A watercolor illustration of a rainy day in a jungle. The scene is dominated by soft, muted green and blue tones. In the foreground, a small pond reflects the falling rain, with several splashes of water visible. The background is filled with various tropical plants, including large, dark green leaves and a prominent monstera leaf on the right. The overall atmosphere is calm and serene, capturing the essence of a rainy day in a lush environment.

# Chomp the Chimp and the Rainy Day

by Franco E. Santos

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This work was originally written in 2002 and is published here for the first time.

ISBN-13: 978-1-971921-02-0

Library of Congress Control Number: 2026903160

Printed in the United States of America

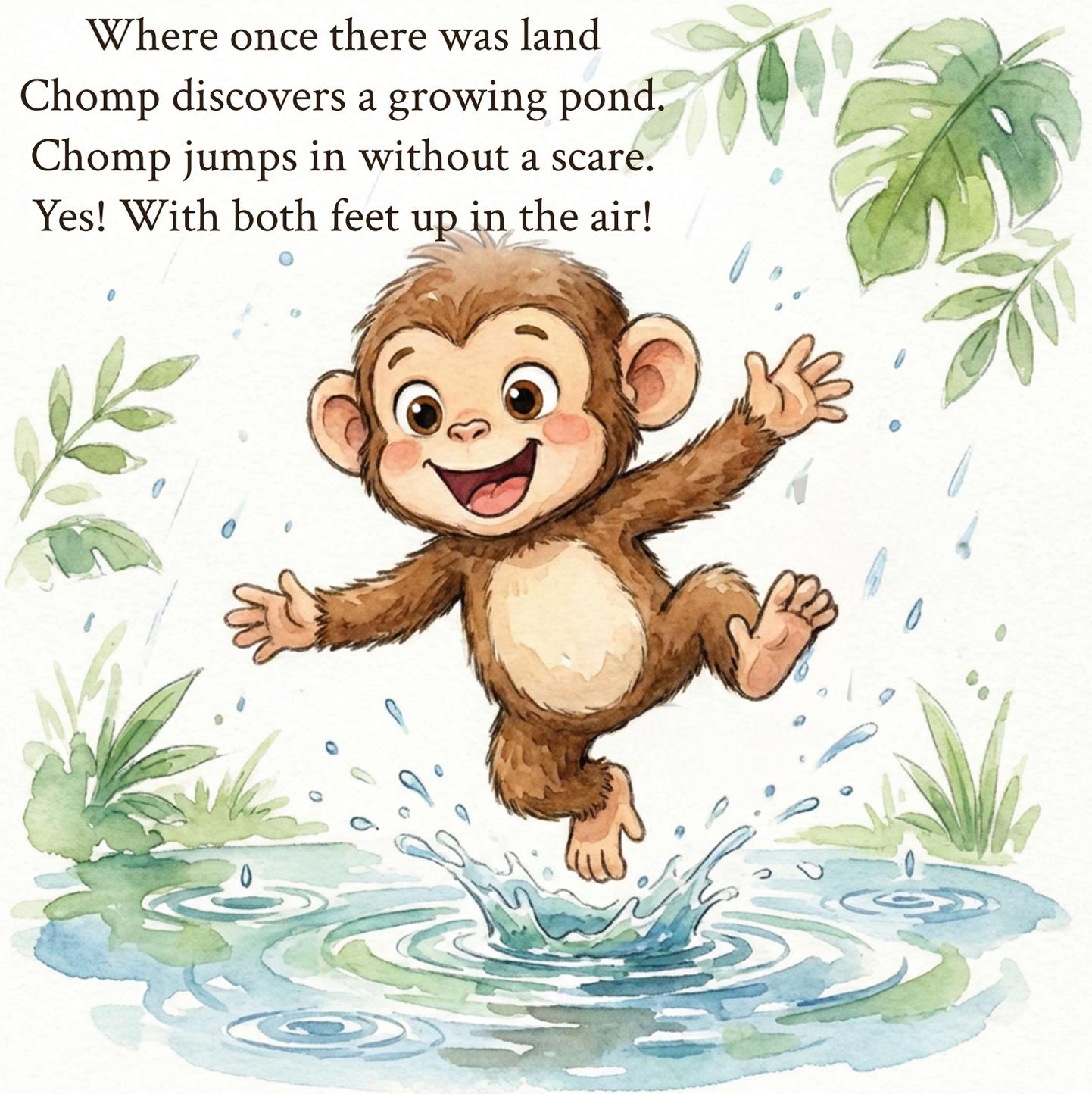
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First a drop,  
then a pour.  
The rain came,  
then it came some more.

Where once there was land  
Chomp discovers a growing pond.  
Chomp jumps in without a scare.  
Yes! With both feet up in the air!



A watercolor illustration of a rainy forest scene. The background is filled with various green leaves and branches, some with raindrops falling from them. In the foreground, there is a stream of water with ripples and splashes, suggesting a heavy rain. The overall style is soft and painterly.

## RAINY SEASON IN AFRICA

In the forests of central and western Africa where chimpanzees naturally live, rain is a regular and expected part of daily life. These regions do not experience rain as a brief passing event, but in seasons that bring frequent showers, heavy downpours, and long stretches of wet weather. During the rainy months, the forest changes in sound and texture—leaves glisten, rivers swell, and the air carries the steady rhythm of falling rain.

Young chimpanzees grow up surrounded by these changes. When rain begins, they may pause to listen, seek reassurance from nearby adults, or continue playing once they feel safe. Over time, they learn that rain is simply another part of their environment—sometimes loud, sometimes gentle, but rarely something to fear. This early exposure helps young chimps adapt to changing conditions, noticing differences in sound, movement, and mood while remaining connected to the steady presence of their family and surroundings.