

Four Friends in Lelluxa Valley

(Junior)

Far away, in a distant land, there was a beautiful valley called Lelluxa Valley. One side of the valley was covered in lush trees and lovely, sweet smelling flowers. On the other side, there were steep cliffs overlooking the sea. In this valley, lived four dear friends of mine called Geru, Fina, Faru and Zringi. Would you like to meet them?

Geru is a small, friendly dog. Tell us something about you Geru.

“I like to keep everything in order and put everything in its place. So, when I play with a game, I always put it back when I finish. I also like to ask a lot of questions just to make sure that I know what I have to do.

Such as:

“What am I going to wear today, mum?

“Shall I go to the catechism lessons today, dad?

“Do I have to write the date, teacher?”

Fina is a small, quiet tortoise. Let us talk to her! By the way, do you know her grandmother? Her grandmother had won a race against a rabbit! Do you remember that story? Tortoise spends most of her free time reading books.

“I really enjoy reading. I have plenty of books at home, most of which were birthday and Christmas presents. Moreover, I really like to write!”

Faru is a small, quiet mouse. Faru does not speak a lot, nor does he like to write! In fact, he doesn't wish to speak to us today as he is busy thinking about how he's going to mend his remote control car, which, unluckily, has broken down! Faru is really good at mending objects with his hammer and screwdriver. In fact, he has quite a collection of tools. He spends a lot of time on his own, trying to figure out how to mend different things.

Zringi is a small, lively frog. Unlike Faru, she never stops talking. She's a real chatterbox!

"I like to be different from others. I was at school last week and the teacher asked us to draw a horse. I painted my horse in purple so my picture would be different from that of others. I don't even like to behave like other frogs who eat flies! Indeed, my very best friend is a fly!"

Now that we know our four friends a little bit more, let us go and see them in class with their teacher, Ms Wards. Geru, Fina, Faru and Zringi really love their teacher, Ms Wards. They also like to learn new and different things.

Today, Ms Warda is teaching them about Lelluxa Valley, the very same place where our four friends live.

“A very long time ago,” started Ms Warda, “water used to run through this valley. Water used to pass among the trees until it finally met the sea. Did you know that many, many years ago, dinosaurs used to live here? Dinosaurs were huge animals which used to inhabit the world. But then, something terrible happened and all dinosaurs on earth died... and all the water dried up except for that small puddle in the middle of the valley. Up to this day, nobody knows what has happened.

Geru, Fina, Faru and Zringi really enjoyed listening to this interesting story. “ But what happened to the dinosaurs? Asked Geru. Fina said that once she had read a book about dinosaurs which was full of information and lovely pictures. Zringi went to the computer in the classroom and started drawing a picture of a dinosaur on her KIDPIX. Faru started thinking which tools he would need to build a wooden dinosaur model!

Before the bell rang, Ms Warda, told her students to build a project about Lelluxa Valley. They were free to come up with their own ideas for the project, as long as they did their very best.





Geru was really worried about this project. He was afraid that he hadn't understood exactly what how he was expected to do his homework. He felt t a loss. So he went up to Ms Warda and asked her a lot of questions.

“What exactly do we have to write?”

“Do we have to find pictures?”

“Do we have to write on the yellow copybook, the green copybook, or the project book?”

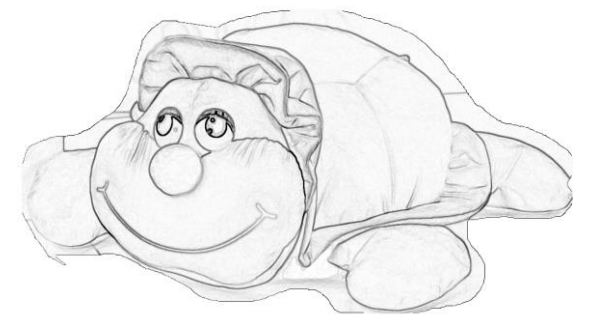
“Can I ask someone to help me in this?”

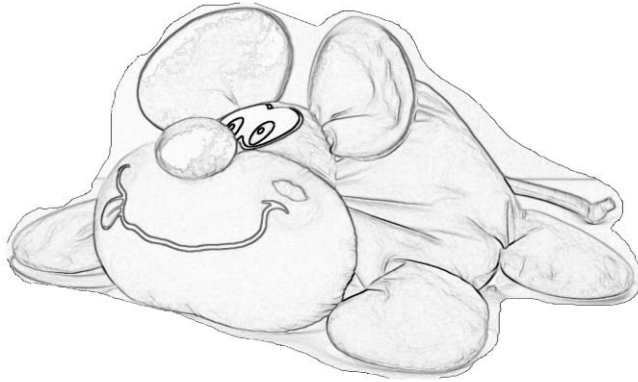
Very patiently, Ms Warda answered his questions. She explained carefully, giving him different examples of what he could do.

