

# Manavand and The Squirrel



This is a story of one boy named Manav who really wanted a pet. He did not care if it was a fish in a bowl, a parrot in a cage, or a little puppy to play with him.



One day, he caught a squirrel, brought it home, but his mother did not let him. She told him,

"Let the poor creature go.  
Keeping it in a cage is cruel."



Manav refused to let it go, so instead, he ran out to show it to his friends.



His friends were delighted. Suddenly, the squirrel slipped off from Manav's hands and ran. The children ran after it, but it was too fast for them. Finally, they arrived at a pond.



They were too tired, so they laid down and slept on the grass. The cool grass and the gentle breeze made them sleepy. In Manav's dream, he felt something wet and sticky on his face. It was the Monkey King who wanted to know how people used fire.



Manav did not know the answer. The Monkey King caught Manav, shook him vigorously, and threw him into a bamboo cage. Manav cried, but no one came to help him.



He screamed so loud that Balu the Bear and Baghera the Black Panther heard it, so they came to help. They fought with the monkey and released Manav from the cage.



They told him to go back home to his parents because it was not safe here. He ran home and reached out to open the door, but there was no door. He woke up from the dream and saw his friends still asleep. The dream made him realize that just like him, everybody wants to be free.

