

Little Bob and the Big Shadow

written by Jill Heyes

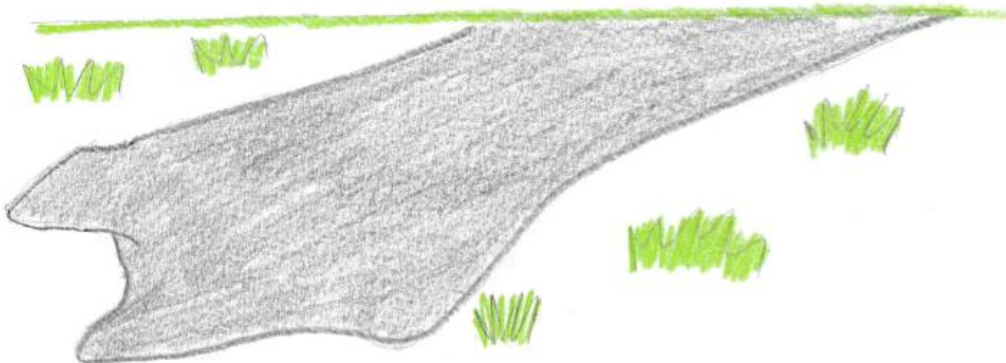
illustrated by Aarron Wynne

Once there was a little mouse called Little Bob who lived with his brothers and sisters and their little pet dog Snoopy in a safe, cosy nest under a soft green plant.



Little Bob loved playing with his brothers and sisters, and he loved it when his friends came to play, but he didn't like to go too far from the nest, in case the big animal came...

There were lots of birds and animals, and most of them were friendly, but Little Bob worried about the big animal. It liked to eat little mice, and when it came near, a dark shadow came with it.



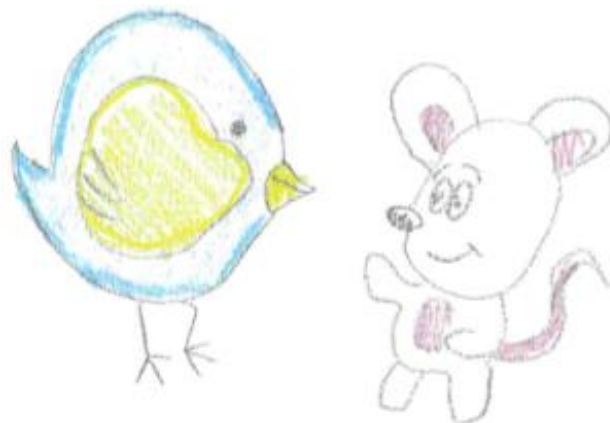
Sometimes a shadow over the nest was just a cloud passing by, or the rain coming, or a bird flying over, or something walking past. But every shadow made Little Bob feel scared, because it might be the big animal.



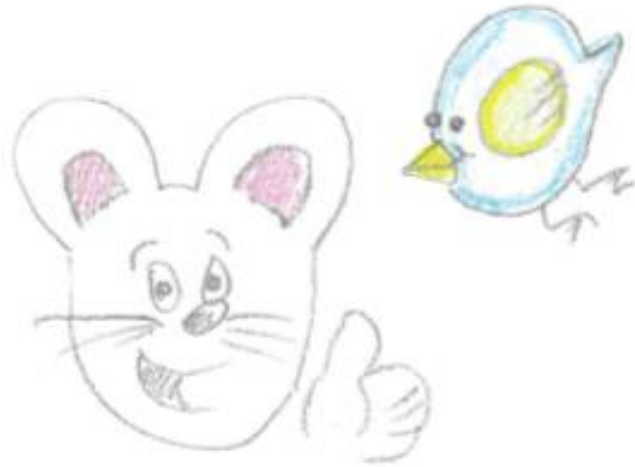
In fact Little Bob was scared most of the time, even when he didn't realise it. Noises made him jump. Someone in his family looking worried made him worry. All sorts of things scared and worried Little Bob.

Then, one day, something amazing happened.

One day a little bird came to Little Bob and said "Let's have a little fly. You can ride on my back". At first Little Bob was worried. But then, in the end, he said "Yes".



It was an amazing ride, and then he stopped worrying,
because he felt really safe with the bird.



When he got off the bird he didn't worry. All day and all night
he still didn't worry. So he forgot all about the big animal,
and one day he made a new friend.

This friend had a big shadow and was a big animal, but Little
Bob didn't know what he was.



Then suddenly Little Bob's brother said it was a cat. And he
made friends with the big animal. And the big animal said
"Yes I am a cat but I had no other friends.

Yes I am the big animal, and everyone thinks I'm scary but I'm not. And now you're my friend, and I'm very thankful".



Then Little Bob decided to let the cat live with him. Suddenly everyone else was worried, and then he started to sing a song. He wasn't Little Bob any more. He was Bob Barley. And he started to sing "Don't worry, be happy".



And ever since then he was the biggest rock star in the entire universe, and he stopped worrying, and so did everyone else, because they realised that the big animal wasn't scary at all.



THE END