

Once there was a most unhappy worm. All the other worms were small and wriggly, but not the unhappy worm, he was big and clumsy.



“Why can’t I look like all the rest?” thought the unhappy worm.

All the other worms had names like Wilma and William and Winipeg and Winfred, but the big worm was called . . . Just Plain Worm.

“Why don’t I have a name like the others?” thought Just Plain Worm.

All day long the other little worms were busy digging tunnels in the ground. Just Plain Worm worked very hard too; but instead of a tunnel, all he could dig was a big, round hole. When he looked at what he had made, he started to cry.

“Why can’t I do what the other worms do?” He was a very unhappy worm.

At night, when it was cold and dark, the little worms wiggled down their tunnels and curled up to sleep in their cozy, snug burrows. Just Plain Worm had no burrow of his own, so he crawled into his hole and covered himself with a leaf to keep warm.



“Why can’t I stay with the other worms?” sobbed Just Plain Worm, and he cried himself to sleep.

In the morning, when the early birds came to catch worms, the little worms stayed safely hidden in their burrows in the ground. Just Plain

Worm had no place to hide, so he crept under a rock with the creepy-crawly bugs.

“Get out of here, Worm!” cried the creepy-crawly bugs.

“I’m hiding from the early birds,” explained Just Plain Worm.

“Go hide in the ground like the rest of the worms,” shouted the grumpy bugs. “You don’t fit in here. It’s much too crowded.”

“I’m sorry,” said the unhappy worm, “but I have nowhere else to go.” The angry bugs tried to push the worm out, but he was just too big.

Just Plain Worm crawled off through the tall grass until he came upon someone napping in the warm sunshine. “Why, that looks a lot like me,” he thought. The *someone* was even longer and rounder than he, and all curled up in a ball.



“Excuse me,” said Just Plain Worm, “but are you a worm too . . . a big worm like me?”

“No, I’m not!” hissed the sleepy creature. “I’m a snake and you woke me up!”