



Dugdug and the Rasgulla

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Level 2



Late one night as the village of Bholapur slept and snored, the Moon opened his eyes with a POP and scanned the land below him. The cats and rats, dogs and hogs, cows and sows and all other animals on Munni's farm had slipped into the land of dreams.



All, except for Dugdug. Dugdug was hungry. Sneaking out of the kennel, his eyes fell on the Moon and the rumble in his tummy got louder.

'Mmmm . . .' he drooled, 'a nice juicy Rasgulla is just what I want for dessert!'



But how would he reach the delicious dessert floating in the faraway sky? He ran into the forest to consult with his friends, who immediately convened a meeting to help stop the grumble in Dugdug's belly.

"Climb up the grand old Oak and pounce on the Rasgulla once you reach the top!" they chorused.

And so Dugdug started to climb the oak. His paws slipped at first and his soft skin scraped against the bark of the Oak, but he did not give up. He had made up his mind to eat the Rasgulla, come what may.



Unknown to him, the Moon was following his every move.

'Mmmm . . .' thought the Moon, smacking his lips. 'A plump pup for breakfast is just what I want! I shall gobble him up the moment he pounces on me!' He patiently waited for his breakfast as it slowly but surely climbed the tree.



Right at that moment, Munni was out looking for Dugdug, shining her lantern into the dark, silent forest.



'Where has the little mischief-maker disappeared in the middle of the night? Kaka, Baba, Tauji, Bhaiyya . . . they're all going to scold me for forgetting to tie Dugdug to the kennel post!' she worried.

Just then, she heard a light rustling of leaves above her and a 'Woof' that was unmistakably Dugdug's. "Dugdug! Come down right now!" Munni commanded, anxiety written all over her face.

But Dugdug wanted nothing else than to sink his teeth into the Rasgulla. Balancing himself on the topmost branch, he pounced towards his dessert with all his might.

The delighted Moon opened his mouth wide and waited for Dugdug to fall right in.

Munni had only heard in stories that when the Moon was at his roundest, he got greedy and gobbled up anything and everything he fancied. Now, staring at the Moon's open mouth waiting for Dugdug, she realized that those weren't merely stories . . .

Worried about her favorite pup, she swung into action letting out a series of sharp whistles in what seemed to be a secret code.



Almost immediately a giant bird with bright purple feathers and large blue eyes appeared out of nowhere. She was taller than the tallest Giraffe that ever was!

Not long ago, Munni had saved the bird from being trapped by hunters and sold to the zoo in a faraway city. The bird had promised to repay the debt and they had become good friends, meeting in secret and frolicking in the forest every now and then.

"We have to save Dugdug!" Munni whispered into the bird's ears, jumping on to her back and scaling her neck like an expert mountaineer.



The bird soared into the night sky and intercepted Dugdug just as he was entering the Moon's mouth. With arms extended, Munni caught Dugdug by his tail, pulling him out of trouble in the nick of time.

'Hey, get out of the way of my dessert!' a perplexed Dugdug wanted to scream, but all he could do was let out a tired whimper. The superman stunt he tried to pull off had drained him of all his energy.

Soon, poor Dugdug was back in the kennel, tied securely next to his Mom, his tongue still dangling out in the hope of tasting that wonderful Rasgulla.



And the Moon? Well, all I know is that the next time I looked at him, I could spot a vague outline of a rabbit in his tummy.

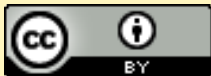
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(English)

A hungry pup thinks the Moon is a juicy Rasgulla and wants to gobble it up for dessert. A hungry Moon wants nothing more than to devour the plump pup for breakfast. So who will eat whom up? Or is there another twist to this hungry tale? Read on to find out just that!

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.



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