

The Baby Snake and the Baby Mouse





Million word gap project

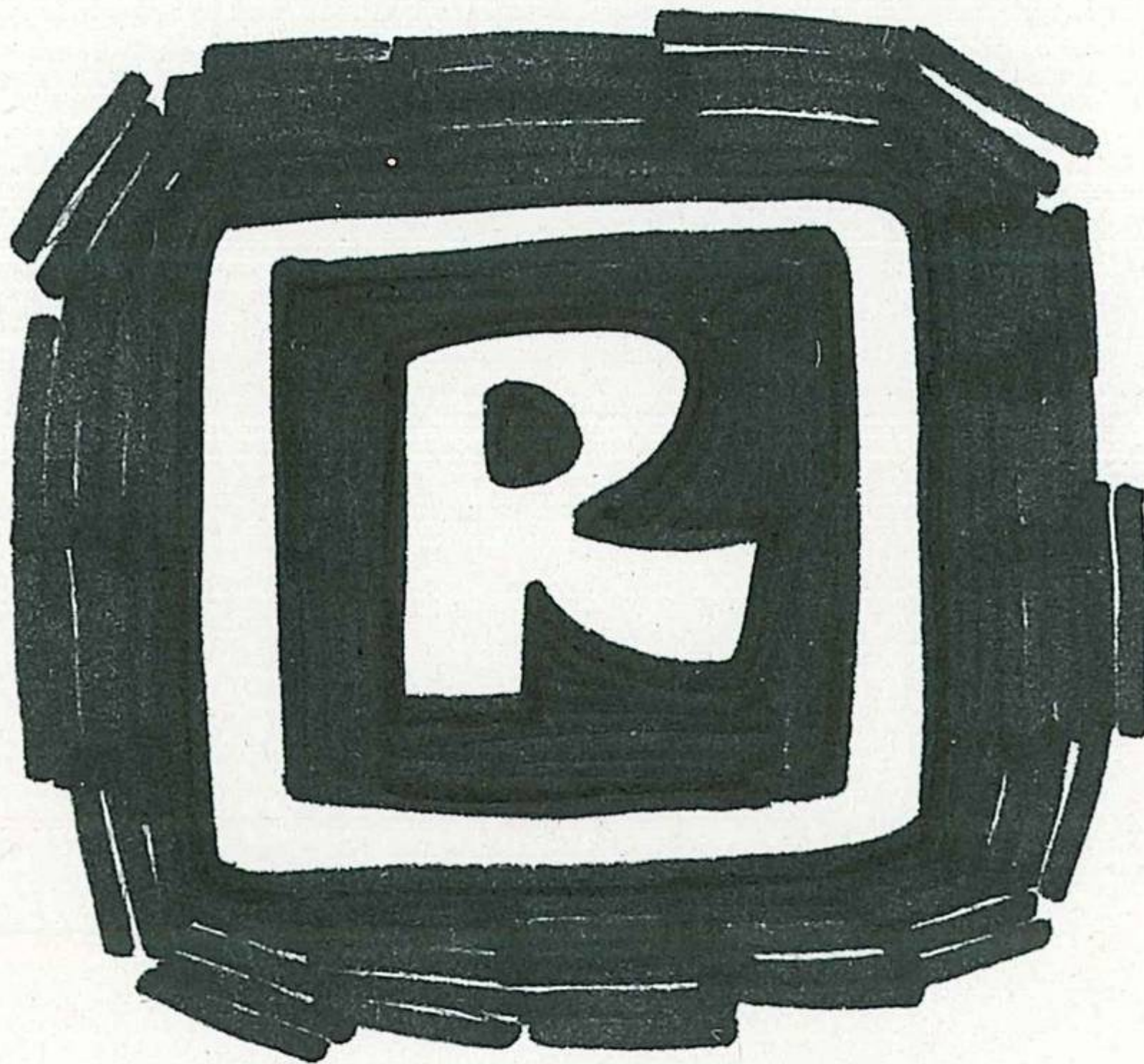
Children whose parents read to them have heard 30 million more words before they start school. Help your children prepare for school.

