



Story Changers: Enhancing Pupils' Social Skills and Enriching Teaching Methods Through Storytelling and Virtual Reality

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| Intellectual Output Title: | Creation of the “You Tell” Stories and Relevant Guide |
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| Partner: | St Joseph Mater Boni Consilii |



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**Apostolos
Varnavas
Primary School**

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Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Title of the Story | 3 |
| Basic information on the Story | 3 |
| Primary Topic..... | 3 |
| Secondary Topic | 3 |
| Learning Outcomes | 3 |
| Other relevant information | 3 |
| Technique used for the creation of the story | 3 |
| Reference (if the story refers to real facts, historical events etc.)..... | 3 |
| Story’s Main Elements | 4 |
| Main heroes..... | 4 |
| Setting..... | 4 |
| Summary..... | 4 |
| Story’s Text..... | 4 |



Title of the Story

Rospo

Basic information on the Story

Primary Topic

Limits – going beyond our limitations and respecting boundaries - our fear can be our limit

Secondary Topic

Standing up to bullies – and respecting others

Learning Outcomes

- To learn the value of being honest and to respect others
- To dare to go beyond our limitations
- To learn how to respect boundaries
- To realise how important it is to stand up to bullies
- To learn to respect others

Target Group (Pupils)

1st-2nd Grade of Primary School

3rd-4th Grade of Primary School

5th-6th Grade of Primary School

Other relevant information

Technique used for the creation of the story

The characters of the story were created from the word RESPECT using Rodari's technique. The story was developed according to Propp's theory of storytelling.

Reference (if the story refers to real facts, historical events etc.)

Giants (the heroes and villains of this story) have always featured in Maltese folktales. Calypso and Odysseus who lived supposedly on the island of Ogygia – the present Gozo. One of the temples on Gozo is in fact called Ggantija – meaning of Giants. The backdrop is also situated in a village amongst the hills –



on Gozo there are 3 big hills and the giants lived in caves. Around Malta and Gozo there are numerous caves and they are known to have been used as giants' dwellings in the past.

Story's Main Elements

Main heroes

Rospo, the fearful giant – the hero

Esadora, the Royal Eagle

Sonder, the Sultan

Petrusku, the cruellest giant (the villain)

Etna, the princess

Cara, a small fairy that gives out light

Truffo, the false hero

Setting

The village of Noni

Summary

These giants lived in dark, deep, damp caves that were dug in the rocks in the city of Noni. There lived all types and sizes of giants. There were some enormous giants, and some others were a bit smaller. One particular giant was always bullied. The princess of the Village is kidnapped by the villain Petrusku – Rospo is faced with a number of decisions.

Story's Text

This story that I am about to narrate to you is a true story. A lot of you will not believe me for sure, as this is a story about a giant who was afraid. A story that will show us what the word RESPECT means. Perhaps this is a difficult word for some. But when each letter comes to life and develops into a character, it will be much better explained. In this manner you will understand what RESPECT means.



So once upon a time, in a land far, far away there lived the giants. These giants lived in dark, deep, damp caves that were dug in the rocks in the city of Noni. There lived all types and sizes of giants. There were some enormous giants, and some others were a bit smaller. There were good giants and bad giants... especially very bad ones. All the giants were different but all were strong and mighty. All except for **Rospo**. Rospo was a young, big intelligent giant, but he was not as strong as the other giants. He was not good looking either.

Rospo was the weakest giant in the city of Noni. He was extremely kind and felt sorry for all creatures. To tell you the truth, he was not the bravest of giants and he was even afraid of his own shadow!

“You are not a real giant!”, often teased him the other giants who were his peers.

“Look at us and see, how different we are. We are strong, courageous giants and you are afraid even of your own shadow!”

Rospo was hurt when he heard these comments. The other giants avoided him and only spoke to him to tease him and call him names. Rospo did not have any friends, so he spent a lot of time feeling sad and lonely. He would stay in his cave without speaking to anybody.

