strongest of all, why don't we call the ambulance?"

After all, I've broken my leg and it hurts!"

And that's what they did-they called for an ambulance.

"I'm sure it'll be here right away," said the sparrow. "Ambulances drive very fast."

And the parakeet answered:

"Formula One cars drive faster than ambulances..."

Luckily the ambulance arrived just then because the poor sparrow wouldn't have been able to stand it if the parakeet had started all over again trying to find out what was faster than what. The sparrow got into the ambulance and the parakeet asked him:

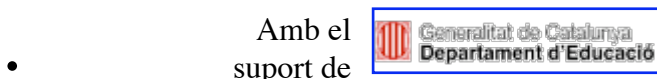
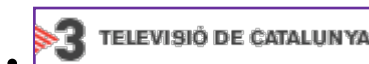
"Would you like me to come with you?"

"Yes," answered the sparrow, "but only if you keep quiet!"

And believe it or not, since the sparrow had asked him, not a peep was heard out of the parakeet during the whole trip.

A few days later, the little sparrow's leg was all better and it didn't hurt him a bit. Can you guess what the first thing was that he did? That's right! He went ice skating!

Script: Eulàlia Carrillo



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