

Episode 4

A previous story



Ray and Mayu are good friends.

They are 11 years old. They live next door to each other.

They go to school with Ray's brother, Joe. Joe is 9 years old.



One day, Ray and Joe find a cat. His name is Toro.
They like Toro very much.
Mayu plans to ask her mom if she can keep him as a pet.
He is a very special cat. He can talk!

Episode 5

The Same Cat?



Mayu, Ray and Joe go into the house. Mayu asks her mother, Machi. “Can I keep the cat? He is very smart. He can speak English.”



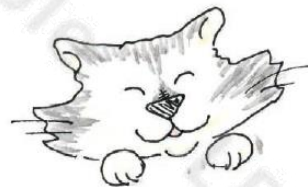
“Wow! He is big. He is pretty.
He is just like the cat I had when I was a child.”



“Yes, that was me!”
Toro says in a small voice.



Meow ~~~



The children are very surprised and look at each other.

“Did you hear that?” Mayu says to Ray,
“Yes, yes!” he answers.



Mayu’s mother says,
“What do you mean? He just meowed!”

Episode 6

A new pet



Toro is now Mayu's new pet.

Ray and Joe come and play with them every day.

Toro answers every question they ask.



“How old are you?” “I am 28 years old now.”

“What food do you like?”



Just then,
Machi brings a piece of cheese
and asks Toro, “Do you like cheese?”
“Meow, (of course!)” he answers.



“I knew it!” Machi says.
“My pet cat liked cheese, too.”
“Really? You never told me about your pet.”
says Mayu.



“One day he was gone and he never came back. I was very sad and I never wanted to think about him again.”

“Meow,” says Toro, and the children hear him say, “I am sorry.”

Episode 7

A summer day



Ray and Joe are brothers. Mayu lives next door.

Mayu has a little sister. Her name is Yumi. Yumi is 4 years old.

It is the summer holiday. They play outside.



They want to play soccer.

“Let’s go to Takaragaike Park,” says Mayu.

“OK!” say Ray and Joe.

“I want to go, too,” says Yumi.

“You can come with us,”
says Mayu and she holds Yumi’s hand.



They walk to Takaragaike.

Toro, Mayu’s pet cat,
and Lucky, Ray’s pet dog, come along, too.



They play soccer there and have fun.



Later it starts raining.
Soon, it is raining very hard.

Episode 8

A magic tree



The children are all wet.
They hide under a big tree in the park.



Yumi finds a hole in the tree.
It is wide and deep.



“Let’s go inside. It’s fun,” says Joe.

“No, no. I am scared. Let’s go home.”

says Yumi. Ray looks in and says

“I think we can all fit in there.”



Toro suddenly says,

“This is where I am from.”



“What do you mean? Are you from this tree?” asks Mayu.

“Well, not really,” pauses Toro.

“I am from the past. I travelled from 25 years ago through this magic tree.” “Bow, wow,” Lucky barks.

Episode 9

To the past



Toro shows everyone how to get into the hole.

Ray is right. The hole is big and they can all fit there.



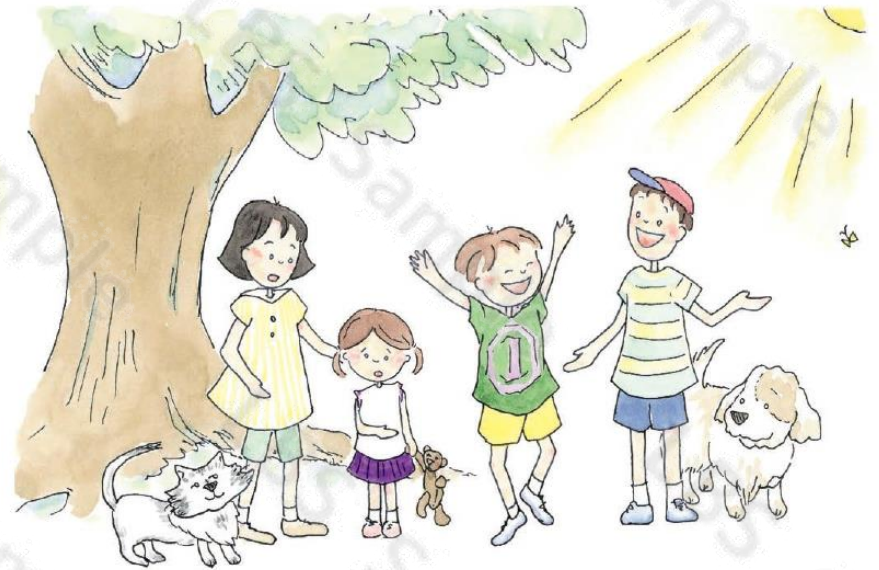
The hole is leading them deeper and deeper. It is like a giant slide.