“It’s true what the other giants are saying,” mumbled Rospo to himself as his eyes welled with tears. “I am a fearful giant. No other giant in the history of giants was ever afraid of me but the other giants always scared of others.” That night, he felt so sad there all alone that he lay on the ground and soon dozed off.

A short while after midnight struck, he heard a terrific, strange sound from outside. At first, he thought he was dreaming, but when the sounds grew louder and he also heard some ferocious roars, he realised that he was not dreaming at all.

Rospo wanted to go outside to see what was happening, but he was already trembling with fear. The great fear that gripped him was greater than him. He felt rooted to the ground. The shouting grew even louder, and he realised that some giants were fighting. Deep down, he knew that he had to keep on trying to overcome his fear.

So, he summoned his courage and with a huge effort, as Rospo was quite a huge giant, climbed up to have a look from behind a burlap curtain that was hung up in a window dug in the cave.

He was scared to death with what he saw. He saw the five evil giants that lived on the other side, on the Big Hill. These were the enemies of all the giants. They were cruel and not friendly at all. Their leader was



Petrusku – a giant with an evil heart who was ruthless and did everything to gain more power. The five giants were riding enormous, wild birds. The reigns were made of huge, metal clanging chains.

Rospo was startled when he heard **Petrusku** shouting.

“If you hand over your reign, no one will be hurt” he started to shout. “Here will be all mine – ha ha ha”.

His false laugh echoed through the dead of night. Rospo could not see what was happening from that tiny window. He craned his neck and with some effort he managed to see that Petrusku was talking to **Sonder**, the giant sultan of Noni. Sonder was a good and just king. He was wise in the way that he led Noni and all the giant habitants of Noni. He tried his utmost to calm and help solve the arguments that often arose between the giants. Although he was always very helpful, he did not let anyone boss him about. “No!” shouted the king. “You will never ever take over this kingdom! To take this reign, you must first learn to respect others! Not like you!” replied Sonder angrily.

“I will take over the kingdom whether you like it or not!” laughed Petrusku.

“No” repeated harshly Sonder. “You bully others, as you think that because you are stronger, you can do with them as you please. A bully does not deserve to lead a kingdom. A really powerful and strong person respects others.”

Meanwhile Rospo, remained quiet, hardly drawing breath and followed attentively all that was happening a short distance away from his cave. Sonder’s words to Petrusku, resounded in his head.

“You are a bully, and you think that because you are stronger you can do with them as you like.”

The cries and screams of Princess **Etna** caught his attention. He tried to catch a glance at what was going on from behind the burlap curtain. What he saw, made his skin crawl. He could feel his heart pounding with fear in his chest. Petrusku had kidnapped the Princess.

“As long as you do not hand over your kingdom, your daughter, the princess, will be mine,” shouted Petrusku whilst he flew off with his friends back to the mountains.

Poor Sonder, but what could he do? Rospo felt very sorry for the princess. He wished that he was more courageous. The king was right when he said that those who were bullies did not respect others.

In the meantime, dusk started to fall, and the giant habitants of Noni started to come out on their doorstep of their caves. Everybody had heard the screaming and got to know about the Princess’ kidnapping. All



the giants started to give their opinions. They could barely understand each other as besides talking loudly when they disagreed, they also argued. From what he could make out, Rospo understood one thing- that all the giants had lost all their courage! Today he felt that he was like them, and one of them. Even those giants that usually bullied him, called him names, and made fun of him were humbled. Everyone knew that no one could stand up to Petrusku!

The king, who was still in shock, was helped by his servants, summoned all the giants to the clearing in front of the Cave Palace.

“I think by now all of you are aware of what has happened! My dear daughter, Princess **Etna**, has been captured by that bully, Petrusku. Who knows what will happen to my poor daughter!” uttered the king as his eyes welled with tears. Then he coughed and in a firm voice turned to the crowd, “To save my daughter and for us to keep the kingdom of Noni, I will need your help. I need one of you to be brave enough to go to the Big Hill and rescue the princess.”

