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For Linus and Verity

-Aunt Cathy

For Connor, this one's for you.

-Mike



THE little THINGS IN LIFE

Simple Reflections from the Hundred-Acre Wood





"Hello, new day.

It's lovely to meet you!"

Every new morning is a gift.

"Up, down, touch the ground . . . I wonder what's for breakfast?"



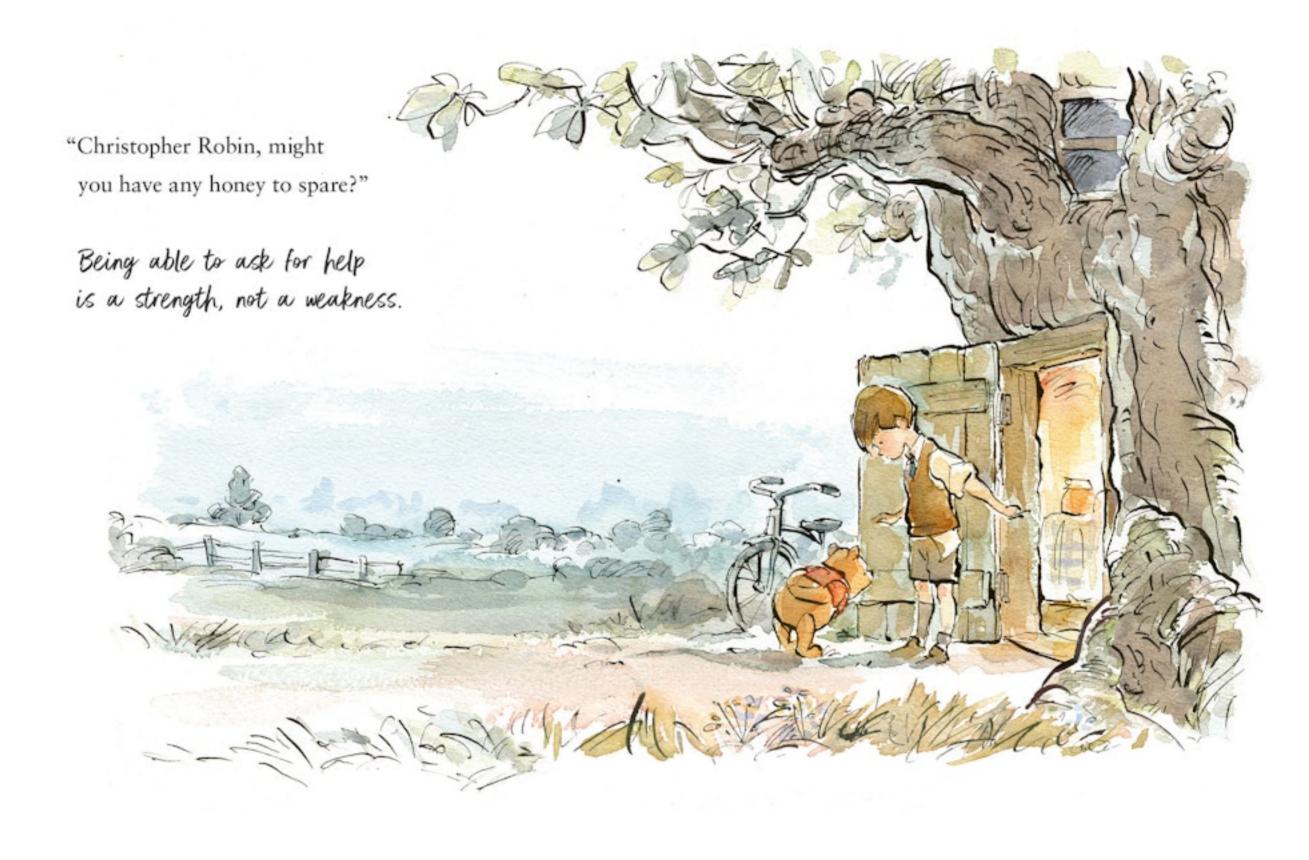
looking forward to something pleasant can be pleasant in itself.



"Oh, dear! Where, oh where, might a hungry bear find a smackerel of honey?"

Why sit at home with an empty belly when a friend might have food to share?





"Now, where could my lucky stone have gone?"



A thing need not be valuable to be precious.



"Don't worry, Christopher Robin."





It's best not to wait . . .



to be asked for help.



Offer it freely . . .

