

The Little Gnome Who Had to Stay Home
Susan Perrow - March 2020

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Illustrated by UmaLu

Little gnome was confused. Why did he have to stay home? Didn't everyone know how little gnomes love to roam! He couldn't go to gnome school, he couldn't play with his friends in the forest, and his friends couldn't visit him.

Little gnome was stuck in his tree-root home.

At least he could look out his window through the rocks and the tree roots. He was surprised that there was so much to see. Little ants were scurrying by, brightly coloured beetles were climbing up and down the fallen leaves and flopy eared rabbits were hopping in and out their burrows.

But even with all these things to watch, little gnome was growing impatient. Why did he have to keep on staying home? It didn't make sense to him why he could not roam.



Then Mother Tree whispered to him:

'Things are not as they used to be - but trust

me -soon you will be free
trust me, trust me.'

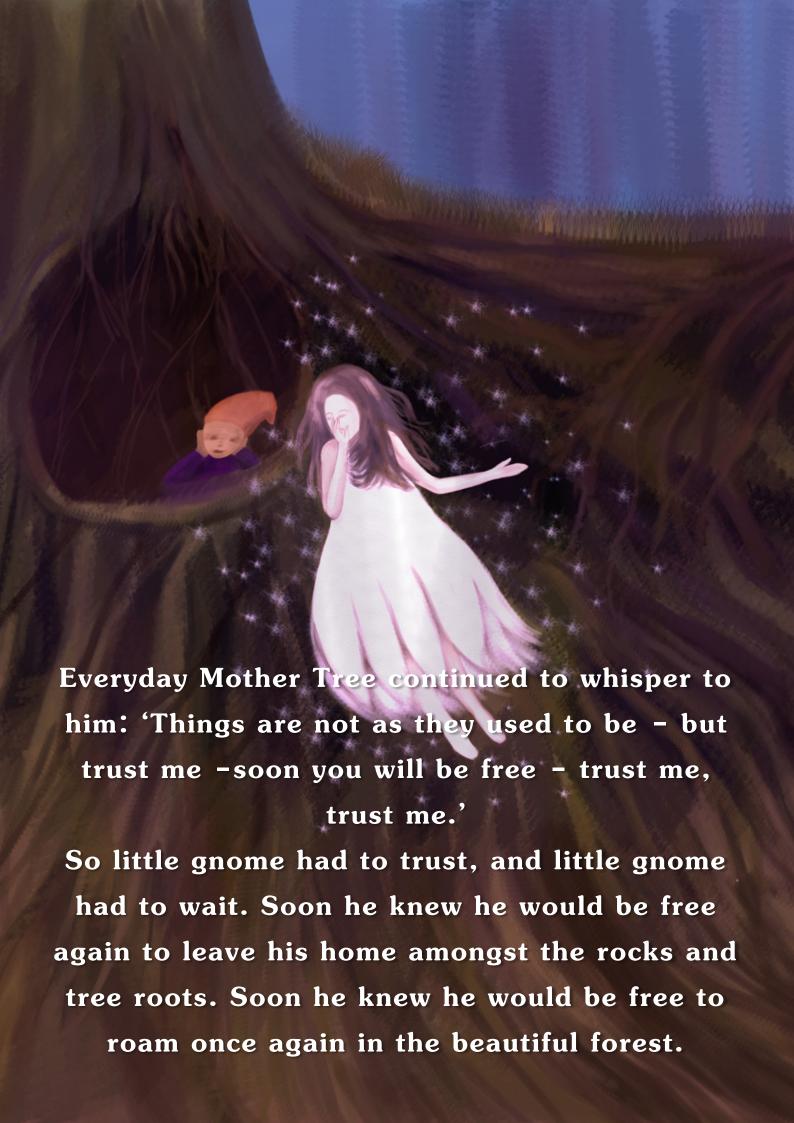
Little gnome knew in his heart that he could always trust Mother Tree. Mother tree was as wise as wise could be. Mother Tree carried the wisdom of the whole forest!

Mother Tree knew all about everything. The birds and the wind were her friends and messengers. They visited her every day sharing the news of the big wide world.

Little gnome could hear when the birds came by. He could hear them singing high up in the branches of Mother Tree.

Little gnome could see when the wind was visiting.

He could see the branches swaying this way and that. He sometimes had to close his window to keep out the leaves and dust stirred up by this busy friend!





Little gnome can dance
Little gnome can sing
Little gnome can clean and cook
And curl up with a picture book.

Little	gnome	can	dance
Little	gnome	can	sing
Little	gnome	can	
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And

Little gnome can dance
Little gnome can sing
Little gnome can

And

This story was written for use with young children (suggested ages 3-7 years) who are required to stay home during the current C-19 pandemic, or who have had their freedom severely modified (e.g. perhaps they can attend school but can't attend special assemblies, festivals, parties or events).

The song at the end has been left open for teachers and parents to create more verses with ideas from the children. The story can be changed/edited to suit different situations — e.g. mother tree could be father tree or grand-mother or grandfather tree, or you may want to omit the part about 'gnome school'. The main character could also be changed (e.g. instead of using a gnome the story could be about a mouse stuck in his little house, or a bird that must stay and rest in the nest).

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