The giants started to discuss and argue again. But the king, stopped them immediately. “We cannot waste any more time. The princess’s life is at stake. All our lives are in danger. I will give you till tomorrow to think about it. Tomorrow at dawn we shall meet again here. The person who offers to go must be brave, generous, kind-hearted a gentleman and most importantly must respect others. The one who rescues my daughter Etna will be rewarded with half of my kingdom. For that reason, it is important that the giant who volunteers, must not only be strong but also kind and respectful.” The king returned to the Cave Palace and the inhabitants went back to their business.

Rospo, returned to his cave, feeling very preoccupied. He recalled all that had happened. The king’s words echoed in his head. “You are a bully because you think that because you are stronger than the rest you can treat them as you like! A bully does not deserve to lead a kingdom. A strong person must truly know how to respect his followers.”

Now he could understand why the other giants - picked up on him. They had bullied him all these years because they thought they were much stronger than him. He really wished that he could be as determined and as courageous as King Sonder.

He really wished he could take his revenge.



Decision Point

Should Rospo take his revenge by hurting the other giants and make fun of them too?

Option 1:

Should Rospo pay them back? Should he do the same to them like they had done to him? Should he make fun of them and hurt them as they had done to him?

Go to page 9

Option 2:

Should he be calm try to find out why the other giants were behaving this way?

Go to page 10



Page 9

Suddenly, he heard a familiar giant's voice. Truffo's. Truffo was that giant who teased him the most.

Truffo knew how much Rospo needed his space, and yet he picked up on him relentlessly. There really were no limits to what he did to Rospo.

Every time he saw him venture out of his cave, he went close to him and challenged him. And when Truffo was in the company of the other giants he pushed him around and teased him and made the other giants do the same.

"I will definitely win this challenge. I will be the new King of Noni and then everybody will have to do whatever I ask." Truffo was saying to himself at the top of his voice, unaware that Rospo was close by.

Rospo grew bold. He promptly came out from where he was and challenged Truffo.

"Truffo you are bad, cunning and deceitful! I will never ever let you destroy the kingdom of Noni" shouted Rospo.

Truffo is shocked at these words. He had never heard Rospo's voice much less heard him shout or call him names.

"I will do my best...so that you, Truffo, a giant and a bully who has pushed me around and brought me down for all these years, will finally get what you deserve!" Rospo continued shouting hoarsely, not quite believing that he had just uttered those words.

Truffo fled home to hide. He couldn't listen anymore as he knew deep down that what Rospo had told him was true.

Meanwhile Rospo was yet again undecided... should he or shouldn't he save the princess? Could he leave her there to die? No, he definitely could not...but on the other hand if he went to save her he would also be putting himself at risk. This was indeed a difficult decision for Rospo but he really had no time to waste!



Decision Point

Should Rospo volunteer to save the Princess?

Option 1:

Rospo decides not to volunteer to save the Princess. It was not an easy decision but he thought it was the right one for him. His fear was so great that he felt sure he was not able to overcome it. He was afraid that if he volunteered to save the princess he would go back on his word. Then the others would certainly make fun of him. Then there was the princess. He did not wish to look stupid in front of her and instead of saving her end up making the situation worse.

Go to page 13

Option 2:

Rospo decides to save the princess, because he feels it is the right thing to do. He wants to feel strong and brave for once and do something good.

Go to page 17

Option 3:

Rospo decides to save the princess but before he informs the king of all that he had overheard Truffo say.

Go to page 22



Page 11

He decided that this was not the wisest thing to do. So he pushed this idea away. “No, a real giant would not behave in this way. But why were the other giants treating him in this way?” Rospo thought to himself. “Perhaps they too have a problem or perhaps they themselves were picked upon or bullied. In that moment, Rospo felt sorry for them.

Suddenly, he heard a familiar giant’s voice. Truffo’s. Truffo was that giant who teased him the most.

Truffo knew how much Rospo needed his space, and yet he picked up on him relentlessly. There really were no limits to what he did to Rospo.

Every time he saw him venture out of his cave, he went close to him and challenged him. And when Truffo was in the company of the other giants he pushed him around and teased him and made the other giants do the same.

“I will definitely win this challenge. I will be the new King of Noni and then everybody will have to do whatever I ask.” Truffo was saying to himself at the top of his voice, unaware that Rospo was close by.

