

# Brave Sunny Bunny

Tuesday morning.

It was time to go to school but there was no sign of Sunny. Mom could not figure out where he was. Mom called out, "Sunny, my dear, where are you?"

"Mom, I'm here and there and everywhere. You can hear me... I am up there and down here and right behind you!"

Mom heard Sunny and started guessing where he might be. She twitched her ears and looked around. But she could not make out where he had hid himself. Then mom had an idea. The minute she shouted, "Jikamika...jikamika...jikamika...,"

Sunny jumped out from behind the fridge, and said, "Jimtum...jimtum...jikamika jimtum."

Mom had gone red with rage.

She pulled Sunny's ears and asked, "Not planning to go to school today, is it?"

Sunny stroked his whiskers and replied, "That's right! I am not at all going to school today! Today, I'll gorge on food, drink and be merry...I'll run, I'll walk, I'll jog, I'll sleep, I'll play...I'll do just as I please!"

“Stop it!

Tell me, why won't you go to school today?” Mom's ears were raised in anger. Her tail had gone stiff.

Sunny hugged his mom, rubbed his face against her tummy, and said, “Oh, you've forgotten! Today is 'Jungle Children's Day'— so no school, just be cool, get it?”

Mom patted Sunny and caressed his ears, “You are right, I had indeed forgotten all about it. Good! I'll get you a surprise gift from the Jungle Mall today...but on one condition...”

“Aw...now what?”

“My darling, you'll get the gift only if you have finished doing your homework. Let me see your notebook...what's your homework?” Sunny grimaced when he heard his mom.

He brought his sack, removed his notebook and started reading from it, “The homework is really easy mom.

Eat a chocolate cake when you get up in the morning. Have a strawberry shake along with it. Those good children who don't want strawberry shake can have blackcurrant ice cream instead. And of course, 'good boys' like Sunny can have strawberry shake as well as blackcurrant ice cream. Then dance for a while. Follow that with a veg. cheese pizza and a kulfi cone...”

Mom put her hands on her ears and screamed, “Stop... I say stop! What is this Sunny? Are you reading your homework or rattling off the menu of a restaurant? Is this homework or hotel-work? What is the meaning of all this?”

## Brave Sunny Bunny

"Oh mom, I was telling you what I would like my 'dream homework' to be! I have already finished my real homework in the school itself."

Mom laughed happily when she heard this, "Good boy", she said. Just then Bunny's voice was heard outside, "Jikamika...jikamika..." Sunny jumped up and down and moved his ears, "Here comes good boy jimtum, jimtum..."

Bunny jumped in from the open window and said, "Good morning sun-Sunny."

"Yes, very good morning bun-Bunny."

Mom was angry with Bunny. She said to him, "Tell me something Bunny, what is this window for?"

"Aw...to get in, of course!"

The minute he said that, mom pulled his ears and said, "The window is for the air to come in, the breeze to blow in, and the light to stream in! But you close it right now."

"Awe...! But why?!" Bunny asked as he raised just one ear in question.

"My dear, even if it is Jungle Children's day today, big animals will be prowling around the jungle..."

Bunny interrupted mom and said, "Wow, what fun! We will also go and roam in the jungle...let's go..."

Sunny pulled Bunny by the hand and said, "No, we will stay at home and enjoy here itself. We will put on the music and have a blast."

Mom pulled their ears and said, "Wait. Listen to what I have to say first. I'm going to the Jungle Mall to get a surprise gift for you."

After I have gone if the doorbell rings, don't open the door immediately. First look out of the window and only then open the door."

"But mom, what should we look out for from the window?"

"Yes, Sunny dear, I'll tell you", mom continued, "If at all a wolf or a fox comes along..."

Bunny raised his hand and shouted, "Then, we should take a look at the wolf or fox from the window...and let them in through the door...right?"

When he heard that, Sunny raised his ears and screamed loudly, "WHHAAAAT?"

Bunny timidly caught his tail and said, "No, no, no. If a wolf or fox comes, we should look at them from the door, and let them in from the window..."

Mom said, "You should not take them in at all! If they come in, they will eat you up..."

Sunny and Bunny were very frightened when they heard this. Hastily, they clung to mom.

Mom patted them and said, "Don't worry. You are brave! So...if the doorbell rings..."

Bunny stood up straight and said, "Look out of the window and ..."

"Open the door only after ensuring that there is no danger outside." Sunny completed Bunny's sentence.

Mom was proud of both of them and said, "Yes, right!"

Sunny and Bunny started jumping around mom and said to her, "Mom, while you are away, can we have some jumpity-bumpity fun? And can we gorge on yummy-crunchy food? Please? Pretty please? Please say yes, mom..."