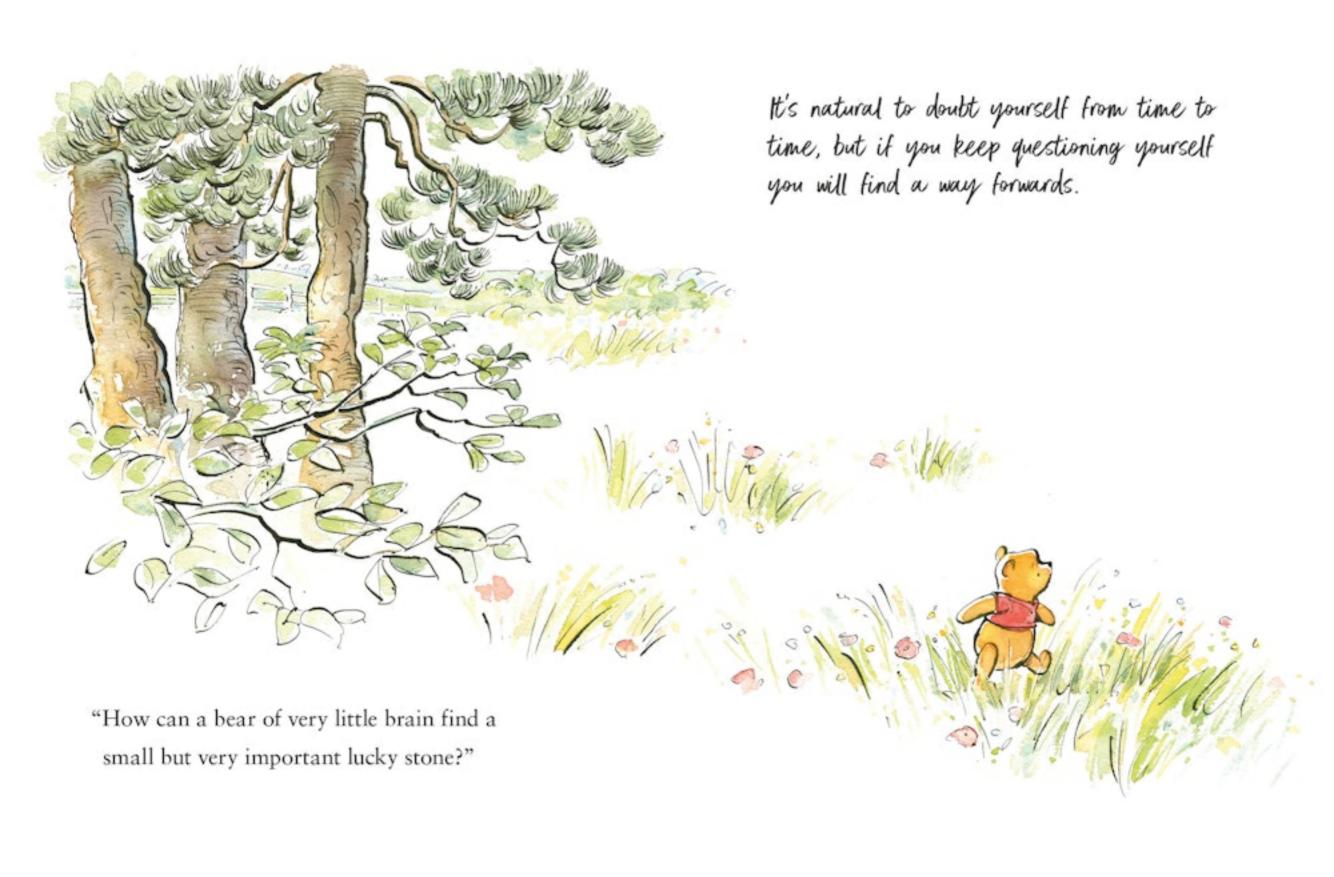


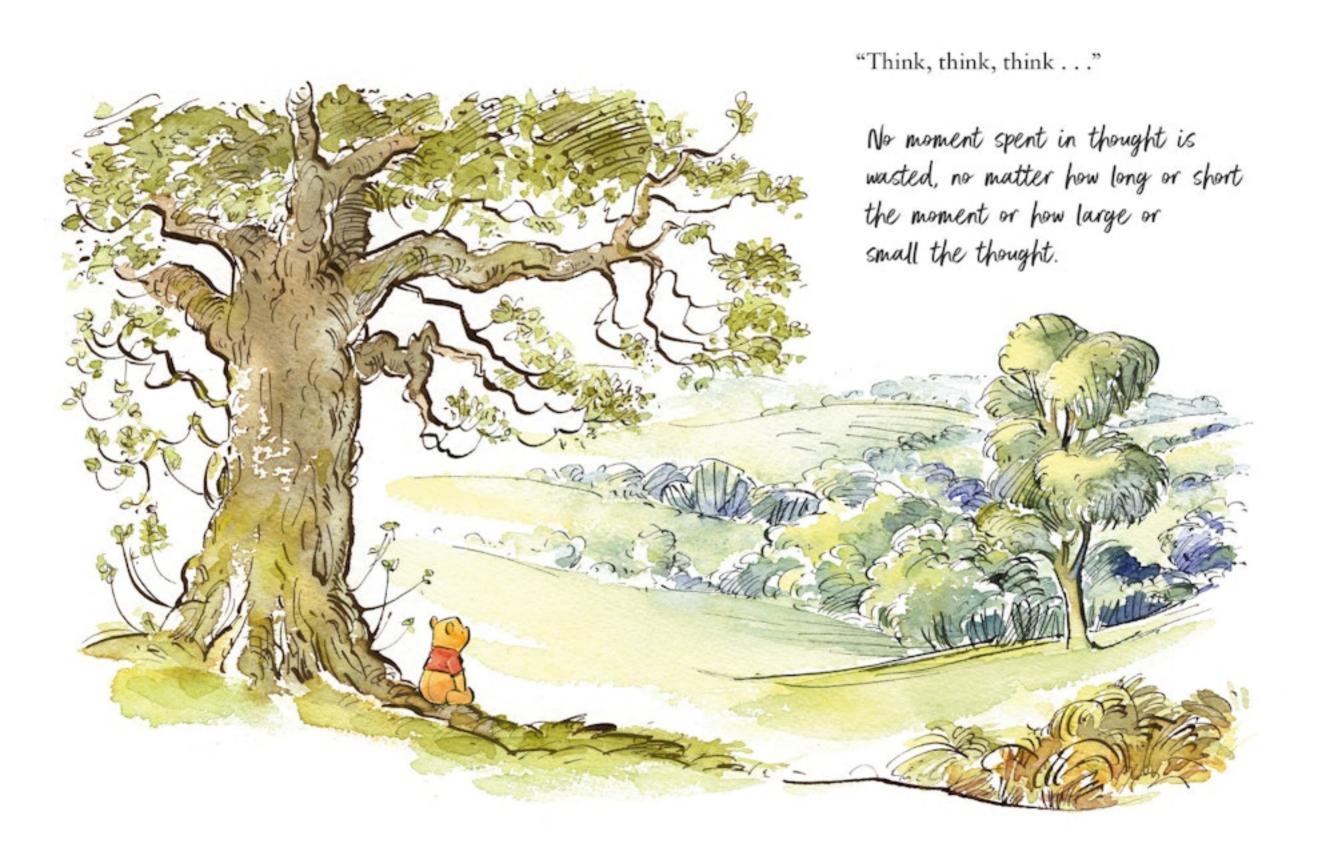
and from the heart.

"It's all right, Pooh Bear. My lucky stone will turn up. Things generally do."



Strive to understand what is meant, not only what is said.

