

Chomp the Chimp and the Rainy Day

by Franco E. Santos
Illustrated by Marta Maszkiewicz



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A quick jump and a hop,
Chomp swings
he does not stop!
No, not until he reaches a tree top.



“Come, come sit with me
underneath that big, old tree.”

As they walked together,
Chomp looks up and thinks,
“this is nice, just my sister and me.”



With a big splash
he hears laughter.
It is Tom the Duck
and Rob the Frog.



With a leap and a jog,
both jump in --
jump from a log!

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.

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.

AFRICAN WILD DUCK

Tom the Duck in our story is an African wild duck. African wild ducks live near rivers, ponds, and wetlands throughout many parts of Africa. They are strong fliers, excellent swimmers, and spend much of their day searching for food in shallow water. Their feathers are usually dark brown to almost black with soft patterns. This helps them blend into the grasses and reeds where they rest.

African wild ducks are social birds and the young ducks learn by watching the adults around them. They communicate with gentle quacks and whistles and are often seen in small groups near safe water sources. Because they live in warm regions with seasonal rains, they are used to changing water levels and shifting landscapes. Whether paddling through calm pools or exploring after a heavy rain, they adapt easily to their surroundings and stay close to the flock for safety and comfort.