

The Year of the Panda

By Elaine Thomson

One day in China Panda's mom was telling her the story of Chinese new year. When she was finished Panda asked, "Where is the year of the panda?"

Panda's mom answered, "there is no year of the panda!"

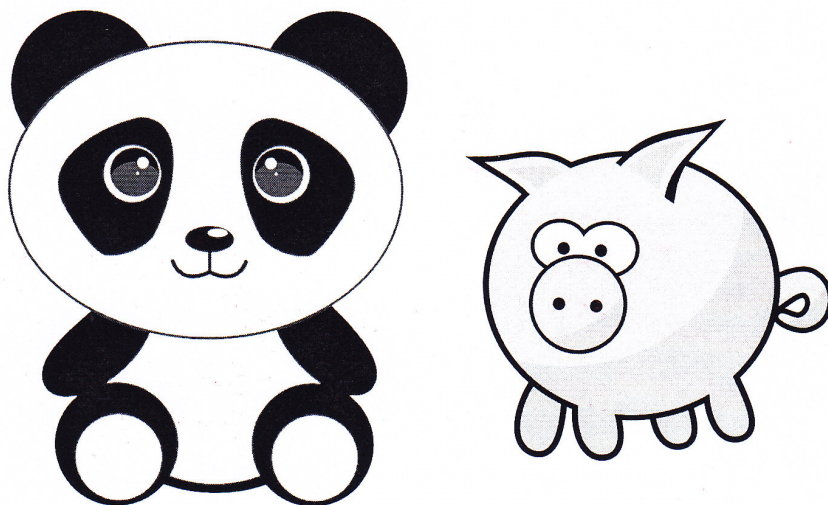
Panda said, "That's not fair, everyone has a year!"

She thought of a plan! The next day, she went outside and saw Pig.

"Hi Pig, I was wondering if you wanted to share your year with me."

"Uh - i'm sorry but no, i'm not willing to have you mess up my bed and get my house dirty," said Pig.

"OK," said Panda.

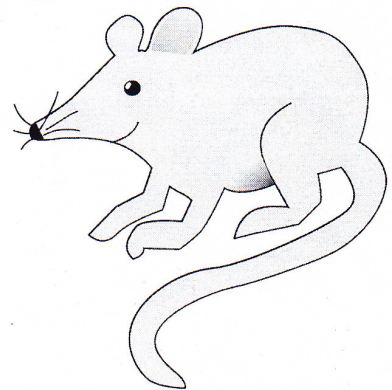


So she asked Rat.

“Hi Rat,I was wondering if you might like to share your year with me.”

“I would like to share my year but monkey was just telling me she needed a good friend like you!” said Rat.

“Thank you, I will go see monkey right away!” Panda would never turn away a friend in need!

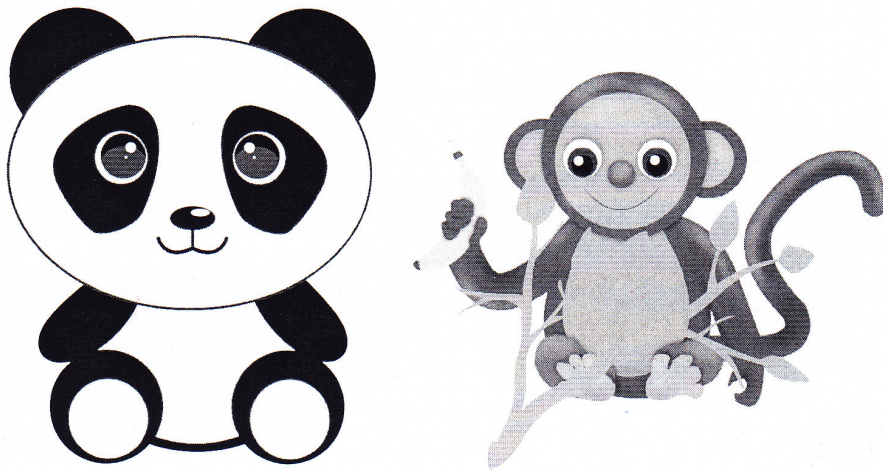


So she asked Monkey.

“Hi Monkey,” said Panda. “I was wondering if you might like to share your year with me. Rat said that you wanted a good friend like me.”

“I’ll let you share your year with me if you can keep up to me,” said Monkey.

Quick as lightning Monkey swung into the trees.



Panda ran after Monkey, but Monkey was too quick. Soon, Panda was lost.

Suddenly she heard sobs coming from a cave. She followed the noise. She met Dragon.

“What’s wrong Dragon?” she asked.

“No one wants to play with me,” said Dragon. “I even offered to share my year with them, but they said they already have their own years.”

A smile spread across Panda’s face.

“I would love to be your friend and I would also love to have a year,” said Panda.

“OK,” said Dragon. “Let’s share our year! But what should we call it?”

Let’s call it hmmm ... the year of the Dranda!”

“Yes, that’s a great idea,” said Dragon. “Now let’s go play!”

THE END