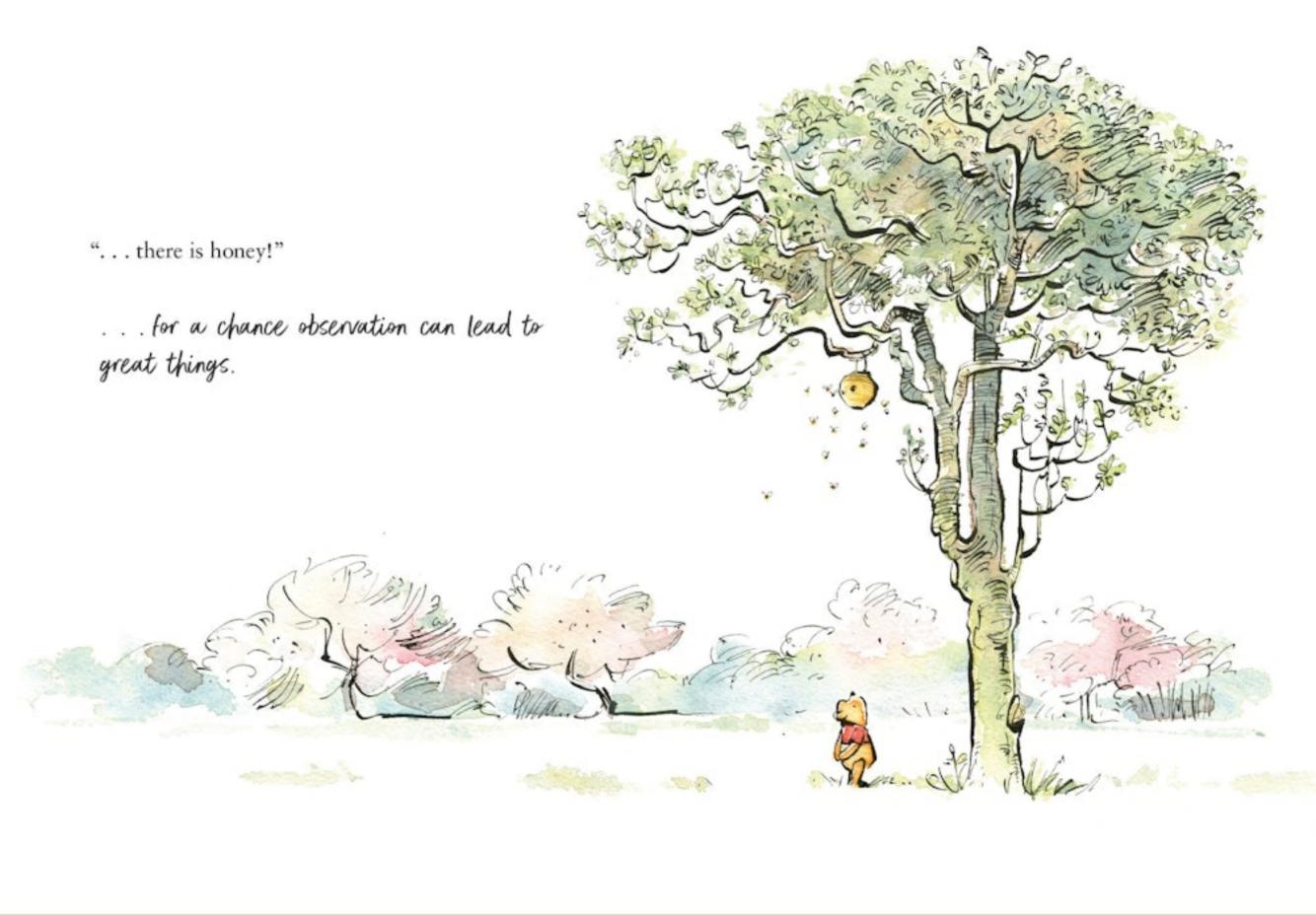




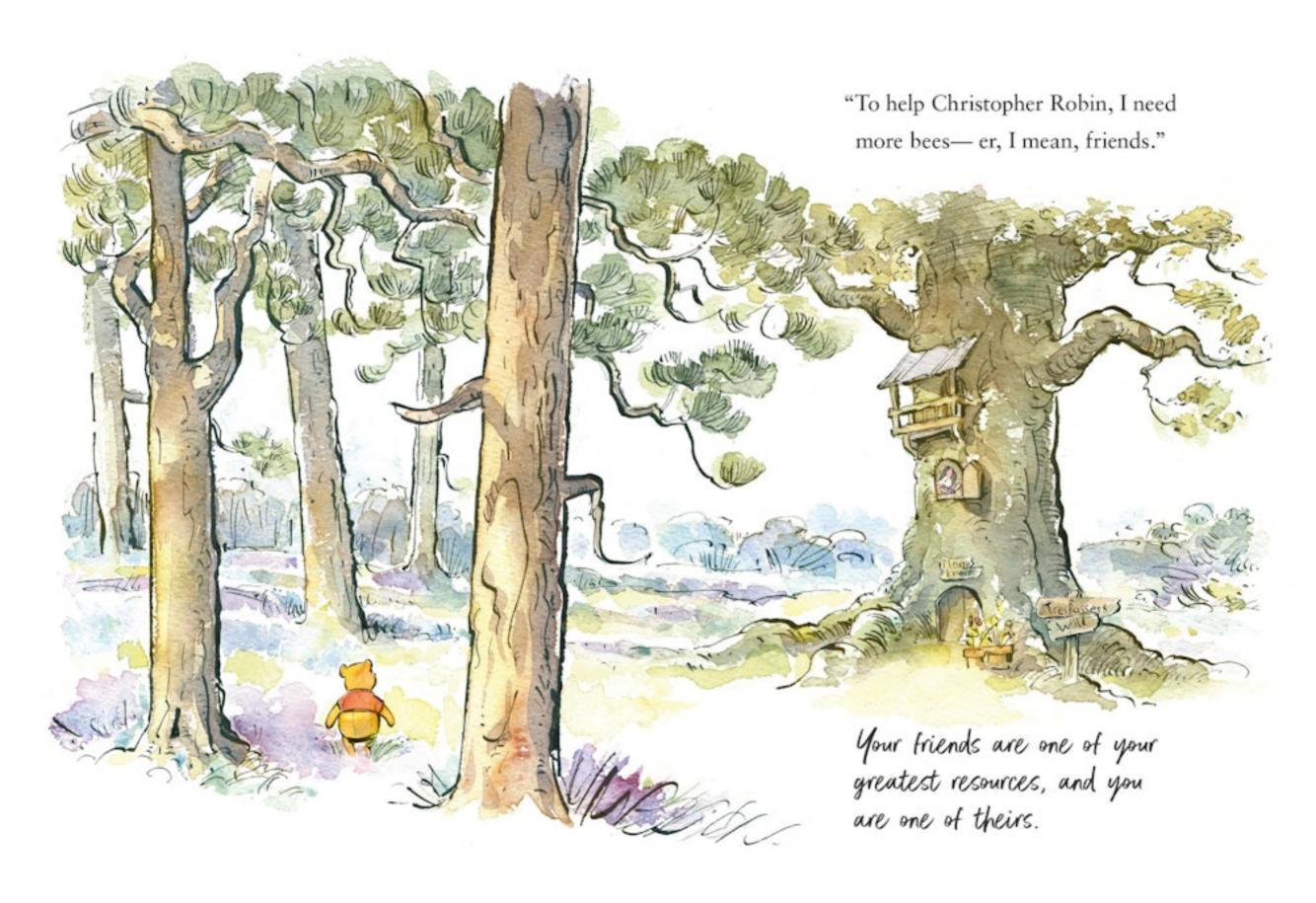
"Where there are bees . . . "