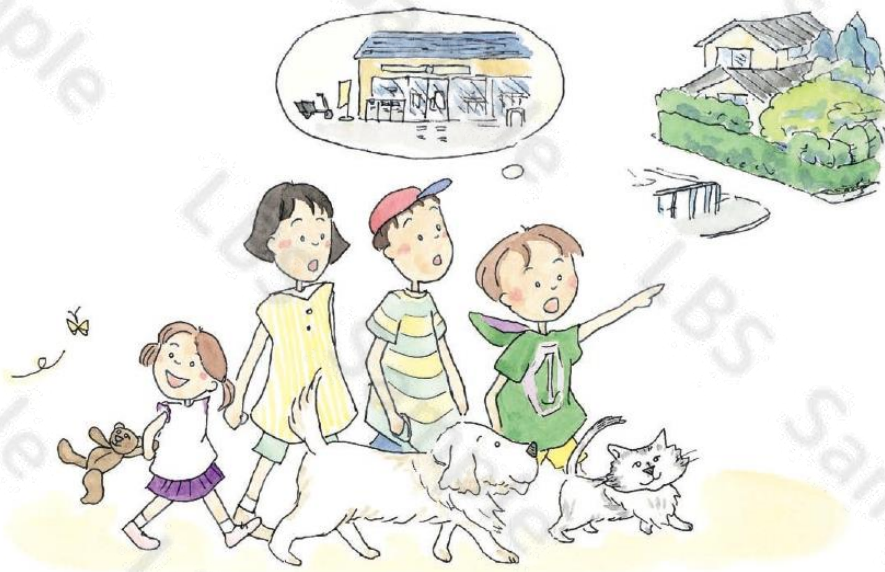
“Yay!” says Ray. “I like it!” Mayu shouts as she slides down.
The children all like it.



When they get to the bottom,
they get out of the same tree.
“Are we back?” Mayu asks.
“Yes. This is Takaragaike Park,”
answers Ray.



“It’s not raining,” Joe says.
Yumi is very tired and hungry.
She says, “I want to go home.”



The children, the cat and the dog start walking towards their homes.

“This looks strange,” says Joe.

“I don’t see the convenience store on the corner.”



Mayu says,

“I see a post office there. It’s the same.”

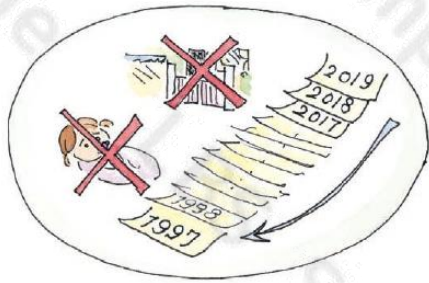
“Wait! Look at that telephone box there. It wasn’t there before.”





Toro points to the house and says,
“That’s my house over there.”

Yumi says, “No way! That’s where our house is.”



“Yes. But it is 25 years ago.
Your house is not here.”



“You are not born yet.”

