

Sparky the Firefly

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Page 1

Picture with the following words

Sparky the Firefly lives in a rotten, old log in the forest. As sunset approaches, he wakes from his sleep and prepares himself for his evening in the woods.

He is happy. His tail shines brightly as he floats out of the log into the clearing.

Page 2

Picture of Sparky meeting Francine the dragonfly who is sitting on a
rock

Sparky sees Francine the dragonfly resting on a rock. He glides over and sits down beside her. She looks closely at Sparky and then proudly asks:

“Why do you have such a small tail? My tail is much bigger than yours!”

A little hurt, Sparky flies away thinking to himself,

“I don’t know. I think all fireflies have small tails.”

Page 4

A picture of Sparky having just bumped into a bee and receiving a tongue lashing from the bee.

A little distracted by Francine's question, Sparky rounds a clump of daisies and unexpectedly bumps right into a busy bee. The bee was trying to gather his last flower pollen before the sun went down.

The bee angrily says, "*Get out of my way, dimwit! Can't you see I'm very busy!*"

Page 6

Picture of Sparky feeling chagrined and disconcerted

Sparky was feeling small and a little ashamed as he said to himself,

“Dimwit? It was just an accident.”

But, the light in his tail became a little dimmer.

Page 8

Picture of a big old bullfrog sticking its long tongue out to try to capture Sparky

Sparky was approaching the marsh near the river and he did not see a big, old bullfrog lurking in the weeds.

To Sparky's surprise, a long sticky tongue shot out and tried to catch him. It just missed. Sparky escaped only to hear a croaky voice say, "*Loser!*"

"*Loser*", Sparky said to himself, "*What did I do to deserve that?*"

And his tail grew dimmer still.

Page 10

A picture of a family of raccoons fishing in the river for clams

Just then, Sparky came across a family of raccoons fishing for clams in the river bed.

The raccoons called Sparky over to shine some light on what they were finding.

Page 12

Picture of the young raccoons laughing at Sparky

When Sparky came close to the raccoon family, the youngest raccoon said,

“What kind of firefly are you? You have almost no light at all.”

His teenage brother mocked Sparky, *“Who are you anyway? Dim or dimmer?”*

And all the raccoons joined in a chorus of laughter.

Out of embarrassment, Sparky’s light went out all together.

Page 14

Picture of a wise old owl sitting on a branch talking to Sparky

Quietly, Sparky floated up into a big maple tree and settled himself down on a leaf.

As he sat in the silence, he slowly realized that a big, wise old owl was perched on a branch nearby in the darkness.

The Owl gently asked, “*What’s wrong? You seem so sad.*”

Page 16

Picture of a disconsolate Sparky

Sparky replied, *“I am sad. I feel worthless. My light went out. What kind of firefly can I be without a light in my tail?”*

The wise old owl said, *“Don’t worry little guy. I know how you can get your light back. If you go up to the top of the mountain, there you will see a beautiful garden. At the back of the garden, you will find the Father of Light. He will help you. “*

Page 18

A picture of Sparky encountering the Father of Light

Following the owl's instructions, Sparky works his way up to the top of the mountain and there he discovers a most enchanting garden.

With hope in his heart, he tiptoes into the garden toward the light at the back. The closer he gets, the brighter the light shines. And then, a very friendly voice speaks from the center of the light:

"Welcome!"

Page 20

A picture of Sparky talking to the Father of Light

Hesitantly, Sparky asks: “*Are you the Father of Light?*”

Father of Light replies: “*Why yes I am. Can I help you?*”

Sparky shares his story” “ *My light went out and I don’t know how to get it back.*”

Father of Light listening with concern then asks: “ *When did you notice it go out?*”

Page 22

Sparky sharing his story

Sparky replied: *“After that bullyfrog called me a loser and when those raccoons teased me and made fun of me.”*

Father of Light then asks: *“Tell me. What have you been saying to yourself?”*

Page 24

Picture of Sparky crying

Sparky sobs:

“ I am a failure as a firefly.”

“My tail is not long enough.”

“My light has gone out.”

*“Nobody seems to like me, and
that bully frog called me a loser.”*

Page 26

Picture of the Father of Light comforting Sparky

Father of Light: *“But Sparky, that is not true. You are not a failure!*

Sparky: *“Well then, what is the truth?”*

Father of Light : *I assure you, the truth is that you are amazing. You can make light out of thin air. Not even human beings, dragonflies, bees, bullfrogs and raccoons can do that.”*

Sparky listened keenly. The words filled him with joy and his tail started to glow.

Page 28

Picture of Sparky looking at his tail that is now shining brightly

Sparky asks:

“So, is it OK if I have a short tail?”

Laughing, Father of Light replies:

“Of course it’s OK. That’s how you were made to be so that you can create light.”

Sparky’s tail started to shine brightly!

Sparky looking at his tail:

“Thank you. Thank you for helping me get my light back.”

Page 30

Picture of the raccoons and the bullfrog watching Sparky with a bright shiny tail returning to the forest and Sparky bumping into Francine the dragonfly.

Father of Light:

“What are you going to do now?”

Sparky:

“I am going to go back to the forest and be myself.”

As Sparky floated back down the mountain and into the forest, the raccoons looked up and smiled as he went by. The mean bullfrog sleepily noted Sparky’s bright tail.

Then, Sparky came across Francine the dragonfly and found her crying.

Sparky enquires:

What's wrong?

Francine the dragonfly:

"I didn't get home in time and now I am lost in the dark."

Sparky:

"Follow me. I will light your way home."

Francine happily accepts Sparky's help and he leads her safely home.
(Closes with a picture of Sparky leading her home).