Take time to notice the world around you . . .









"Perhaps a very small friend can help find a very small lucky stone . . ."

"Of course I'll help, Pooh! Sweeping up can wait."

There will always be lots to do - it's up to you to decide what deserves your attention most in any given moment.



Each new moment is an opportunity for a new adventure.

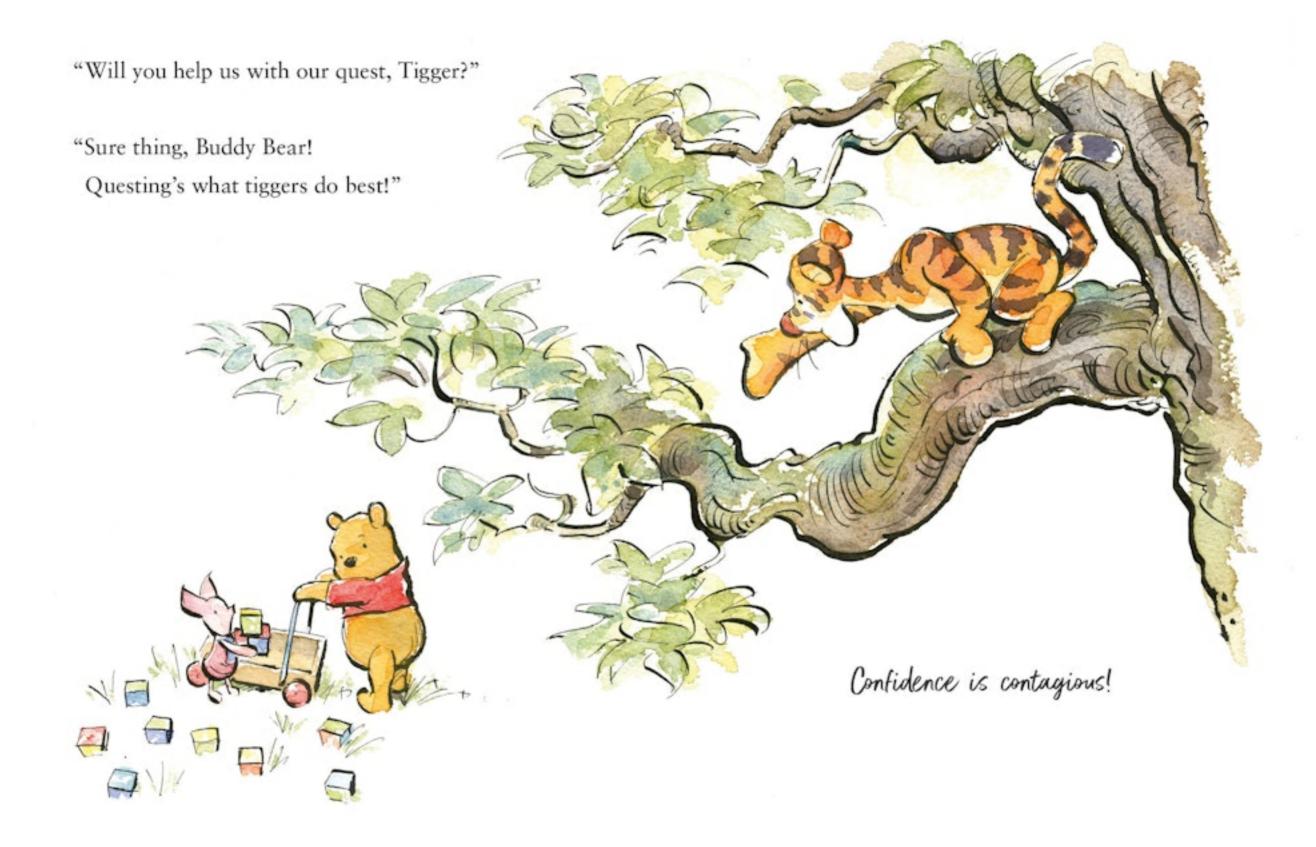
"Oh, d-d-dear, dear. How will we ever find one special stone among so many?"

"I don't know, Piglet. But we have to try."



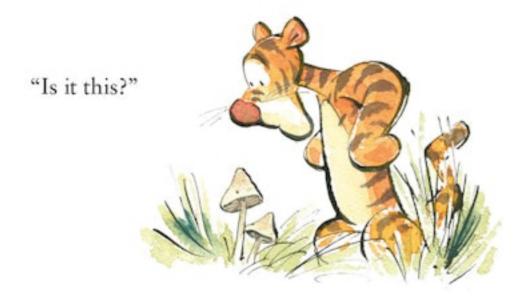
When the task seems overwhelming, focus on the next small step and just keep going, one step at a time.

