

1. Tall or Short

Long ago, there were a camel and a pig arguing about whether it was better to be tall or short. The Camel said, "Nothing like being tall! See how tall I am!" The Pig who heard these words said, "Nothing like being short! See how short I am!" The Camel said, "Well, if I can't prove what I said is true, I will give up my hump." The Pig said, "If I can't prove what I said is true, I will give up my snout." "Agreed!" said the Camel. "Just so!" said the Pig.

First, they came to a garden enclosed by a low wall without any opening. While the Pig could hardly see the plants in the garden, the Camel was tall enough to reach them and made breakfast on them. So he said jeeringly to the Pig, "Now, would you be tall or short?"

Next, they came to a garden enclosed by a very

high wall with a wicket-gate at one end. While the camel could only stay outside, the Pig was short enough to enter by the gate and ate his fill of the vegetables within. So the Pig said happily to the Camel, "Now, would you be tall or short?"

Then they thought the matter over, and came to the conclusion that the Camel should keep his hump and the Pig should keep his snout because they found out...

"Tall is good, where tall would do;

Of short, again, 'it's also true!"