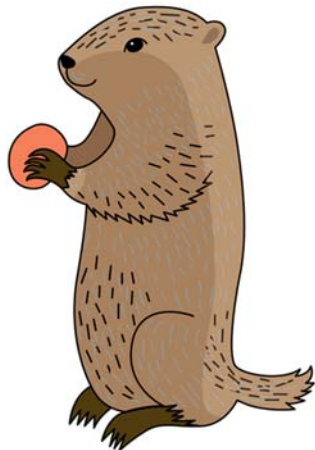


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## The Riddling Friend

In a peaceful forest nestled between two hills, there lived a lonely groundhog named Gracie. Gracie spent her days observing the world from her burrow, wishing she had a friend to share her days with. One sunny morning, as Gracie ventured out of her burrow, she found an unusual sight—a talking acorn!

The talking acorn introduced itself as Riddleo and said, "I can grant your wish for a friend, but there's a twist. I can only communicate through riddles!"

Gracie, eager for a friend, agreed without hesitation. Riddleo transformed into a charming squirrel named Sammie. Gracie was thrilled to have a new friend, but she soon realized that communication with Sammie was quite puzzling.

Whenever Gracie asked a question, Sammie responded with a riddle. For example, when Gracie asked, "What's your favorite food?" Sammie replied, "I'm not a bear, but I love this sweet treat, especially when it's made with love to eat."

Gracie scratched her head, trying to decipher the riddle. After some thought, she said, "Honey?"

Sammie grinned and nodded. "Exactly! You got it!"

Their days were filled with laughter as they exchanged riddles and solved each other's challenges. Gracie's loneliness vanished, and she cherished her friendship with Sammie, the talking acorn turned squirrel.

One day, as they explored the forest, Gracie noticed a baby bird chirping sadly on a branch. She asked Sammie to help, and Sammie replied, "I soar high in the sky, with feathers so bright, but I can't fly yet, to take my first flight."

Gracie, always up for a riddle-solving adventure, quickly figured out that the baby bird needed help learning to fly. Together, they created a makeshift nest and watched over the baby bird until it was ready to take its first flight. The forest was full of joy and gratitude for their help.

As the sun set, Sammie transformed back into the talking acorn, Riddleo. Gracie thanked her friend for granting her wish and for all the adventures they had shared. Riddleo promised to return whenever Gracie needed a riddle or a friend.

From that day on, Gracie and Riddleo remained close friends, their bond stronger than ever. Gracie had discovered that sometimes, friendship could be as puzzling as a riddle, but the joy it brought was worth every twist and turn.