“No, this could not happen,” Thought Rospo. “A bully could never lead Noni. King Sonder himself had said so much. But he – what could he do? If no one else volunteered to go, he would end up in hot water. But a big giant like him, who was even afraid of an ant, what could he do, faced with such a situation? He felt his head spin as he thought of what he needed to do.

Decision Point

Should Rospo volunteer to save the Princess?

Option 1:

Rospo decides not to volunteer to save the Princess. It was not an easy decision but he thought it was the right one for him. His fear was so great that he felt sure he was not able to overcome it. He was afraid that if he volunteered to save the princess he would go back on his word. Then the others would certainly



make fun of him. Then there was the princess. He did not wish to look stupid in front of her and instead of saving her end up making the situation worse.

Go to page 13

Option 2:

Rospo decides to save the princess, because he feels it is the right thing to do. He wants to feel strong and brave for once and do something good.

Go to page 17

Option 3:

Rospo decides to save the princess but before he informs the king of all that he had overheard Truffo say.

Go to page 22



Page 12 (Rospo decides not to volunteer to save the Princess)

The following morning, at dawn, all the giants gathered round in the clearing in front of Cave Palace. The king was dying to find out whether there was a young strong giant who would volunteer to save his daughter.

The King soon found out. All of a sudden, a well built giant was seen to push the crowd apart. He bulldozed his way through pushing everybody to the side. For a moment, the king thought that there would be a fight, as this giant pushed a huge giant to the ground to make his way through. The king frowned as soon as he realised who that ill mannered giant was.

“Only you?” uttered the King feeling disheartened.

“That is what it seems like – your Majesty” replied Truffo, very pleased with himself.

The other giants started to cheer, clap and stamping their feet excitedly as they thought that Truffo was their best chance. The King was not very pleased, but he really did not have much choice as no one else stepped forward. For this reason, the king silenced the crowd and spoke to Truffo. “Truffo, you have volunteered to take up this dangerous mission which is very challenging but necessary for us and especially for the princess. As I promised, if you succeed, half this kingdom will become yours and we will both be equals.”

Truffo jostled his way self-importantly through the midst of the crowd, to get closer to the king. He bowed his head and to show off he told the king, “Sire what I have decided to do is not so much as to have the same power as you but I am doing it for your own good, for the princess and for all the inhabitants of Nomi, since no one has been bold enough to step up and take up this challenge.”

The other giants, who for the most part, were not all that smart, started clapping rapturously. They had not even noticed that Truffo was clearly mocking them. He had not yet even started his quest and they had already turned him into a hero.



The king silenced the crowd again and as he turned to Truffo he told him “Make sure that you return this evening at sunset so that I will be able to give you what you need to take with you on your journey. One thing I wish to tell you – make sure that you are genuine and honest in what you are doing.” Then, in a firm loud voice so that everyone could hear, he told him “If not, Noni and all its inhabitants will suffer”. With these words, Sonder turned back to Cave Palace.

Rospo was following everything from afar. He did not wish to go near the crowd as he was afraid that Truffo would show him up in front of all the other giants.

At one point he could not bear to listen anymore, and he also wished to step forward and offer to go.

Decision point

Should Rospo offer to go with Truffo the bully?

Option 1

Rospo wished and wished that he felt brave enough to bring back the princess back to her father, but his fear was greater than him. He wished and wished that he could be a hero not just for the princess's sake but also for all the inhabitants of Noni. Rospo shut his eyes for a minute and imagined himself bringing the princess back safe and sound amidst all the clapping and cheering of all the other giants. He imagined King Sonder rewarding him and naming him a hero... but no... Rospo this was just a dream... and in actual fact he was going nowhere. He was no hero!

Go to page 15

Option 2:

Rospo thought long and hard about what he should do, finally he decides to go and save the princess. This was his chance to shine and show everybody, but mostly himself that beneath that timid simple giant, there was a brave and generous giant who was ready to risk his life for the dear princess. Most of all he could not bear the thought that Truffo could become King of Noni!