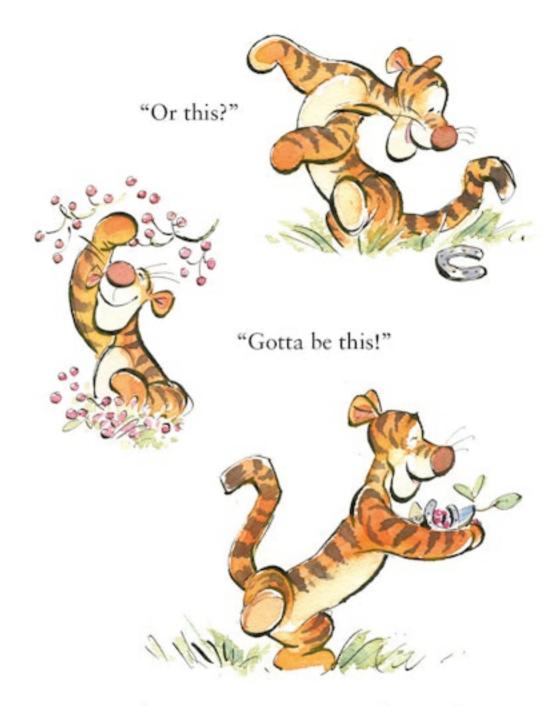






"Christopher Robin lost somethin', huh?"





"If anything is worth doing, do it with all your heart."
-Buddha



Failure is an opportunity to learn, and often leads to future success.



"Oh, d-d-dear. Perhaps this quest is too difficult."

"Can we rest and then try again?"

Find a moment to recharge and take care of your needs, and you're more likely to succeed.

"Tiggers like questin' better than restin'!"

"Everyone has to rest sometime, Tigger."





"Well, almost everyone."

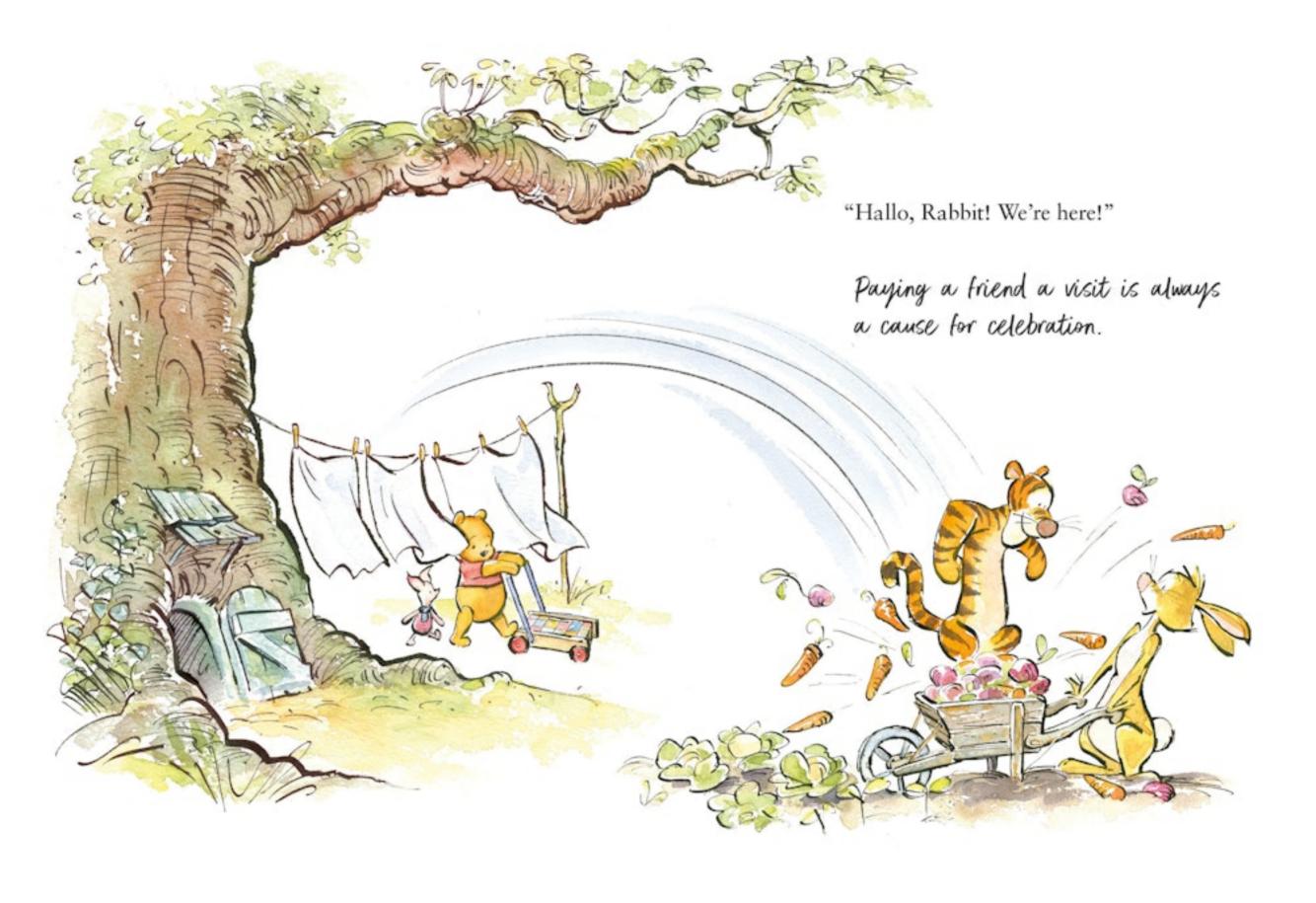
Take a mindful moment to notice what surrounds you.

"All this resting has made me rather hungry."



"I've got an idea, Pooh Boy . . . "

Try not to let obstacles stand in the way of your dreams - they can often be overcome.



"I can see that, Tigger . . . especially as you bounced all my radishes out of the barrow!"



Good friends can be honest with each other.



"We'll find your radishes, Rabbit!"

"Sure we will, Long Ears. We love quests!"



Everyone makes mistakes. Acknowledge where you went wrong, but remember to forgive yourself, too.



"Speaking of quests, Rabbit, will you join ours?"

"I'd like to help, Pooh.