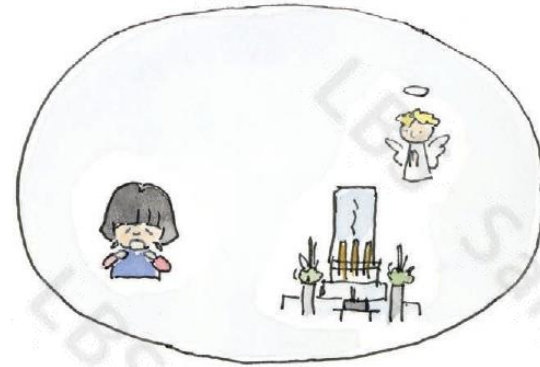
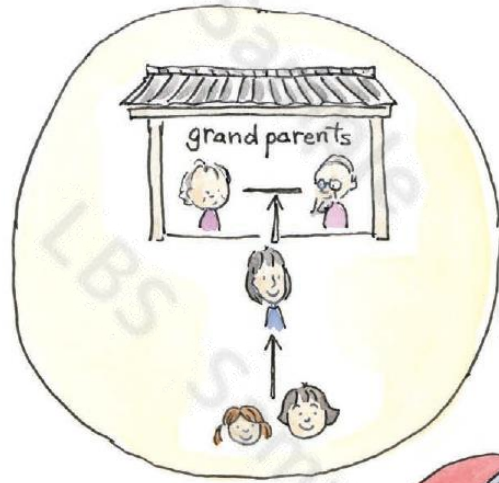
The children all look at each other and Joe asks,
“How about me?” Toro just shakes his head.

Episode 10

An old house



Children stand in front of the house. It's very big.
Mayu says, "I remember this house.
This is my mom's old house. I saw the picture."



Ray asks, "Do you mean this is your grandparents' house?"
Mayu answers, "I think so. But I never met my grandmother.
My grandmother died when my mother was 10 years old."



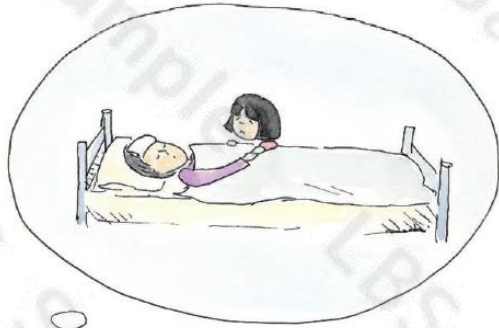
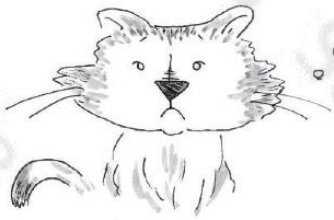
Joe says,
“Let’s go in the house and see who lives there.”
“I am hungry,” says Yumi.



Toro stops the children.
“We don’t want to scare anyone.
Let’s go to the backyard and see if
anyone is home.”



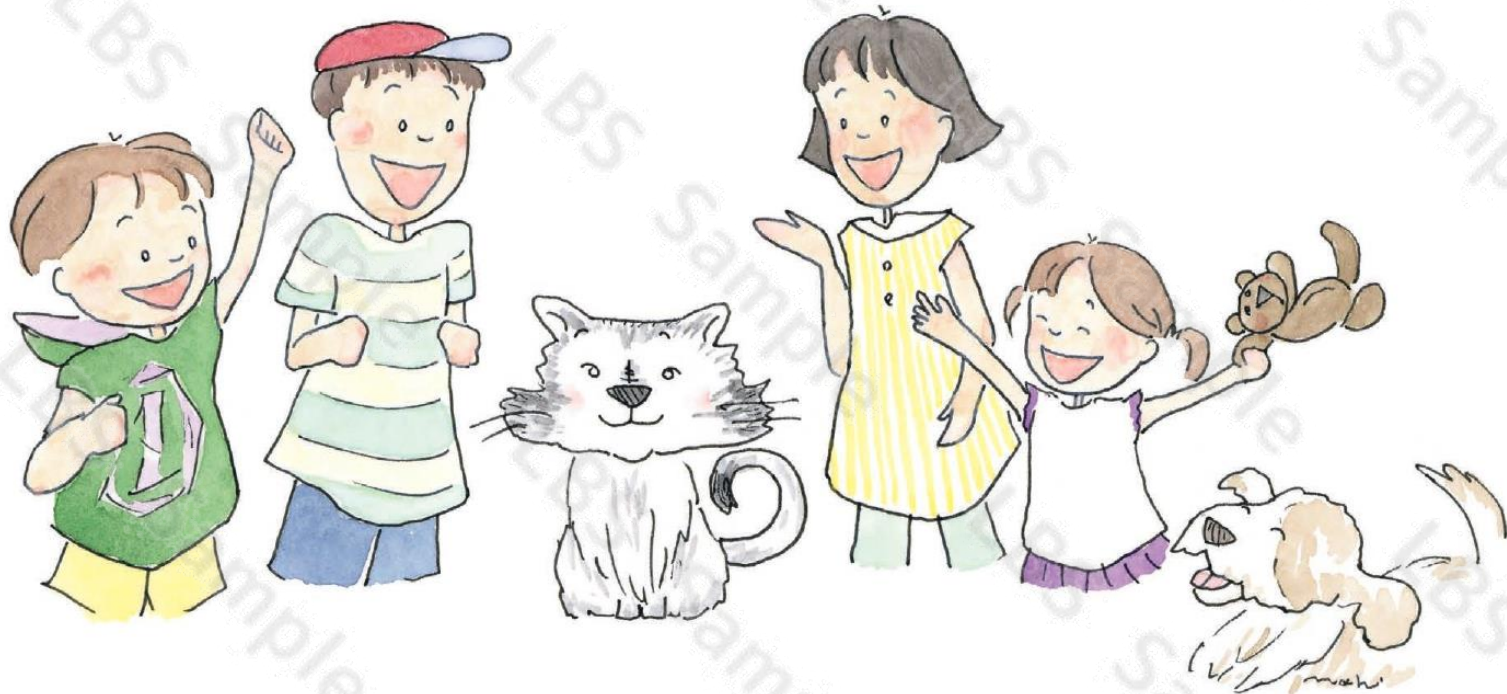
From the backyard by the window, they see a girl sitting alone crying. She looks like Mayu a lot. “Do you know her?” Joe asks Toro. Toro says nothing but nods. “She is crying!” shouts Yumi. Everyone says, “Shhhhhhh!”



