Garanimals
BEDTIME STORIES

A GREAT TIME FOR TEAMWORK

What a great day. Bright, sunny skies, no school, and plenty of time to play. To celebrate, the whole gang went to the playground. **"So what do you want to do?"** Rhino asked.

Some yelled for baseball, some shouted for tag, some begged for soccer. But when Rhino suggested dodge ball, the crowd roared their approval. So they made teams. Yet when they counted each side, Rhino's team had one more player than Monkey's. **"That's strange, I was sure we had an even number of players,"** Monkey said. Then he noticed Hippo wandering off. **"Ah, that explains it."** Monkey ran over to Hippo. **"Come on, Hippo, the whole gang is waiting for you."** Hippo seemed sad. **"Oh that's okay. I don't need to... you'll have more fun without me." "I don't understand,"** Monkey interrupted. **"You were all excited to play, just like the rest of us." "I know, but..."** Hippo hesitated. **"Wait a second,"** Monkey said. **"Don't you like dodge ball?" "Oh, I like dodge ball. It just doesn't like me,"** Hippo responded. **"What do you mean?"** Monkey asked. **"Well, you have to be fast and nimble to play dodgeball—like you,"** Hippo sighed. **"I'm always the first to be hit by the ball." "Okay, I'll tell you what,"** Monkey said. **"You and I will be a team." "But there already are two teams."** Monkey explained, **"I mean, a special secret team. Any time someone tries to throw the ball at you, I'll distract them so they'll throw at me, then I'll catch it. I'm good at dodging and catching. Then we'll team up and throw the ball right back at them."** Hippo hesitated. **"Well... I guess I can give it a try."**

So the new special team joined the game. Sure enough, Monkey distracted the other team from throwing at Hippo—and on the rare occasions that they did, Monkey would catch the ball before it would ever strike Hippo. When it was their turn to throw, Monkey lobbed the ball towards Hippo, who batted it at the opposing players. They were such a good team that they were the last two left standing. Not only was it the first time Hippo wasn't the first to lose, it was the first time she had actually won.

After the winning team's celebration, the gang decided to play king of the hill. This excited Hippo, but Monkey was nowhere to be found. After a long search, Hippo saw Monkey wandering off the field. She caught up to him. **"Hey Monkey, come on. It's time for king of the hill."** Now Monkey was sad. **"Oh, that's okay. You go play with the gang. I'll just..." "Oh, I get it: you don't like king of the hill like I didn't like Dodgeball,"** Hippo said. Monkey explained, **"Look at me: I'm so light and small, how am I supposed to keep from getting pushed off a hill?" "But we're a team, on my back, no one will ever move us."** And sure enough, Monkey climbed on Hippo's back, and they stayed on top of hill for the entire game. **"Wow, Hippo, you're really good at king of the hill,"** Monkey said. **"No, we're really good,"** Hippo responded. **"We're a team remember?"** The teammates high-fived as they walked back to the gang, excited to play whatever game came next.

©2009 Garan Inc.