

## MY BEST YOUR BEST

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There is a story  
Of a monkey and a bird.  
As it rained on her hatchlings  
The monkey dropped a heap of leaves  
To shelter them.  
But the bird pecked  
Monkey in the eye  
Clucking abuses.

And baffled monkey  
Told his friend the owl  
“I could have climbed by  
But I did my best  
To keep them dry.”  
The wise owl hooted-  
“Maybe what is best to you  
Is not so to her.”

So the monkey sought the bird  
To ask her- “What gesture  
Would you consider the best  
On a rainy day like today?”  
“Worms. If only they were brought to me  
As I take care of my little ones...  
Thoughtful presence and timely help  
Is what would make my day”

“And you, monkey? What’s your best?”  
“Appreciation!” He whooped.  
“You threw dust into our eyes...”  
So the owl flew away to a quieter tree  
Where no clucking or whooping wars  
Born out of different versions  
Of what is deemed best was heard.