

A tiger was running from the zookeeper because she had a splinter in her paw. It hurt badly, but she was afraid the zookeeper would hurt her more trying to take it out.

First, she dashed into the monkey enclosure to hide. “Stop running,” the monkeys said. “The zookeeper just wants to help.” But the tiger didn’t believe them. The monkeys were always playing tricks!

When the zookeeper came close, the tiger dug under the fence and escaped into the zebras’ pen. The zebras said kindly, “The zookeeper will help you feel better.” But tigers and zebras weren’t friends, so she didn’t trust them either.

Finally, the tiger leapt into the lion’s den. The lion said gently, “Dear Tiger, listen to your friends. The more you run, the more it hurts. Let the zookeeper help.”

The tiger trusted the lion. She sat down and waited. When the zookeeper found her, he carefully led her to the vet and removed the splinter. The tiger felt much better and learned something important—sometimes, the people we fear most just want to help.

The End

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