The Tower Tumble

Little Choices, Big Adventures • Story 1 • Read together, ages 4-7



1. Crash, clatter, tumble!

Maya placed one last block on her tower. “A castle for Gus!”

Gus the goose stretched his neck. “Does it have a snack room?”

“Every good castle has a snack room,” said Maya.

Leo reached across the rug for a red block. His elbow bumped the tower.

CRASH! CLATTER! TUMBLE!

Maya stared at the scattered blocks. “I worked so hard on that.”

Leo’s tummy felt twisty. He wanted to say the rug had done it. Or the wind. Or a very tiny dragon.

Gus hid his head behind one small blue block. His enormous feathery bottom stuck out.

“I can still see you,” Leo said.

“Oh,” said Gus. “Hiding is harder than I thought.”

Leo took a breath. “I knocked it over. It was an accident. I’m sorry. Can I help fix it?”

Maya was still upset. She took a breath, too. “Yes. But please ask before you reach across.”

Leo nodded.

He had made a mistake. He could still make an honest next choice.

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2. One block, two builders

They gathered the blocks. Then Maya and Leo reached for the same big yellow one.

“I need it for my tower,” said Maya.

“I need it for my tunnel,” said Leo.

Gus sat on the yellow block. “Problem solved. It is now my throne.”

The children giggled.

“That doesn’t solve our problem,” said Maya.

Gus stepped off. “A short but glorious reign.”

Maya held out her hands like two sides of a scale. “What would be fair for you and me?”

“You could build first,” said Leo. “Then I could have a turn.”

“Or we could build together,” Maya said. “A castle with a tunnel!”

Leo’s eyes grew wide. “For the snack deliveries!”

They made a plan. Maya would place the yellow block. Leo would choose the next two small blocks. Then they would swap jobs.

“Tell me if you want to change the plan,” said Maya.

“You, too,” said Leo.

They did not get everything they first wanted. They found a plan they both liked.

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3. A rest for Gus

Gus brought over a block. Then another. Then he sat down with a long, floppy sigh.

“Bring the green one!” called Leo.

Gus closed one eye.

Maya noticed. “I think our helper needs a rest.”

“But the castle isn’t finished,” said Leo.

He looked at Gus. Then he looked at the green block.

“I can carry it,” he said.

Maya brought Gus a cushion and a bowl of water. Leo put the spare blocks in a basket so nobody would trip.

“Am I still invited if I don’t help?” asked Gus.

“Of course,” said Maya. “You’re our friend.”

“Even without snack deliveries,” Leo added.

Gus put a little block on his head. “Then I shall rest in my royal hat.”

When the castle was finished, they sat beside it together.

“A mistake, a fair plan, and a rest,” said Maya.

Leo smiled. “We can try those again tomorrow.”

Gus opened both eyes. “Tomorrow? I was hoping for a snack today.”

Read, laugh, and try it together

For parents, grandparents, and other caring grown-ups. Tap each picture badge to visit its children’s principle page.

This is an original fictional story. Maya, Leo, and Gus are characters, not examples of children who always get things right. Read with silly voices, pause when your child wants to talk, and welcome different answers.

Be Your True Self

What kind, honest, or brave choice can I make?

Why was telling the truth hard for Leo? What helped him try?

Keep Your Hand on FAIR

What would be fair for everyone, including me?

What other plan could Maya and Leo have made? Would it work for both?

Take Care of the Goose

Who or what needs care?

How did the children notice Gus needed care? What needs care near us?

A five-minute family adventure

Build something together with blocks, cushions, or paper. Agree on a fair way to share the materials. Then look around: does a person, pet, friendship, shared space, or your own body need care? Choose one small helpful action.

Keep the invitation kind

Feelings are welcome. Being angry, disappointed, or tired does not make a child bad. Help children choose safe actions and repair mistakes without demanding an immediate apology or affection. Kindness includes saying no, taking a break, and asking a trusted adult for help.

About the goose

In later conversations, explain that Take Care of the Goose means caring for people, relationships, abilities, and resources that sustain life. People deserve care even when they cannot help us. Animals need appropriate care from a responsible adult.

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