

# The Shadow\* 影子

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One morning, an angel\* saw a sad little boy. He sat on the ground,<sup>1</sup> and his shadow was in front of him. He looked at it, and he cried and cried.

The angel went to him and asked, "Why are you crying, little one?" The boy said, "The world is so dark!<sup>2</sup> There's nothing beautiful here. Why must I stay in this dark world?"

The angel couldn't believe<sup>3</sup> her ears. She said, "The world isn't dark. The birds are singing, and other children<sup>4</sup> are playing. Don't you hear them?"



The sad little boy answered,<sup>1</sup> "Yes, I hear the birds and other children. Where are they? I can't see them. I only see my dark shadow on the ground."

That made the angel sad. However, she knew the answer<sup>1</sup> to his problem. She told the boy to stand.<sup>2</sup> Then, when he did, she turned him around.

The boy now faced<sup>3</sup> the morning sun. The angel told him to look. So, he dried<sup>4</sup> his tears\* and looked. He couldn't believe his eyes.

The little boy saw a different world. There was a big field\* of grass,<sup>1</sup> and there were lots of children there. They laughed<sup>2</sup> and played in the grass.

When the boy saw them, he cried, "Oh my, there are the children!" He then added,\* "The sun is shining,<sup>3</sup> and the shadow is gone, too!"

The angel looked at him and said, "No, it's not. The shadow is behind you. It belongs<sup>4</sup> there, so you don't need to be sad anymore. Now, go and play with the others." **ABC**