

## How Responsible Rhino Got Her Name

By Sophie Hunt (Year 6)



One dry and sunny morning the Rhino family were out for a stroll through the African Savannah. Rocky, Ronald and Rico, Rin's younger brothers, were all asking if they were allowed to go and play near a large, sticky mud pit.

"Oh please, Mother! Please, please, please can we play near the mud pit?" they pleaded, shuffling towards it. "It's such good fun!"

"Well, only if Rin looks after you. But whatever you do, don't fall in, because if you do you might not get out," Mother Rhino replied. The little ones nodded their heads obediently. Rin sighed and tried to protest, but Mother Rhino nudged her, clearly indicating that she had no choice. So, Rin followed after her speedy brothers, wishing that they had just kept quiet.

"Hurry up Rin, you're so slow!" Rico called over his shoulder.

"I'm going as fast as I can! Slow down, or else you'll slip," Rin yelled after them, feeling panicked. Thanks to her vivid imagination, pictures were swirling around in her head and making her feel anxiously sick. She could imagine her brothers skidding at an alarming speed, straight into the mud. She could imagine them all wailing, and then she would get into trouble. No. That wouldn't happen. She would make sure of it.

After half an hour, Rin became bored of minding her brothers. She thought that watching the three calves play tag would at least entertain her, but she soon grew tired of it. At first, she was tempted to join in, but she resisted the urge. She was too old for that kind of game now. So, Rin decided to stand under a tree for shade. She closed her eyes and enjoyed the warm sunshine and the sound of the leaves rustling. She imagined what else she could be doing...

Suddenly, there was a massive squelch, just as she was dozing off. She snapped her eyes open and to her horror she saw Rocky, Ronald and Rico had fallen and were being sucked into the mud. They were struggling, but they were stuck and sinking fast.

"Rin! Help us! We're going to drown!" Rocky screeched, wriggling frantically.

“Oh no! What was Rin going to do? If she tried to save them, then wouldn’t she get pulled in too? She spun round and ran towards Mother. Even though she knew that she was in a lot of trouble, she wasn’t going to let her brothers be stuck forever.

“Pull!” Mother ordered, and they both heaved until finally... THUD! They all landed in a heap on the ground.

“Rin! What did I tell you about keeping an eye on your brothers?” Mother sighed, exhausted. Rin drooped her head and apologised. She knew that she should have been more responsible.

Rin learnt a valuable lesson that day and from then on she could always be relied upon to be a responsible rhino.

#### DEFINITION OF RESPONSIBLE:

*Having an obligation to do something or having control over or care for someone as part of one’s job or role.*

*Being the primary cause of something and so able to be blamed or credited for it.*

REMEMBER: Be a Responsible Rhino!

*Sophie’s story was the winning entry for Fire House (Y6) in the House Festival in 2023. Great job House Captain!*