



#26 *The First Writing*



It so happened that no one in the forest wrote anything down, for ever and ever as long as the stories remembered. In fact, not a creature in the whole forest could write, even if they wanted to. Suddenly, one day, brother rabbit said to brother bear, “I think that I shall create something to remember the story we are telling.” “How?” said brother bear. “I will make some marks on this bark that remind us!” exclaimed brother rabbit in triumphant tones. “Remind us of what?” inquired brother bear. “Well, the story. Who was in it and what they did,” began brother rabbit. So they set at the task of telling the story of how much fun they had that day. They thought of their swim and how the sun felt warm as they dried off. They savored their joking, and recollected the unspeakable treasure of each other’s company. But alas, try as they might, they could not find the words to name the wonderful myriad of sensations they

experienced in the water and the sun. They had even greater difficulty reducing their feelings for each other to words and symbols that could be put on the bark. "Did we converse during the best parts of today?" asked brother rabbit. "No, we just lived it," said brother bear. So they settled for scratching a few pictures of water, sun, and friends; and decided to leave the task of writing for another day.

LANGUAGE CAN REDUCE EXPERIENCE