



The snail and the pennyroyal

Once upon a time there was a snail that was just like all other snails. He had two tentacles, a shell and walked very slowly.

His biggest wish was to get to know the Sun.

That was why one day, the snail started walking towards the Sun.

"If I walk on and on towards the Sun, I'll get to his house and I'll be able to say hello to him."

The snail walked on and on towards the Sun's house, but he never got there because the Sun lived so far away. But he did manage to get very tired, and to make matters worse, he got a stomachache.

The poor snail had a terrible tummyache! He didn't know what to do to make it go away. Then he had an idea. "I know," he thought. "I'll look for pennyroyal, pull it out and make some soup with it. The soup will make my stomachache go away."

And the snail went off happily searching and searching, until he found some pennyroyal.

The pennyroyal was tall and very pretty. The snail tried pulling it out, but it was so strong, that no matter how hard he pulled, he couldn't do it.

Just then, a frog as green as lettuce was passing by saying "Ribbit, ribbit". When he saw the snail pulling on the pennyroyal, he asked:

"What are you doing?"

And the snail answered singing:

I'm trying to pull out, this big plant, this big plant.
I'm trying to pull out, this big pennyroyal plant
"I was on my way to the Sun's house when I got a tummyache."

The frog saw that the snail couldn't pull out the plant by himself so he decided to help. He grabbed on to the snail's shell and pulled with all his might. But no matter how hard they tugged, they couldn't uproot the pennyroyal.

After a while, a smart-looking rabbit with long ears came by. When he saw the snail and the frog, he asked:

"What are you doing?"

And the frog answered singing:

I'm trying to help our friend the snail, pull out the plant, pull out the plant,

I'm trying to help our friend the snail pull out the pennyroyal plant.
"He was on his way to the Sun's house when he got a tummyache."

When the rabbit saw that the snail and the frog needed a hand, he decided to help them uproot the pennyroyal. The rabbit grabbed on to the frog and started pulling. But no matter how hard the snail, the frog and the rabbit pulled, the pennyroyal wouldn't budge.

Later on, a cat came by. It was a black cat with a long tail that he curled up to keep it from dragging along the ground. When the cat saw the snail, the frog and the rabbit, he asked them:

"What are you doing?"

And the rabbit answered singing:

We're trying to help our friend the snail, pull out the plant, pull out the plant,
We're trying to help our friend the snail, pull out the pennyroyal plant.
"He was on his way to the Sun's house when he got a tummyache."

And since the cat saw that the snail, the frog and the rabbit couldn't pull up the plant, he wanted to help out, too. So he grabbed on tightly to the rabbit's back and started to pull. But no matter how hard the snail, the frog, the rabbit and the cat pulled, there was no way they could uproot the pennyroyal.

A little while later, a dog arrived. The dog had four legs, two ears and a tail, like all dogs, and he had a friendly face. When he saw the long line of animals pulling so hard, he asked them:

"What are you doing?"

And the cat answered singing:

We're trying to help our friend the snail, pull out the plant, pull out the plant,
We're trying to help our friend the snail, pull out the pennyroyal plant.
"He was on his way to the Sun's house when he got a tummyache."

And like all the other animals, the dog also wanted to help. So he grabbed the cat's tail tightly and started to pull.

And he pulled with all his might, but the snail, the frog, the rabbit, the cat and the dog couldn't pull up the pennyroyal. But they pulled so hard that they landed flat on their bottoms-plop! The fall left them dead silent.

Until the snail started to laugh.

"Ha, ha, ha," laughed the snail, "What a bump on the bum! Ha, ha, ha!"

Since the snail's laughter was contagious, the frog started laughing, then the frog made the rabbit laugh, and the rabbit made the cat laugh, and then the dog. And they all ended up laughing their heads off.

And after they had been laughing for a long time, the snail said:

"With all that laughing, you know what? My stomachache has gone away!"

And so, it took a frog, a rabbit, a dog and a cat to end this story. What do you think of that!

Script: Eulàlia Carrillo

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