



SPRING SPORTS DAY



Berry, Dolly, Flutter and Balthazar were sitting by the lake throwing pebbles into the water. Berry hit a floating log a couple of times and his friends clapped. "Come down to the meadow now! The spring sports day is about to start!" Stanley told them all.



Their forest friends had already gathered in the meadow.
"Let the spring sports day begin!" Alfonsio the cricket announced from the big rock.
"There'll be running, high jump, a rolling race, flying and skipping."



The little beetles all put their running shorts on and stood in line.

"Ready, set, go!" shouted Alfonzo.

They all ran as fast as they could. They had to run three times around the meadow.



"It's not fair! Eddy cheated! He cut the corner!" Leapy the grasshopper shouted. "It's not fair, he didn't have to run as much as we did!"
"There's to be no cheating!" Alfonzo was very strict. "Let's start the competition again, but no cheating!"



They all started running again and this time Stanley came first, Leapy came second and Balthazar came third.



Berry finished last. Balthazar and Eddy started whispering when they saw him cross the finish line.

"He's as slow as a snail!"

"Don't make fun of him. It's not nice!" Dolly was very angry with the boys.



“Now it’s time for the high jump! The one who can pick the highest apple is the winner,” Alfred said and wrote numbers on the apples: number 1 on the highest one, number 2 on the one below that, and then number 3.



The friends took a run and tried to jump as high as possible. Leapy got the highest apple, Flutter got the second one and Eddy the potato beetle grabbed the third apple.



No matter how hard Berry tried, he couldn't even reach the lowest apple.
"I can't do it! I just can't do it," he sulked.
"Come on, Berry, you'll be better at the next race, don't be sad." Rosita said.



But Berry was too nervous to join the rolling race because he was frightened he'd crack his shell. The others all lined up and rolled from one end of the meadow to the other. Dolly was the fastest and she won.



"Now let's start flying," Alfonzo said. "The fastest to fly to the top of this tree and get a pinecone from there is the winner."
Flutter, Balthazar, Dolly and Zephyr all joined the race.

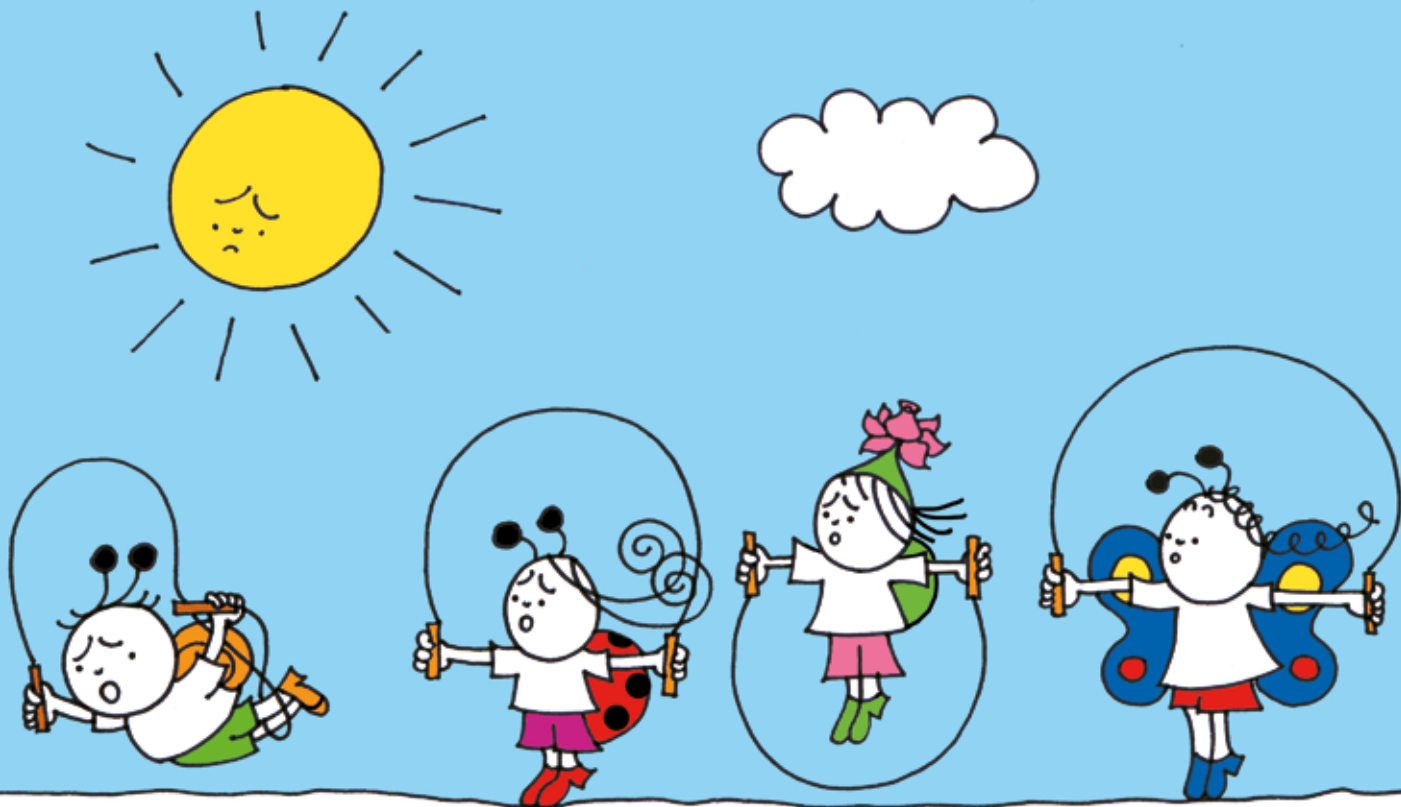


Flutter was the fastest and got to the top of the tree first.



"That's typical! I can't fly either!" Berry snivelled.

"Don't be so angry, Berry. It's time for the skipping competition now. The fastest skipper wins."



The four contestants started skipping but Berry got tangled in the rope and hurt himself. The others were worried and ran over to him.



"I'm not doing any more silly races! I can't do anything! I'm going home!" Berry got very upset and walked home.



"We have to think of something. We have to cheer Berry up," Dolly said.

"You're right. What's he really good at?" Rosita asked.

"I know!" Flutter shouted. "Throwing."

"That's a super idea," Balthazar agreed. "Berry was the only one who could hit the log in the lake."



They made five piles. The first one was made out of apples, the second of horse chestnuts, the third of pinecones, the fourth out of hazelnuts and the fifth one out of pears.



Dolly convinced Berry to come back to the meadow.
"It's time for the throwing competition. Do you want to join in?" Rosita asked.



"Hurray! Throwing! I love throwing!"

Everybody had a go but Berry was the best. He was the only one who managed to knock over all five piles.



"You see, Berry, I'm the best runner, Leapy's the best high jumper, Flutter's the best at flying, Dolly at rolling, Rosita can skip the fastest and you're the best thrower. Everybody's good at something," Stanley explained.



The winners stood in a line and Alfonso put medals around their necks. Berry got a shiny horse chestnut as his prize for coming first in the throwing competition.