Go to page 17



Page 15

But his fear, which was greater than him, held him back. Rospo really wanted to open his mouth and utter something but he really could not. And like a small, weak giant he put his clumsy tail down and ran back home. Along the way he burst out crying that he had missed such a golden opportunity.

As soon as the sun set, Truffo appeared before the king. The king gave him some instructions and a bag made of leather.

“In this bag you have a stone tablet. Be careful how to use it. As soon as you arrive at the edge of The Big Hill there will be a bird that will show you the way. If the bird sees that you are a sincere giant it will give you the help you need throughout your journey. Now go, and do not waste any more time,” the king ordered him.

So Truffo went on his way. On his way, he started to plan how he was going to get rid of king Sonder. “I want the whole kingdom and not just half,” he mumbled to himself as he walked.

Truffo was a greedy giant. He wanted to do this as he had a plan. He really did not care less about what happened to the princess. He only wanted to keep the reward all to himself.... Indeed he wanted more than his share.

What should Truffo do?

He walked and walked, but the bird was nowhere to be seen and did not come to his aid as Sonder had promised. “When will this bird appear?” he grumbled. “I am tired of walking so aimlessly”.

Suddenly, he remembered the bag that he had on his back. In the bag he had that stone tablet. He decided to ignore what the king had told him, and without thinking about it, he pulled the tablet out of the bag. He spent quite some time looking at that stone tablet, turning it around in his hands.



“What is this?” he mumbled to himself. “What do I need it for?” So, he hurled it to the ground. As soon as the stone tablet struck the ground, the ground opened up and a blinding light came out of the tablet, whilst an ugly voice could be heard coming from above.

At first, Truffo could not grasp what was happening. He could not see properly because of the bright light but he recognized the voice. That was Petrusku’s voice.

“Your Majesty”, Truffo uttered as he bowed his head. “I was sent here by Sonder to get rid of you once and for all. But.... but I will surely not do that.”

“Haha Sonder wants to get rid of me? And he thought that by sending you his plan was going to succeed?”

“You and I, - if you do exactly as I tell you, can accomplish great things together,” Petrusku told him. “Sonder’s kingdom will be ours... we will both be equals and share the same power.”

Truffo’s eyes lit up. Those were the words that he wanted to hear. So, then he got onto the bird behind Petrusku and together they flew off to plan how to get rid of Sonder and the princess and, more importantly, how to take hold of Noni.

But Petrusku was much more evil than Truffo. Truffo could never be as cunning as Petrusku. As they were far away, soaring on that fathomless abyss, they reached a dark piece of land. Petrusku ordered Truffo to get off the bird and they both walked towards an enormous gate guarded by two ugly sentries.

As these caught sight of Petrusku they bowed and opened the rusty iron gate. Petrusku whispered something to one of the guards. This one moved quickly towards Truffo, grabbed his hands and cuffed him in heavy chains. Truffo was baffled!

“Your Majesty!” said Truffo as his eyes welled with tears.

But all that Petrusku said was, “How stupid! You thought that I would split the kingdom with you?” as his loud laugh echoed in the quiet gloomy darkness. Then he turned towards his guards and instructed them to imprison Truffo, who was thrown into a cell guarded by two huge leopards.

Truffo could not believe his luck! Petrusku had deceived him! Truffo had lost everything!



Page 17 (Rospo decides to volunteer to save the princess)

The following morning, at dawn, all the giants gathered round in the clearing in front of Cave Palace. The king was dying to find out whether there was a young strong giant who would volunteer to save his daughter.

But from all the giants gathered there only one stepped forward to offer to be the hero of this story – Truffo!

“Only you?” uttered the King feeling disheartened.

The other giants started to cheer, clap and stamping their feet excitedly as they thought that Truffo was their best chance.

But then something very unexpected happened. A small voice was heard from the back of the crowd, “Your majesty, I too wish to volunteer to save Princess Etna.”

Everybody’s eyes turned towards the sound of that voice. Truffo’s eyes grew bigger and everyone grew silent as they realised that that voice belonged only to Rospo, that cowardly giant.