Decisions, decisions . . . Life is full of them.



"We'll help, Rabbit!"







Many hands make light work.











"You're right, Tigger. Rain is fun!"

"Told ya, Pooh Boy.

Fun is what tiggers do best!"

You're never too old to play in puddles!





"Tiggers do not like this much rain!"

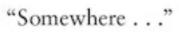
"Oh, d-d-dear.

I wish it would stop."



"I wish we were somewhere else . . . "

Some things in life are out of your control - it's best to focus on what you can change rather than what you can't.





"Nicer."



"Warmer."



"Tastier."



"Toastier."





"Thanks, Owl.

You made our wishes come true!"

"You saved the day, all right, Beak Lips. Marshmallow, anyone?"

"Thanks, Tigger.
I'll have one, please."

"Can I pour you some tea?"

Few things in life are as gratifying as a gathering of good friends.



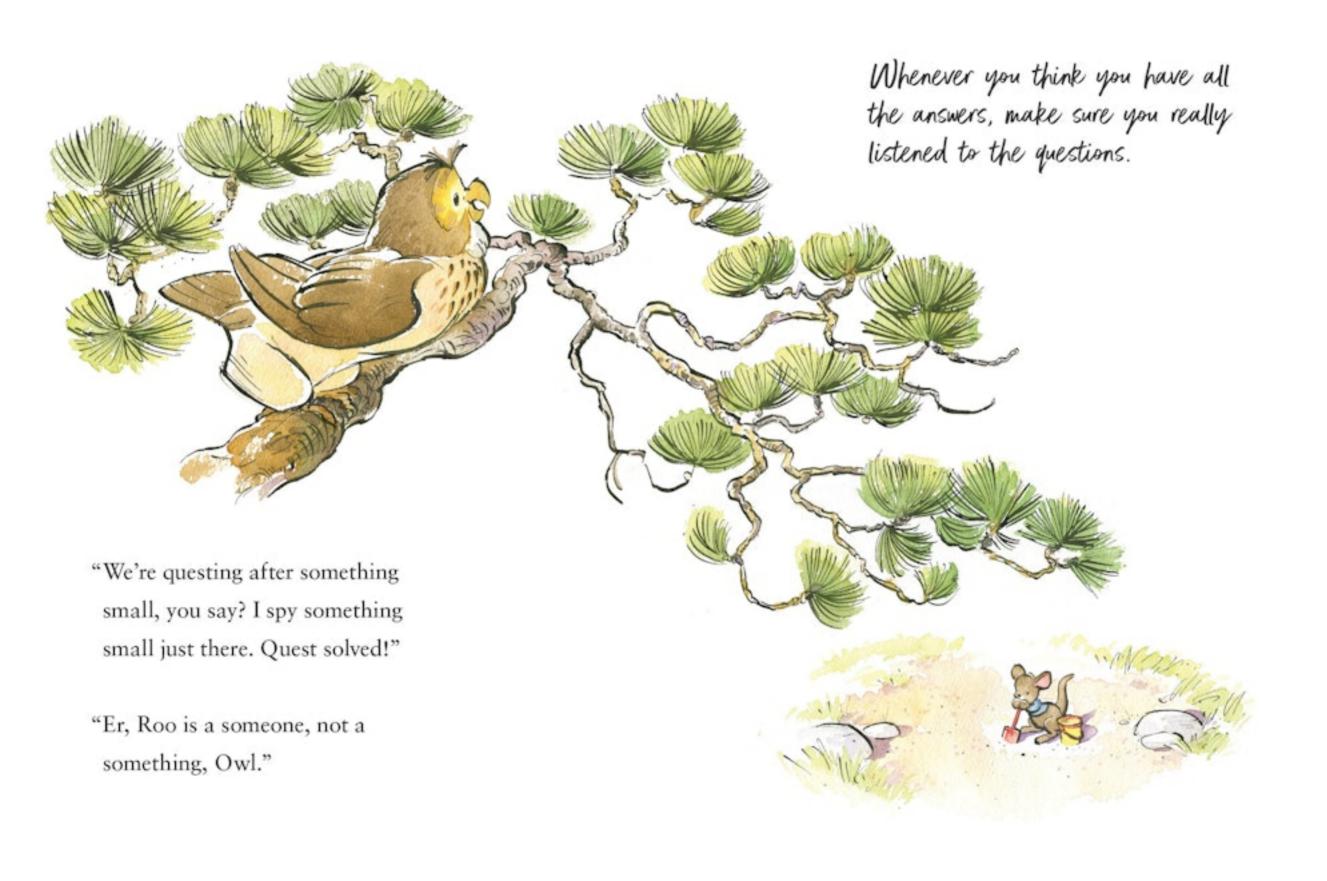
"Is there anything cosier than listening to the sound of rain on the roof, Pooh?"

"Yes, Piglet. Doing the same thing with good friends."



Cherish every day . . . every moment . . . every drop of rain . . . and every friend.



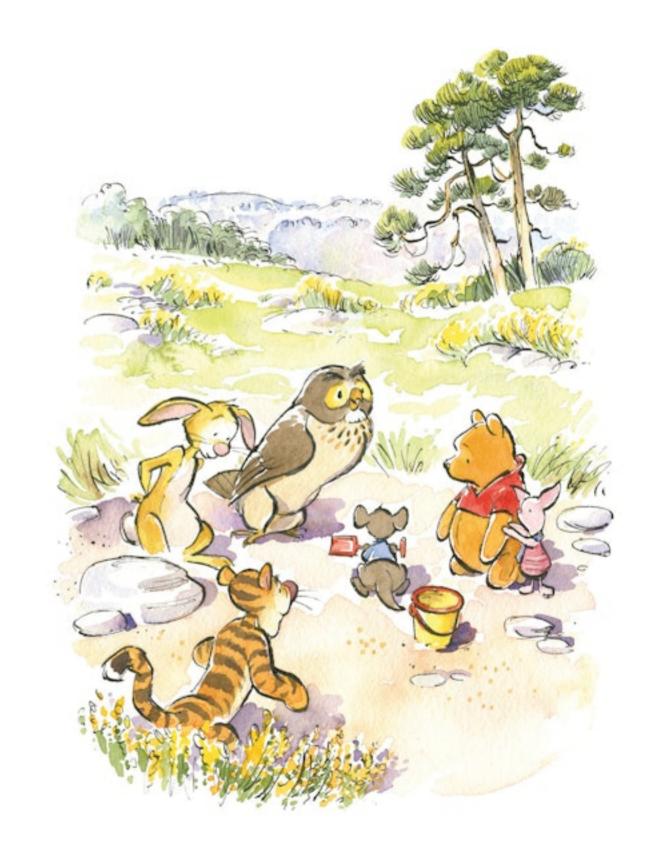


"A quest?
That sounds like fun!"