Toro says in a very quiet voice.
“Her mother was very sick and she died.”



“Is that why she is crying?” asks Ray.
“Well, she must miss me, too.
I am her pet cat.”



“Toro! You are back now! She will be happy. Let’s go inside.”
The children all get excited.

Episode 11

Meeting Machi



The children ring the door bell and the girl comes out.
She sees Toro and shouts for joy.

“Toro! You are back! I looked for you everywhere.”



“I thought you left me like my mom.”
She holds him up and hugs him tightly.
All that the children hear is his “meow.”



“Toro? Can’t you speak now?”
The children look at him with surprise.
Toro just winks at them saying nothing.



“We are here to bring your cat back,” says Mayu.

“Yes. That’s right,” says Ray.

“He came to our world and now he is back.”



“Thank you so much,” says the girl.
“My name is Machi. I live here.
Do you live near my house?”



“Yes. I mean, not now,” say Ray and Joe.
“But sometime in the future.”



Mayu simply says,
“I’m glad that you stopped crying.”



Yumi says,
“I want to go home. I am hungry.”
Lucky just barks happily.



“Good bye! We will see you again.”
The children leave Machi and Toro.



“Definitely,” Mayu thinks.

Episode 12

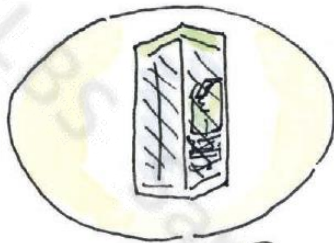
Home again



The children walk back to Takaragaike Park and find the tree.



It is easy to slide down the hole this time.
They get out of the tree.



As they go home, Mayu says, "I see the convenience store here, but no more telephone box. We are back!"



When they get back home, Ray says, “What a fun day we had!”
He waves good-bye and goes home with Joe and Lucky.
Mayu holds Yumi’s hand and enters her house.



Their mother is at home cooking
in the kitchen.
They smell curry.
“I am hungry,” Yumi says again.



Their mother asks,
“Did you have fun playing in the park?”
Mayu answers,
“You can’t guess what a day we had today!”



Mayu asks her mother a question.

“Mom. Did you have a pet cat when you were a child?”

She answers, “Yes, I had a very big cute cat.

He was my best friend. He was always with me when I was happy or sad.

He died of old age just before you were born, Mayu.”



“What was his name?” asks Mayu.



“His name was Toro.”

~ The End ~