Sanni the Spricket

Created by Team Zag

In a New Jersey basement,
in the pocket of an old suitcase,
lived a little spricket named Sami.
Long legs. Busy antennae.
Curious about everything.

Sami's family could jump.
Boing! Over a box.
Boing! Across the floor.
BOING! Up onto a shelf!
But Sami could not jump.
She could only watch.

“What's up those stairs?” Sami asked Mom.
“A great big world.”
“I wish I could see it.”
Mom snuggled beside her.
“Then let's start exploring. Right here.”

They crawled under a shelf and around a box.
In the dust, something sparkled.
“A button!” cried Sami.
Sami could not jump.
But she was very good at noticing.

The next morning, the basement door creaked open.
Thump, thump, thump.
Then, WHOOSH! Up went Sami's suitcase.
“MOM?” Sami called.
But Mom was far, far below.

Soft clothes tumbled into the suitcase.
“Ready for our safari?” someone said.
Safari? Sami peeked out.
Then, CLICK! The lid snapped shut.

A van hummed. Wheels rattled.
Then came a deep RUMMMMBLE.
Sami was on a plane!
She had wished for an adventure.
She had not wished to leave Mom behind.

At last, the rumbling stopped.
Now the suitcase bounced along in a jeep.
Through a little gap, Sami saw golden grass, trees shaped like umbrellas, and so much sky!

Then the jeep hit a rut.
BUMP!
The suitcase tumbled onto the grass.
The jeep drove on.
Sami crawled out.
Where WAS she?

“AAAH! A SPIDER!” yelped Zag.

Sami froze.

Two stripy faces peered down at her.

“I’m not a spider,” said Sami. “I’m a spricket. My name is Sami.”

“Hello, Sami,” said Zig. “I'm Zig. This is Zag.”

“Are you here all by yourself?” asked Zig.
Sami's antennae drooped.
“I came in that suitcase. By mistake. All the way from New Jersey.”
“New Jersey?” said Zig. “That's SO far!”

Zag looked at Sami's long, skinny legs.
He remembered the zebras laughing at his ears.
“I'm sorry I called you a spider,” he said.
“Can we help?”
“Yes, please. I want to go home.”

“Let's ask Mom!” said Zig.
Zomma listened to the whole story.
“That jeep will come back this way,” she said.
“We'll watch for it together.”
Sami wasn't alone anymore.

Zomma carried Sami on a broad, soft leaf.
Zag and Zig walked alongside.
This ride wasn't bumpy or rumbly or loud.
It was slow and quiet.

Under the tree, Zadda smiled.
“Welcome, Sami. There's room for everyone here.”
Lito the lion cub, Rodo the rhino and Rafa the giraffe tiptoed over to say hello.

Sami told them all about her suitcase home.
Then Zig did her very wiggliest walk.
Wiggle, wiggle, WOBBLE!
Everyone laughed, Sami most of all.

That night, Sami curled up beneath a leaf.

“I miss my mom,” she whispered.

Zomma stayed close.

“You can love it here and still miss home. Hearts have room for both.”

In the morning, rumble, rumble, the jeep came back!
“Our suitcase!” called a girl.
The jeep stopped.
Zomma waited with Sami, well back from the road.
“Ready?” she asked.
Sami nodded.

“Thank you for helping me,” said Sami.
“We're glad we met you,” said Zig.
“Bye, Sami!” said Zag. “Sorry again about the spider thing.”
Sami giggled and crawled into her pocket.
This time, she was going home.

Back home, Mom hurried over.

“Sami! You're home!”

Sami told them everything: the rumbly plane, the bumpy jeep, and the friends who made room for her.

Her family jumped for joy.

BOING! BOING! BOING!

Sami still couldn't jump.

But she had the biggest story of all.

Talk Together

Pick one question. You can point, talk, draw, act it out, or just listen.

Zag thought Sami was a spider! What did he say to make it right?

How did the herd make room for Sami?

Sami can't jump, but she's great at noticing. What are YOU great at?

Sami missed her mom, even in a fun new place. What helps you when you miss someone?

Try a crawl like Sami, a wiggle like Zig, or a jump like Sami's family. Move in your own way, imagine it, or join in with a BOING!

Draw together

How could you make room for someone new?

Drawing, writing, talking or passing are all welcome.

An adventure all her own.

Sami can't jump like the rest of her family. She's never been past the basement stairs.

Then one morning, her suitcase is snapped shut and headed on safari!

A funny, heartfelt story about being different, making friends far from home, and finding room for everyone.

Zag the Zonkey & Friends