“Mmm....”, he thought to himself Sonder. “Rospo is a responsible and intelligent giant. But he really is so scared. Perhaps it is a good thing that Truffo is going as well. In that way one would complement the other.

“Haha this must be the joke of the century,” laughed Truffo. As soon as he started to laugh all the other giants, started to scoff, and laugh too as if they were puppets.

Rospo turned as red as the poppies that grew in the field. He felt so embarrassed that he wished the ground would open up and swallow him.



Decision Point

Option 1:

Rospo changes his mind.

Go to page 14

Option 2:

Rospo overcomes his fear and moves on.

Go to page 19



Page 19

Rospo steps forward and volunteers to go with Truffo

“Very well,” said the king. “You will both go. Truffo you need to remember to respect your companion for the mission to succeed. And Rospo you must believe in yourself”.

“Come closer, Rospo” the king encouraged him. He was not sure why, but he had more faith in Rospo than he had in Truffo even though Rospo was not very courageous.

“This journey will not be easy. You will need to rely on each other. One needs to help the other. Are we agreed?” asked the king as he looked meaningfully at Truffo.

“Look here”, he said.” In this bag you have a stone tablet, that you will need during your journey. Do not use it before you need to. You will be able to tell when it is the right moment to use it. Now go. Do not forget what I have told you – you are the only hope for the princess to be saved. If not, all of will be in peril.”

The two giants set on their journey. When they were a long way away from Noni, Truffo broke the silence.

“Rospo, you can remain here now. I will complete this journey alone”, said Truffo brusquely.

Rospo jumped. He was lost for words. He was there all alone with that bully. He did not know how he could complete the journey by himself.

“Have you heard me?” snarled Truffo.

“But.... bbbut...but His Majesty told us that we had to travel together to save the princess” stuttered, Rospo, feeling scared.



“Haha haha and what do I care about His Majesty or the princess... I only care about the kingdom.... And all of it. Do you get it?” Truffo shouted sarcastically. “But you decided that you had to come with me and so you have ruined my plans. But I will not let you do that you know,” continued Truffo. “I cannot understand how a fearful giant like you decided to accompany me!”

Decision Point

How was Rospo going to deal with such cruel words? Should he answer back? Or should he remain calm?

Option 1:

Rospo decides to be aggressive with Truffo.

Go to page 21

Option 2:

Rospo decides to remain calm.

Go to page 20



Page 21 (Rospo is aggressive with Truffo)

“Get out of my way Truffo!” shouted Rospo. Everything froze. Both of them were astonished. Rospo could not believe himself. He felt something inside him fill him up with courage. He recalled all the those moments when Truffo had bullied him. He wanted to show Truffo that he could also be harsh in his words and actions.

“Move!” repeated Rospo. Rospo and Truffo started to fight. Truffo was very strong but Rospo was also strong. Both of them forgot all about the mission that they had to carry out.

They grabbed each other. It was not uncommon in Noni to see two giants scuffling and fighting. But no one had ever seen two giants like Rospo and Truffo at each other's throats before! Both of them fought hard, but Truffo was stronger and he hit Rospo so hard on his head that he sent him reeling flat to the ground. Truffo grabbed his chance and fled quickly to the hills to Petrusku.

Go to page 15



Page 20 (Rospo keeps calm)

“I am ready to forget all that has been said and what was done to me throughout the years” replied Rospo, surprising even himself with the courage he found to utter these words. “I want to show you that I have respect for you, Truffo.”

At these words, Truffo burst out laughing hysterically.” You respect me? Hah I do not need you, Rospo. First, I will get rid of you, and then Petrusku and I will take hold of the kingdom of Noni.”

Rospo realised that he had made a terrible mistake. He had not been smart enough. He should have told the King about all that he had overheard Truffo say, that day outside his cave. The king would have surely found the right solution. However, now he was here with that bully.

Truffo intruded his thoughts as he grabbed the bag, opened it, and took out the stone tablet.

“NOOO,” shouted Rospo. – “It is not time yet. The king told us that we would know when it was the right time to use the stone tablet.”