Mom pushed both of them aside and said, "Very little of jumpity-bumpity fun and even lesser of yummy-crunchy food, understand? I'll go and come back soon. Take care."

Mom hopped out of the house with a shopping bag.

Sunny-Bunny waved goodbye to her from the window.

Then as instructed by mom, they shut the door and the window.

Now the two of them were alone in the house.

Sunny-Bunny now started wondering about all that they could do...

Listen to foot-tapping rapping music? Shake a leg to funky music?

High jump acrobatics? WWF pow-wow? Oh, what should we do?

Just then Sunny stroked his whiskers and shouted, "Yes! Got it!

We'll order a veg. cheese pizza from the mall. Its jungle children's day today and we will get a special discount. Wow, my mouth has started watering already!!"

Bunny got irritated and said to him, "Sunny, even after we get a discount, we will still have to give some money. Do you have money?"

"Money? Bunny, my pal, I don't have just money, I have an entire bank!!"

As soon as Sunny said this, Bunny screamed, "Whhhhaaattt? Bank?"

"Yeah, bank. I have a 'man bank'."

Even as he was saying this, Sunny went inside and returned with a man bank.

"When you hit this man on the stomach, money comes out of his mouth." Bunny was now itching to punch the man in the stomach.

"But the punch has to be given by the owner of the bank." So saying Sunny gave a powerful punch in the paunch of the man.

And what a miracle...a jungle note came out of his mouth.

Both of them clapped in glee.

They turned their backs to each other and 'shook tails'.

"Now for pizza!" Both of them yelled with their hands in the air.

"Let's call JMPC, the Jungle Mall and Pizza Call. They will deliver our pizza to us in 19 minutes."

Bunny hurriedly dialled the number but unfortunately he got connected to the wrong number.

He had called JMPC but the call went to the fox!

Sunny snatched the phone from Bunny's hand and said, "Hello, I'm Sunny here. Sunny Sanule."

The fox was overjoyed to hear Sunny's voice.

Quickly, he removed a handkerchief from his pocket and covered the mouthpiece with it. So Sunny heard a completely different voice of the fox.

"Uncle, we would like to have a veg. cheese pizza."

The fox replied, "Yes, certainly but tell me, are there any adults in the house?"

"Umm...no uncle, it's just the two of us, Bunny and me. We will get special discount, won't we?"

"Of course, children. Today we have a 'buy one, get one free' offer! Today I'll get you your free pizza; you can have the second one later."

"Uncle, we want our pizza fast."

"I'll be there in just five minutes, my dear," said the fox as he kept the phone.

The fox's mouth started watering. He smacked his lips with joy.

He started speaking to himself as he sharpened his claws.

"Oh it's my lucky day today! 'Jungle day' is going to be a 'Party day' for me!! Looks like lord of the jungle has blessed me and granted me my wish.

That is why he has sent not one but two sweet juicy rabbits my way!!

This Sunny and Bunny will taste so yummy! I'll fry Sunny and have 'Sunny Manchurian'. And Bunny, I'll roast him and have juicy Bunny kebabs!

Now they will not be able to get away from me... Today's Jungle day will be their 'last day'."

The fox thought that this was an excellent opportunity. He would finish both Sunny and Bunny before Sunny's mother returned home.

But there was one difficulty.

What if Sunny does not open the door when he sees me? I have to think of something. What should I do...?

The fox scratched his tail, and then chewed on it. He bobbed his head, moved his ears and grated his teeth... And then the fox hit upon an idea.

He quickly changed his dress and put on a pair of dark glasses.

He tied a handkerchief around his neck and set out.

The fox ran all the way and reached in two minutes flat.

## Brave Sunny Bunny

“Dingdong dingdong” the doorbell rang.

It rang once again.

Sunny: It’s the pizza bell

Bunny: It must be Bunty with the pizza

Sunny: Open the door in a jiffy. Take in the pizza quickly

Bunny ran to open the door when Sunny shouted, “Hey, wait.. wait. Remember what mom has told us...If the doorbell rings, don’t open the door immediately. Look through the window first. And only then open the door.”

Bunny nodded.

Sunny brought out the dishes.

He got the ketchup.

He was all set to eat the pizza.

Bunny held the money in his hand and opened the window.

Bunny looked through the window.

Bunty was standing with his back to the door.

He was wearing a big hat and on his back were the letters JMPC.

Bunny thought that he had come from the ‘Jungle Mall Pizza Call’.

Sunny too looked out of the window. “Hey, when did Bunty become so huge? Why is he wearing such a big hat?” Even as Sunny was saying this, Bunny ran to the door and opened it.

As soon as the door was opened, the sly fox came in.