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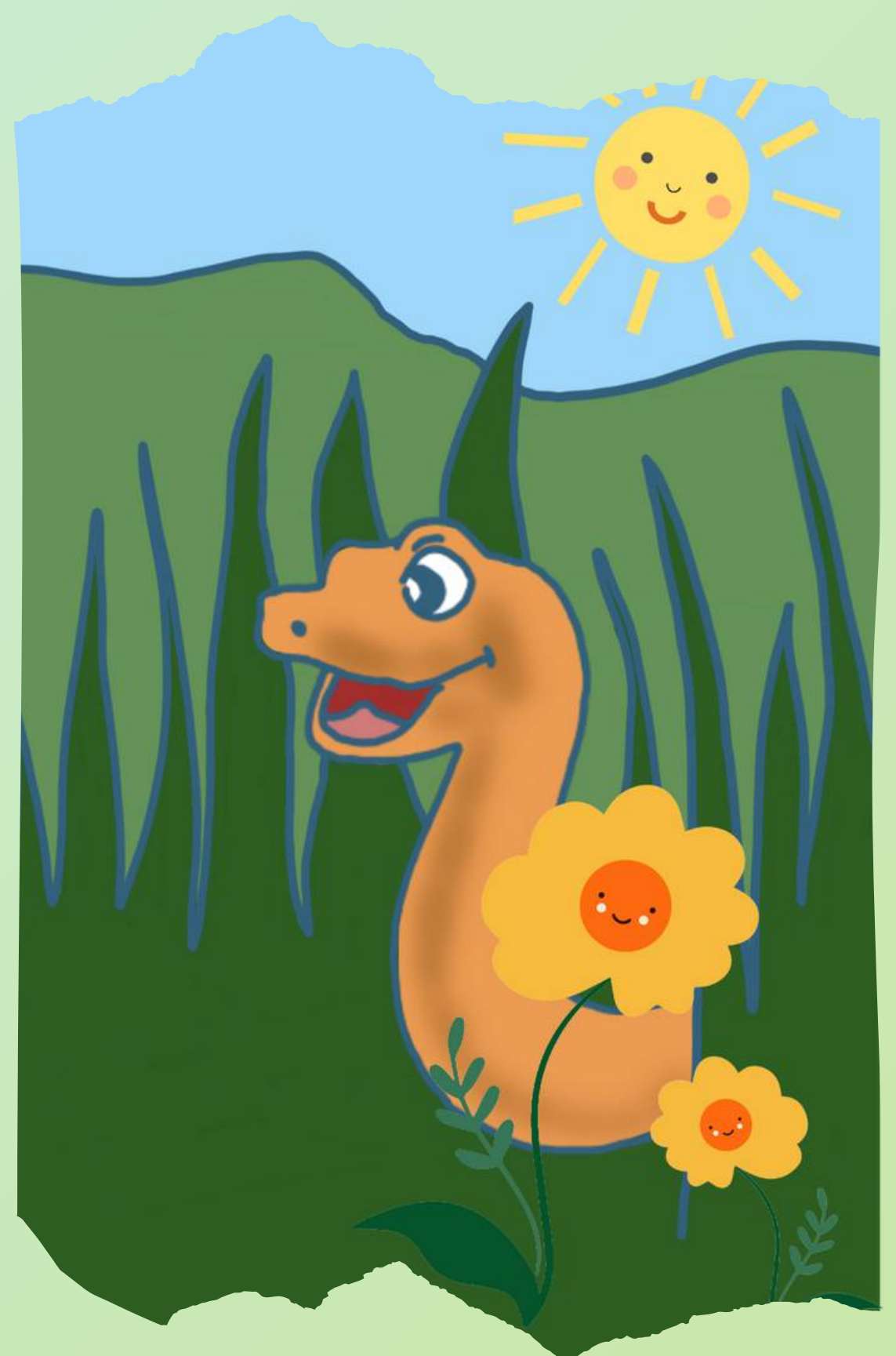
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Once upon a time, in a warm, sunny field in Africa, there lived a baby snake named Sefu and a baby mouse named Nia.

Sefu and Nia were very different, but they had one thing in common: they were both very curious about the world around them.



One sunny morning, Sefu was slithering through the tall grass, looking for something fun to do. He loved to explore, but sometimes the other animals were afraid of him because they thought he might bite. Sefu was just a baby, and he didn't want to scare anyone.



At the same time, Nia, the little mouse, was hopping and skipping along the ground, nibbling on seeds. Nia was a friendly mouse, and she always liked to say "hello" to everyone she met. But when she saw Sefu, she stopped in her tracks.

"Oh no!" Nia thought. "A snake! I must run away!"



But just as Nia was about to scamper off, Sefu called out gently, "Please don't run, little mouse. I'm not here to hurt you. I'm just looking for a friend."



Nia turned around and looked at Sefu with wide eyes. She was surprised. A snake wanting to be friends? That was something she had never heard of before.

"Really?" Nia asked. "You don't want to eat me?"

Sefu smiled a little. "No, I don't eat mice. I'm just a baby snake. I want to learn about the world, just like you."

Nia thought for a moment. She had always been told that snakes were scary, but this little snake seemed kind and friendly. "Okay," Nia said, "but only if we can play together!"

And so, Sefu and Nia began to play. They slid through the tall grass, raced along the dirt paths, and made funny shapes in the sand.

They laughed and laughed, having so much fun together.

They shared stories, and Nia told Sefu all about the best places to find food, while Sefu showed Nia how to slide like a snake.





As the sun began to set, Sefu and Nia sat down under a big baobab tree.

"I'm glad we met," said Sefu, feeling happy.
"I didn't know that mice could be so kind."

Nia smiled and said, "And I didn't know that snakes could be so friendly!"

From that day on, Sefu the baby snake and Nia the baby mouse were best friends. They learned that no matter how different you are, you can always find a way to be kind and make friends with others. And they spent their days playing and exploring, knowing that true friendship is the greatest treasure of all.

