GNU and SHREW

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Illustrated by Anca Sandu
Gnu and Shrew met at the riverbank at dawn. The two friends took turns drinking and watching for crocodiles.

Gnu whispered, “This river is deeper than deep and wider than wide. The current is fierce, and it’s filled with hungry crocodiles.” Shrew nodded politely.

Gnu said, “Too bad this river’s so dangerous. I hear there’s a cave on the other side, filled with diamonds.”

“Is that so?” said Shrew, in his tiny shrew voice.
Gnu and Shrew gazed across the river, both dreaming of diamonds. “One day I’ll cross this river and dig up those diamonds,” Gnu said. Then we’ll be rich!”

“We could work together,” Shrew said, “and share the treasure.” Gnu laughed so hard his tail nearly fell off. “This job is much too dangerous for a tiny shrew,” he said. “But when I get those diamonds, I’ll buy us a boat and we can sail around the world.”

Hmm, thought Shrew. That gives me an idea.
Gnu went home and dreamed of diamonds...

...while Shrew worked on a plan to cross the river.