



## The Boastful Turtle (Philippines)

There was one a turtle who grew frustrated with having to live in the sea. What Turtle wanted more than anything was to fly. He talked about flying all of the time. He boasted about how he would be the first turtle to leave the oceans and soar in the sky. He talked so much that other turtles couldn't bear to be around him.



Turtle grew so bitter at his situation that he started to be rude and grumpy. Turtle would moan at the fishes for swimming near him. He would grumble at the whales for splashing him near the surface. Most of all, he would shout at the birds for taunting him from the sky.

One day, Turtle saw a goose flying above the waves.

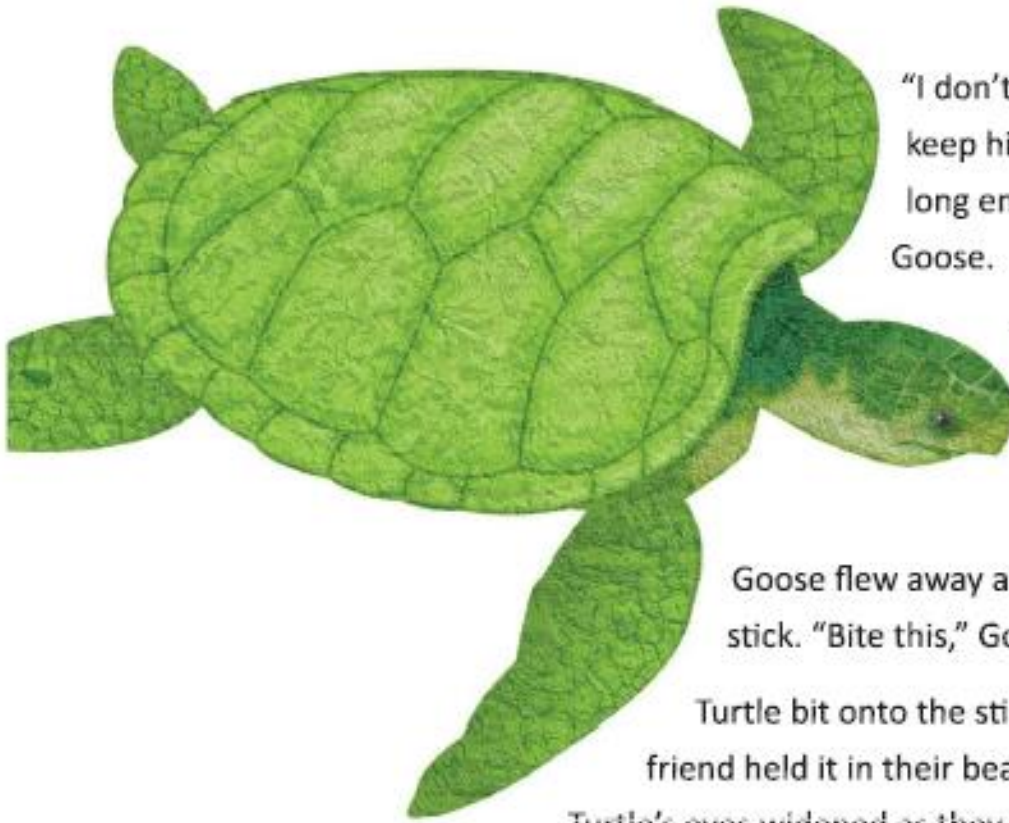
"Goose," Turtle shouted, "won't you help me to fly?"

"I can't. My flock is migrating," said Goose.

"I think it is because you know I would be better at it than you," Turtle boasted.

Goose grew angry. He flew away to his flock. A moment later, Goose and the flock returned to Turtle.

"Maybe we could carry a stick and Turtle could bite onto the end?" said one of the other geese.



"I don't think Turtle could keep his mouth closed for long enough to hold on," said Goose.

"I promise I can," said Turtle. "I want to show you how good I am at flying."

Goose flew away and returned with a thick stick. "Bite this," Goose said to Turtle.

Turtle bit onto the stick and Goose and his friend held it in their beaks. The flock took flight.

Turtle's eyes widened as they soared higher and higher. He saw the most wondrous things. Trees looked like sticks and rivers snaked across the landscape like silver threads.

"I'm the highest turtle in the world," Turtle thought to himself. "I am better than the fish and the whales and the turtles."

But Turtle couldn't help but be his usual, boastful self. As soon as he opened his mouth to tell the geese how amazing he was, he plummeted back into the ocean.