“You could write a short story, or perhaps, you could ask your grandma to talk to you about Lelluxa Valley as it was years ago. When Geru understood what he had to do, he went home singing happily!

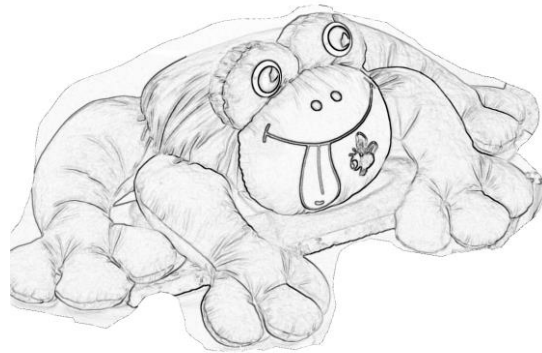
After he drank some milk and ate a sandwich, he went to his room. His room was very tidy, as he liked to keep everything in order. Geru liked to start his homework straightaway. So he went to his grandmother and asked her to help him. She talked to him about Lelluxa Valley in olden times. I wonder what Geru is going to do!

Fina was different from Geru. She likes to read and write. When she arrived home from school, Fina asked her mother to take her to the library of Lelluxa Valley, which was full of books. Some of the books were very old. They were torn and covered in dust. However, the new books had a very pleasant smell and, when Fina opened them, she was delighted to see the beautiful pictures. She spent hours reading one book after the other. I wonder what Fina will come up with?





Faru was different from Geru and also from Fina. What can you remember about Faru? Although Faru doesn't like to read and write, he didn't give up! As soon as he arrived at the hole where he lived, he sat down quietly for a long time, thinking about this project. He went to his favourite friend, the Cheese, and went inside to work quietly. As you can imagine, he carried all his tools with him: hammer, saw, pliers, paintbrush and all! His mother heard him hammering away. I wonder what Faru will come up with?



Zringi was different from Geru , Fina and Faru. Zringi liked to come up with exciting new ideas which were different from those of her classmates! On her way home, she thought of many interesting ideas, but she couldn't settle for one of them. She kept changing her mind and thinking:" that's it! I will draw a picture of trees and flowers in the valley with my poster colours. No... that won't do. I'll find some pictures on dad's computer..." and she went on like this until she got home. Her friends laughed at her when they saw her talking to herself, but Zringi didn't even notice them at all! She went to her room and got the camera which she had got as a birthday present as she was planning to take some photos. Then, she went home and drew some colourful pictures of trees and flowers growing in the valley. I wonder what Zringi is up to!

The weekend passed quickly and on Monday morning, the children went to school. They went to their class and sat down. Ms Warda noticed their smiling faces and said: "you look very happy today – let me see what you have done."

Geru brought out the old photos which his grandmother had given him. He went out in front of the class and told them the stories which his grandmother had told him, while showing them the photographs, one after the other. The children really enjoyed the funny incident when Geru's grandfather fell right into the pond in the middle of the valley! He was soaked to the skin! When Geru's presentation was over, his classmates clapped their hands enthusiastically.

Fina brought the nicest books from the library and showed them to the children. She showed them the most beautiful pictures. On her homework copybook, she had also written some information which she had learnt from the books, and rightly so! As we all know, Fina likes to write. She read out the information to her friends. She gave them details of how big Lelluxa Valley is, the various types of flowers living there, and also about the number of flies, bees and spiders. Her friends listened to her attentively and then clapped their hands in approval.

Zringi was very impatient to start her own presentation that she could hardly sit still! She was eager to show all the others what she had done. When her turn finally came, she showed her friends the picture she had drawn, with pride shining in her eyes. It was a very colourful picture, and it was painted beautifully. However, this wasn't all. She took out three glass jars. The first jar was filled with water from the puddle in Lelluxa Valley. The second jar was filled with soil, and the third jar was filled with the scent of flowers growing in the valley! When she opened the jar, the classroom filled with the lovely scent of flowers! The children started clapping happily.

It was now Faru's turn to show what he had done. He had built a tree out of wood and plasticine. He had then painted it, and it looked beautiful. The other children were amazed at Faru's skill! Even though Faru didn't like to write, he had painted the word 'tree' in red. Well done Faru! His friends applauded him too!

Ms Warda was extremely proud of her students. "You see", she told them, "even though you all did different things, they were all beautiful! I'm glad you have all done different things, so when I'll hang them up on the wall, they will look very nice. I'm sure they wouldn't look so nice if you had all done the same thing!"