

## CHARACTER TRANSFORMATION TALE BASED ON THE GREAT KAPOK TREE

Far, far away in the Amazon, Pedro the woodcutter was walking in the rain forest, searching for a great Kapok tree. Pedro was the strongest man in his village. After a while, he stopped in front of the tallest and greatest Kapok tree and took his axe in both hands. Soon the forest was filled with the sound of it striking the trunk of the tree. Whack! Whack! Whack!

Now, the wood of the tree was very hard and soon beads of sweat trickled down Pedro's face and he began to feel weary, so he sat down to rest at the foot of the tree and fell fast asleep.

Just then, a boa constrictor slid down the trunk of the tree and hissed in his ear.

"Senhor, this tree is a tree of miracles. It is my home. Do not chop it down."

Next, a small, bright tree frog crawled along the edge of a leaf and in a squeaky voice, he piped in Pedro's ear.

"Senhor, a ruined rain forest means ruined lives. You will leave many of us homeless if you continue to destroy this tree."

Suddenly Pedro awoke with a start and stared at the wondrous and rare animals around him. He looked at the beam of sunlight, streaming through the canopy like jewels sparkling and glowing among the dark leaves. He smelt the fragrant perfume of the beautiful forest plants and felt the steamy mist rising from the forest floor. However, he heard no sound, for the creatures were strangely silent.

The man picked up his axe and swung it back as if he was about to strike the tree once more, but something made him stop and turn. He looked at the animals and the child and his heart melted. He hesitated, then dropped the axe and walked out of the rainforest.