"Questing is very serious business, young Roo."

"Sure it is, Buddy Bird. But it's fun, too!"

A sprinkling of fun is like a pinch of salt - it can make something good even better.



"Mama, may I go?



Part of growing up is developing your sixth sense: a sense of adventure.

"Be careful, Roo!

And good luck with your quest, everyone!"





It costs nothing to wish someone well.

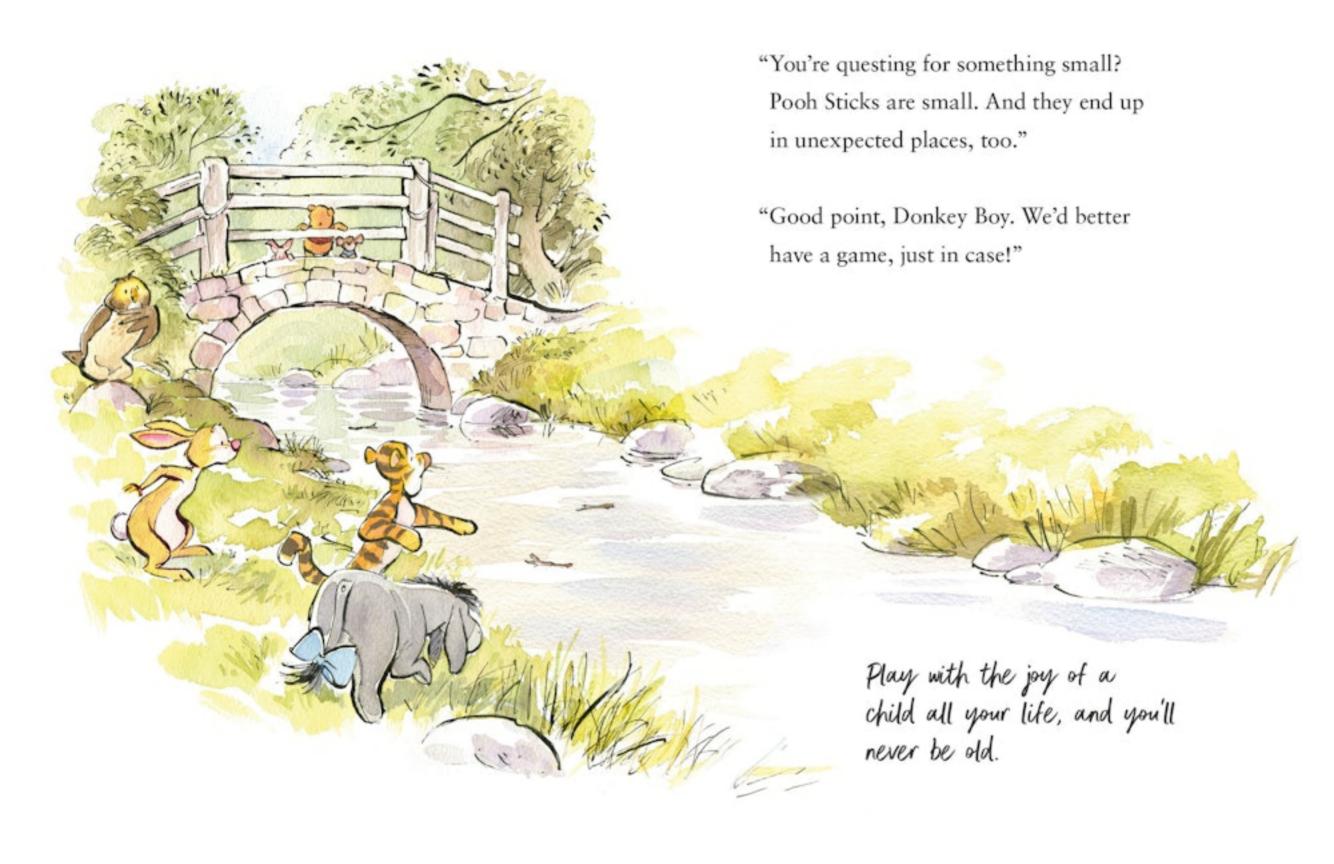


"Look, here's Eeyore! Maybe he can help!"

"Thanks for noticin' me, Roo. Hardly anyone does."

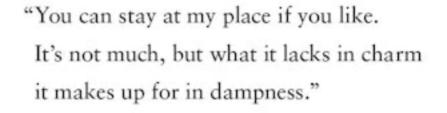


Seeing friends is always a happy occasion. You never know what wonderful memories might be created!





"It's getting dark! Where will we sleep?"





"The hand that gives, gathers."
-British proverb

"Thank you for sharing your house, Eeyore."

"You're welcome, Pooh. It may be a bit cramped, but I will say I've never been warmer."

Avoid hurting others' feelings whenever possible - kindness costs nothing.



"Then again, it might be nearly as lovely to sleep out under the stars."



"Look at that full moon!"

"Full of what, Owl?"

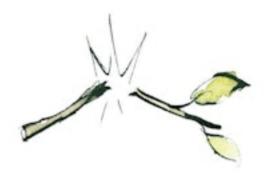
"Er, funny you should ask, Pooh.

I'll have to look that up once I'm back
with my books and learned papers."

Even the wise don't know everything.







"Oh, d-d-dear. Did you hear a sound, Pooh?"

"Yes. Take my hand, Piglet, and perhaps it will feel less scary for both of us." When fears are shared, they can seem less frightening.





"No sense questing on an empty stomach.

