

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Wishing Groundhog



In a picturesque meadow nestled between two rolling hills, there lived a groundhog named Gracie. Gracie was no ordinary groundhog; she possessed a unique and magical ability. Whenever she emerged from her burrow and her shadow stretched long and clear, she had the power to grant wishes.

The meadow where Gracie lived was a place where animals from near and far gathered to witness her incredible talent. They would line up, one by one, and make their wishes known. Gracie was always eager to help, and she listened carefully to each wish.

One sunny morning, a wise old owl named Oliver approached Gracie's burrow. He had a shimmering book in his talons, which contained a collection of the most cherished wishes from the forest's inhabitants. Oliver's wish was simple yet profound. He wished for all the animals of the forest to live in harmony and peace.

As Gracie cast her long shadow, she closed her eyes and focused on granting Oliver's wish. A gentle breeze swept through the meadow, and a feeling of serenity settled over the land. The animals could sense the change and felt a newfound sense of unity among them.

Word of Gracie's incredible power spread throughout the forest, and animals from distant places flocked to the meadow with their wishes. Some wished for abundant food, while others wished for safe homes and loving families. Gracie's shadow worked wonders, and her heart swelled with happiness as she brought joy to the lives of many.

However, Gracie knew that her gift came with great responsibility. She understood that she must use her power wisely and thoughtfully. She couldn't grant selfish or harmful wishes, for the well-being of the forest and its inhabitants was her top priority.

One day, a mischievous fox named Felix approached Gracie with a devious wish. He wished for endless riches and power, believing it would make him the most respected animal in the forest. But Gracie, guided by her sense of responsibility, refused to grant Felix's wish. She explained that true respect and happiness came from within and couldn't be gained through material wealth.

Felix was initially disappointed, but as time passed, he came to realize the wisdom in Gracie's words. He changed his wish to something more meaningful, a wish for wisdom and understanding.

As Gracie's shadow continued to grant wishes, the meadow remained a place of hope, joy, and harmony. The animals learned that wishes, when made with kindness and selflessness, could lead to a world where all living beings thrived together.

