

Harry Hippo Hits the Hay

Harry Hippo knew it was time for bed. But Harry could not sleep.

"I'm not tired," Harry said.

"But Harry, if you don't sleep, you'll be too tired to play with your friends tomorrow," Harry's mom told him.

"But none of my friends are sleeping either," Harry told his mom.

"Oh, I bet all of your friends are fast asleep in their homes right now," said Harry's dad.

"How do you know?" Harry asked.

"Because it is night time, the stars are out, the moon is bright, and all of your friends know that it's no fun to run around when you're yawning and sleepy," Harry's mom said as she tapped Harry on his little button nose.

Harry still didn't think that his friends had to go to sleep when he did. Harry's dad had an idea.

"Hey, come with me Harry, and I'll show you."

Harry and his dad left their lake and began their journey. First, they came to Gerry Giraffe's house near the tall trees.

"Well hello, Harry," Jerry's mother whispered as she stretched her long neck down to them.

"Hello. I came to see Jerry," Harry said.

"Shh," said Jerry's mom. "Jerry just fell asleep, but I'm sure he'd love to see you tomorrow."

Next, Harry and his dad came to Zach Zebra's house in the long grass. Zach's dad saw them coming and ran over.

"Hi, Harry," Zach's dad said. "I'd love to stay and chat, but Zach just fell asleep, and I don't want to wake him.

"Oh, that's okay," Harry's dad said. "We'll see you and Zach tomorrow."

Harry and his dad walked through the tall grass over to Ellie Elephant's house. Harry knew that Ellie would have to still be awake. They were always playing until after dark when their parents had to call them home.

“Hello,” Harry said to Ellie’s grandma. “I was wondering if Ellie was still up so we could play.”

Ellie’s grandma laughed. “Oh no, Harry. She’s been fast asleep since the sun went down. But she’d love to play with you tomorrow.”

“Okay, thanks anyway,” Harry yawned.

Harry’s dad could see how tired Harry was getting.

“See, buddy? All your friends are dreaming of the fun day you’ll have tomorrow, but if we don’t get you home and in bed soon, you might be too tired to play with them.”

“Dad,” Harry said, “I’m too sleepy to walk back.”

Harry’s dad smiled. “Then we’d better get a move on,” he said.

When Harry and his dad got back to their spot in the lake, Harry could barely keep his eyes open long enough to kiss his mom goodnight.

“Did you get to see any of your friends?” Harry’s mom asked.

“They were all sleeping, and if I don’t go to sleep, I’ll be too tired to see them tomorrow.”

“Good idea,” his mom said.

And as Harry closed his eyes, he began dreaming of the fun he would have with Jerry, Zach, Ellie, and all of his other friends who were getting a good night’s sleep too.