



## #13 *Mother Hen and Mother Duck*



*Once upon a time, mother hen was telling mother duck how she and her offspring needed to travel to the next hill. Mother duck chimed in, “We also must make the same treacherous journey.”*

*So they decided to go together. To avoid the danger of separation, the two mothers got one rope and tied it to all of their young, permitting them to stay in a single line. Suddenly, they came upon a wide river. “Oh no!” cried mother hen, “we chickens can only swim short distances!” She was well aware that without the oil in their feathers that ducks have, the chicks may perish! “Nonsense!” hollered mother duck, “we have come this far, and anyway, it is not safe to stay here!” Then she ordered that her ducklings assist the chicks. So into the river they went. The current was strong and the river wide. Although the*

*ducks swam effortlessly, some of the chicks struggled, then started to sink! "Hurry!", shouted mother duck to her ducklings, "help those chicks in trouble or we will all go down!" The ducklings upheld the rope and thereby facilitated safe crossing to the far shore. As they reached the promised hill, mother hen acknowledged with no small measure of gratitude, "You spared my family! I swear on my life to someday repay the favor!"*

*WE SINK OR SWIM TOGETHER*