

The Puddle Nixie

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She was a small nixie, she was—a very small nixie. And nixies, as you know, live in ponds and pools, lakes and lagoons. This one lived in a puddle. It wasn't a big puddle, as you can imagine, and she hadn't been there very long. In fact, she'd hardly moved in when the puddle began to shrink.

"Hey! Puddle! You can't shrink! I've just gotten here," she cried.

But the puddle didn't listen. The day was hot and the ground was sandy and the puddle kept on shrinking. What's worse, there wasn't a rain shower in sight.

By and by a girl came sauntering. She swayed her hips and swung her feet. She was carrying an umbrella and her shoes were blue.

"Hello, Nixie," said the girl, setting down on her hunkers. "Why so long in the face and down in the dumps?"

"My puddle's shrinking," wailed the nixie, tears streaming over her silvery blue cheeks.

"Poor Nixie," said the girl, stroking the nixie's blue-green hair. "Don't cry."

But the nixie did keep crying. She cried and she cried and she cried, her tears dripping into the puddle.

The little girl sat and crossed her legs. The umbrella kept her cool and in the shade. She waited and watched. Finally she asked the nixie: "Why are you crying now, little Nixie?"

"Because ... because ..." sniffed the nixie, wiping her tears. "Because my puddle is shrinking ... see, look at it," and she pointed.

But the puddle was not shrinking. It was as full as ever. The nixie's tears had filled it up!

Just then two ducks came waddling along. One was a daddy duck and the other was a mamma duck.

"Quack, quack!" they said, pleased as punch. "A puddle at last ... and on such a hot day!" They waddled into the puddle and swam. They ducked their heads and upped their tails.

"That's funny," said the daddy duck to the mamma duck. "This puddle is salty."

"That's true," agreed the mamma duck. "I wonder why?"

"Because of the nixie," said the little girl, laughing. "Because of her tears!"

And the nixie laughed too. She laughed and she laughed until the puddle started shrinking. Then we all know what happened, don't we?!