

# ♥ When Stella was Very, Very small ♥



When Stella was very, very small, she thought she was a turtle.

Then she thought she was a goldfish...

But being a dog was even better.



When Stella was very, very small, she lived in a very, very big house.



She could see the whole world from the top of the living-room couch.

Stella couldn't open doors, look through keyholes or even tie her shoes.

But she could race against her rubber ducks in the enormous Olympic-sized pool.

Stella always won.



When Stella was very, very small, words looked like ants running off the pages.

Butterflies flew on the walls, and cups jumped off the table, just like that!

Every night before going to bed, Stella listened to the trees talking.

They told stories about holding up the sky with their branches and tickling the bellies of the smallest clouds.



When Stella was very, very small, she explored the great tropical jungle behind her house.

There she saw a ferocious man-eating tiger and giant slithering snakes. Huge insects buzzed around her ears.

Beyond the tropical jungle, there was a desert that stretched on forever.

One terribly windy day, Stella nearly lost her way during a wild sandstorm.



And once when Stella was very, very small, it snowed so much the whole world disappeared...

But now that Stella is big, she feeds the goldfish.

She walks much faster than a turtle, and she carries the dog around like a little sack of potatoes.



She plays hide-and-seek with the neighbor's cat and examines the worms and tiny insects in her backyard.

Now that Stella is big, the ants in her books have become words and the words have become stories.

Now Stella can read these stories to her little brother, Sam.

Stella can also teach Sam how to be a snake...



Or a rabbit...

Or a bird.



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