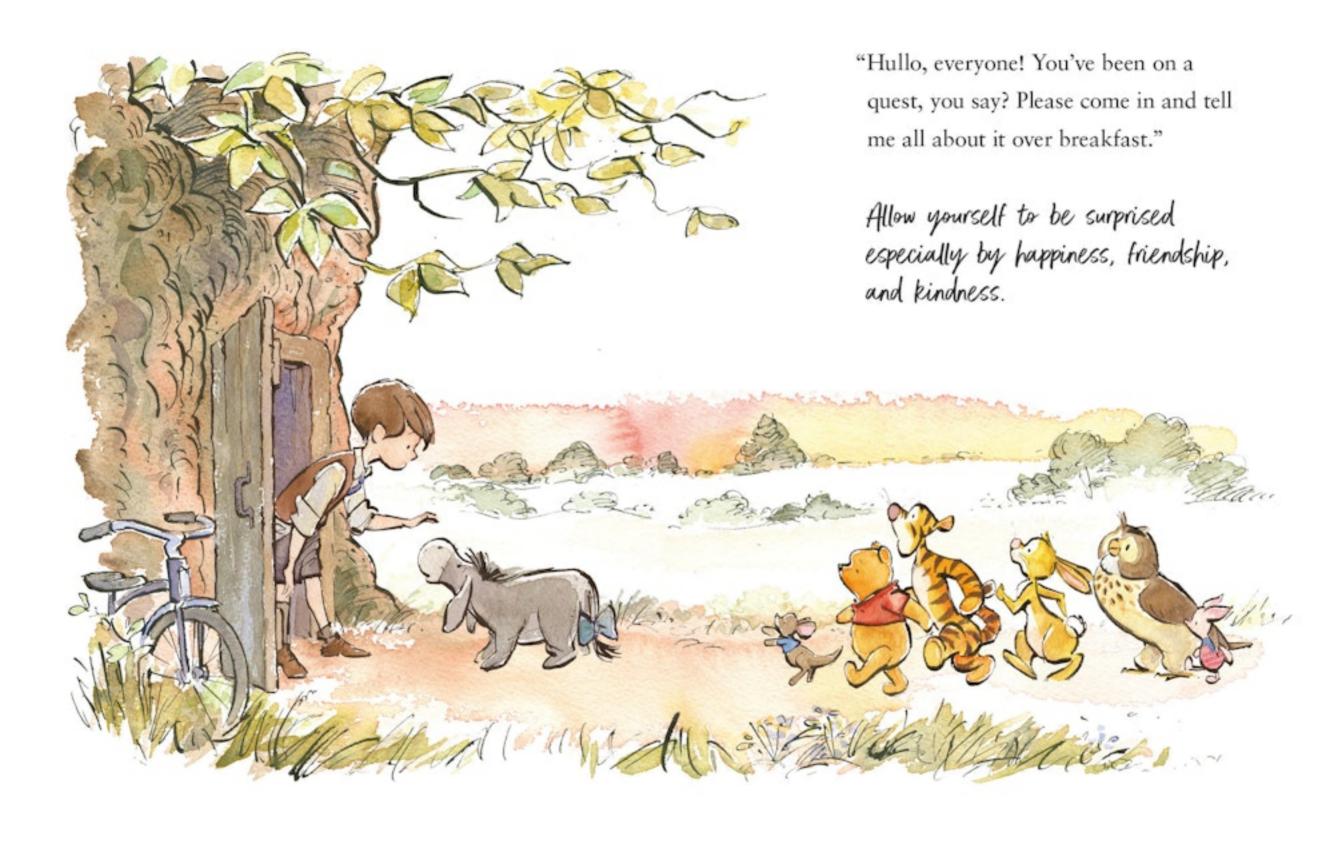
What's for breakfast?"

"All I have is this thistle I was saving for myself. But I s'pose we could share."

"Er, thanks, Eeyore. But I have a better idea. Follow me."



The best things in life are not those you keep, but those you share.



"What a magnificent adventure!

And what wonderful friends for trying to find my lucky stone!"



A memory shines more brightly when it's shared.

"But we didn't find it in the end."

"That's because my lucky stone wasn't really lost, Pooh Bear. When I reached into my pocket this morning, there it was!"

Even when it's difficult, try your best to be truthful with your friends.



"Well, you see, Eeyore, I found this stone on the very same day I first met Pooh Bear. It reminds me how lucky I am to have a friend like Pooh – and all the rest of you, too!"



"Looks like an ordinary stone to me. What's so special about it?" Even the simplest of objects can have great value, not for themselves but for the memories they hold.

"Hooray for lucky stones! And for quests!"

"Even though I had the thing you were questing for all along?"

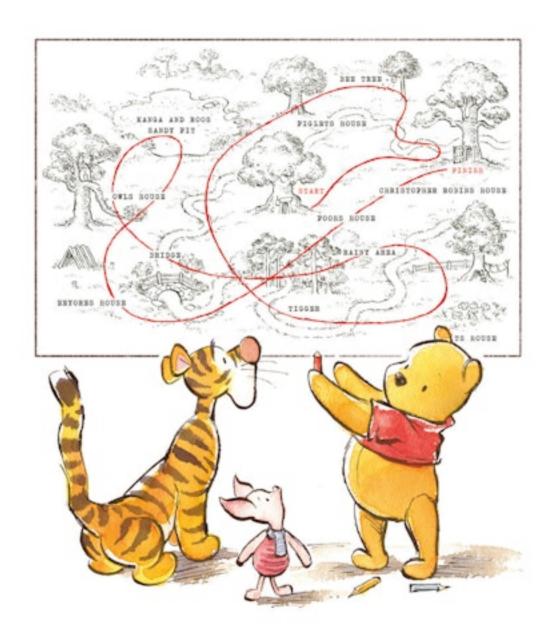




There's no bad excuse for a party!

"True, we weren't sure exactly what we were doing or where we were going, and some difficult things happened. But we had some adventures, and we did it all together."

Allow yourself to be open to the journey, because the journey is the best part.



"But you spent an entire day on the quest!"

"And what more pleasant way to spend a day than with friends, trying to help another friend?" Savour the little things in life, because someday you may realise they were the biggest things of all.





"Silly old bear!"



The End