He had not yet finished uttering those words, when they heard a thick, harsh voice. Rospo felt certain that, that was Petrusku even though he could not make him out in the pitch dark. Suddenly a bright, blinding light shone out of the stone tablet and dazzled the two giants.

“Here I am Your Majesty”, shouted Truffo. “I have brought you this poor giant who thinks he is able to save princess Etna.”

“Haha – bad choice, my friend. As neither you nor the princess shall be spared!” shouted Petrusku.

“I told you so!” whispered Truffo, “you should have minded your own business, you coward!”.



Upon these words, an enormous bird appeared in the sky above them. Rospo recognised it. It was the Royal Eagle. The eagle flew over them three times encircling them. After the third time it glided down next to Rospo and Truffo. “What a magnificent bird,” thought Rospo, as the eagle settled next to him. Its wings were like gold satin. She grabbed Rospo in her enormous beak and hoisted him onto her back. Then she flew with him and took him to where the princess was held prisoner.

Rospo realised that this eagle was sent to assist him in his difficulties because he had kept loyal to the king’s instructions.

Page 21 (Rospo decides to save the princess but before he informs the king of all that he had overheard Truffo say)

The following morning, at dawn, all the giants gathered round in the clearing in front of Cave Palace. The king was dying to find out whether there was a young strong giant who would volunteer to save his daughter.

But from all the giants gathered there only one stepped forward to offer to be the hero of this story – Truffo!

“Only you?” uttered the King feeling disheartened.

The other giants started to cheer, clap and stamping their feet excitedly as they thought that Truffo was their best chance.

But then something very unexpected happened. A small voice was heard from the back of the crowd, “Your majesty, I too wish to volunteer to save Princess Etna.”

Everybody’s eyes turned towards the sound of that voice. Truffo’s eyes grew bigger, and everyone grew silent as they realised that that voice belonged only to Rospo, that cowardly giant.

Sonder was also taken aback at first, but then called upon the two to step forward.

“Give me both a reason why I should choose one and not the other?” Sonder asked.

“Very simple” replied promptly Truffo. “I am your best choice your Majesty as I am fearless. Look at this poor giant.... He is good for nothing, as he is afraid of his own shadow. If you really wish to see your daughter alive once more, you only have one choice – send me” boasted Truffo.



The king turned to Rospo and invited him to give him a good reason why he should choose to send him. Rospo was scared stiff, as he stood in front of the king, in front of Truffo and in front of all the other giants, who were waiting quietly for him to speak up.

“I”, uttered faintly Rospo. Then, unable to explain from where he had found his courage, he continued, “Your Majesty, everybody knows that I am not as courageous as Truffo. Everyone here calls me a coward.” Rospo faltered, but the king encouraged him to continue.

“But I am an honest giant your Majesty, and I respect you and all the other giants of Noni. For this reason, I will tell you what I overheard yesterday”. As he looked at Truffo, Rospo said, “This giant here, who has offered like me to go on this mission, has no intention of saving Princess Etna or Noni. His plan is to destroy you and Noni and all of us when he takes your place, your Majesty.”

Suddenly, everything grew so quiet that you could hear a pin drop. Then, Truffo’s thick, confused voice broke the silence as he rasped, “Liar. A dishonest and cowardly giant. Do not believe him, Sonder, do not believe him!”

But King Sonder did not doubt Rospo.

“Guards,” shouted the king. “Seize this giant and lock him up in the Palace prison to be dealt with what he deserves. He has not only betrayed me, and all of you, but his intentions are to destroy Noni as well.”

Four giant guards promptly stepped forward, captured Truffo and dragged him to the Prison Palace.

“Rospo”, uttered the king, “You are a brave giant!”

“Me, brave... your Majesty? I am scared of even the tiniest ant,” replied Rospo.

“Yes, Rospo. You are a brave giant who is very respectful. If you manage to save my daughter Etna, I promise you not only half my kingdom but, also my daughter’s hand in marriage. As she deserves to have a giant like you for a husband.”