When he jumped to pounce on Bunny, his hat flew off and fell near the door.

## Brave Sunny Bunny

The fox looked at Sunny and Bunny and opened his mouth.

Flicking red tongue, pointed teeth, spread out whiskers, angry eyes. Raised hand, sharp claws. Swishing bushy tail and his saliva dripping from the mouth...

Sunny and Bunny were scared out of their wits.

The fox flashed his teeth and laughed, "ha-ha-ha, what a feast I'll have! I'll make a tasty Manchurian dish out of one and crunchy kebabs out of the other! Now, you cannot escape me."

The fox ran to catch Sunny.

Sunny and Bunny were scared but they recovered quickly.

Sunny wiped his whiskers, swished his tail and quickly took a long jump. Bunny twitched his ears, straightened his tail and flashed across in a long jump.

The greedy fox first chased Sunny.

Sunny ran helter-skelter to save himself. He started jumping from here to there. Over the table, under the chair, alongside the cupboard, over the bed, behind the pillow, across the TV, Sunny ran for his life.

Sunny in front and the fox after him.

And at times the fox would wonder WHERE Sunny was?

In all this chaos, all the furniture at the top came down, what was in front got thrown behind, what was to the right, traveled to the left? Things got strewn all over the house.

Small cars, tops, airplanes, colourful marbles, multicolored beads, strings all fell in a heap.

Just then the fox tripped over a small car and crashed into the table at great speed.

His glasses broke and mouth went askew. His one eye turned black and blue.

Sunny was thrilled to see this and shouted, "Jikamika, jikamika..."

Bunny supported him and shouted, "Jimtum, jimtum, jikamika jimtum."

Now the fox started chasing Bunny.

Bunny was ready for it. Bunny was holding a water pistol. The fox pounced on Bunny. But right at that moment Bunny forcefully pressed the pistol lever.

The coloured ink from the pistol squirted into the fox's eyes. He couldn't see a thing. He rubbed his eyes. His face, hands, clothes, everything was smeared with ink. The fox wiped his face with a handkerchief. He wiped his claws.

Now he slowly made his way towards Sunny.

Sunny and Bunny hurriedly ran into the bedroom.

The fox jumped onto the bed from a distance.

Sunny and Bunny quickly covered him with the sheet on the bed.

The fox got caught in the sheet, he was trapped. He started shouting, he could not free himself. The fox violently tore the sheet and came out. He looked around but saw no one.

The fox looked in the mirror in the bedroom. He made a grating noise as he scratched his claws on his teeth.

Then he scratched the mirror and said to himself, "Enough is enough. I am a serial killer. I'm not the fox who fears, I'm the fox who devours...I chomp on my prey...ha...ha...ha...haw..haw..haw.."

The fox strode out of the bedroom with a swagger.

When he came out he just couldn't believe the sight that greeted him.

He rubbed his eyes again and again and stared hard.

Sunny was lounging in a chair, munching on a carrot. He was not at all scared.

The fox flashed his sharp teeth at Sunny. He waved his sharp claws.

He made hoarse, scary sounds.

But in spite of all this, Sunny continued to be relaxed. Now the fox was really angry.

He was all set to pounce on Sunny when Sunny said to him, "Wait. First look behind."

The fox slowly looked behind him.

Bunny was standing behind the fox, a gun in each hand, aimed directly at the fox.

"Shoot when I tell you to Bunny. The bullet should hit him in the head. He'll be finished in a minute!"

"No, no I won't shoot him in the head. I want to gouge his eyes first.

Then I'll spray bullets all over his body. Sunny, you just give me the signal, and see how I shoot his eyes right into his throat."

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When the fox heard this conversation of Sunny and Bunny, his tail shivered in fear. His flicking lips went back into his mouth. His mouth slammed shut. His raised hands slumped. His bushy tail sagged. His mouth was no longer watering. His entire body started shaking with fear.

The fox said to himself, "I have to escape otherwise I am finished."

Sunny said, "Bunny ready? ...5...4...3...2..."

Before he could say 1 the fox had run away as fast as he could, with his tail between his legs.

Sunny quickly closed the door.

Sunny and Bunny hurriedly put the house back in order.

Just then the doorbell went dingdong ding..dong.

Sunny Bunny thought that mom had returned.

Sunny opened the door...

the fox jumped in,  
grabbed his hat  
and

jumped out in a flash again.

Sunny and Bunny shouted loudly, "Jikamika jimtum. Jikamika."

Bunny said, "This fox is crazy!

He didn't even realize that we were scaring him with a toy gun."

"Hey, our style was such that...jikamika jimtum!"

Sunny and Bunny threw open the door

and window

and with their pistols at their waists,

they waited for their mother!

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