All the other giants, who for the greater part often changed their minds easily, started to clap and stamp their feet. Many of them relished every opportunity to make some noise!

“Rospo take this bag for your journey. In this bag there is a stone tablet. This stone tablet is hundreds of years old. It has been handed down from one generation to the next. My ancestors have always used it in time of need. Do not worry. You will realize when it is the right time to make use of it.”



That evening, Rospo set off on his journey, with the leather bag on his back, towards Big Hill. It was not a long journey but halfway there, he had to cross over a river full of hungry crocodiles. It was pitch dark and Rospo could not see a thing.

He started to panic. His legs turned to jelly. He felt like turning back a hundred times, but he could not do that. The king had trusted him. He was the only hope left for Etna to return back to Noni safe and sound. So, he set his foot on the wooden bridge, which did not feel stable at all and decided not to look down. As soon as he made the first few steps, he remembered that he had the stone tablet in his bag and recalled what Sonder had told him, "My ancestors have always used it in time of need. Do not worry. You will realize when it is the right time to make use of it."

This moment was certainly a matter of life and death. So, he grabbed the bag from his back, opened it and with trembling hands pulled out the stone tablet. As soon as the stone tablet was out of the bag, a bright blinding light emanated from it. Rospo could hardly see, as the bright light dazzled his eyes, but could hear the angry sounds of the famished crocodiles. His skin crawled. All of a sudden, a tiny glowing creature appeared in the sky.

"I am **Cara**" she introduced herself. "I am going to help you to complete your journey by giving you light and showing you the way". In the shimmering glow of light emanating from Cara, Rospo caught sight of a majestic eagle, coming from afar. It was a magnificent eagle. The dazzling light started to dim a little. Rospo held his hands over his eyes and looked at the sky. That was **Esadora** the royal eagle. Rospo had recognized it from the mosaic on the façade of King Sonder's Palace. The eagle started its slow descent towards Rospo as he stood there glued to his spot, holding the stone tablet.

"Get on," she told him firmly.

Without hesitating, Rospo put away the stone tablet back in the bag and climbed on Esadora's back.

They flew and flew away from all the danger. Esadora knew exactly where she was going. Rospo did not need to tell her anything. As soon as they arrived at Big Hill, Rospo could see the gigantic cave that belonged to Petrusku. The princess was hidden somewhere in that cave. Esadora glided down on to a huge rock.

"Now you may get down," she told him gently. "From here onward, the mission is in your hands. Remember that the king has full faith in you. You are a good, genuine and honest giant. If this was not the case, I would not have helped you."



With these words the eagle flew away high up into the clouds till it disappeared from sight. Cara kept flying ahead of him glowing softly, showing him the way. In the meanwhile, dawn started to break and Rospo had to be extremely careful to break into the cave without being caught.

After all that had just happened, Rospo plucked up his courage and was ready to risk his life to save the princess. He was intelligent enough that he could easily and quickly plan how to enter stealthily into Petrusku's cave and save Etna. It was not an easy task, but finally he managed to free Etna from the dark and damp cell where she had been kept prisoner.

"Don't be afraid" Rospo told her. "His Majesty sent me to save you."

But unfortunately, it was too late! As they tried to get over the last few rocks to get out of the cave, Petrusku realised what was happening. He gave a deafening shout as he hit the walls of the Cave. The hit and the shout shook the cave so terribly, sending tremors throughout the cave that the walls cracked and came crashing down on them. Rospo, quickly lifted Etna and ran out. They made it out in the nick of time. The cavern gave way and caved in entrapping Petrusku and everything else inside.

Covered in dust and dirt, Rospo and the princess made their way back to Noni. They were both tired and weary, but they did not wish to waste time by stopping for a rest. So, they only stopped for a few minutes to catch their breath and sip some water and continued on their way.

They got to Noni at dusk. The king could hardly believe his eyes. His daughter had returned safe and sound. Sonder kept his promise to Rospo.

Rospo had turned into a hero for the inhabitants of Noni. From that day onwards, no one ever teased Rospo.

Rospo had taught them all a valuable lesson - that everyone has something good to offer.