

The Story of Persevering Penguin

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On a cold, frosty morning in the South Pole, the snow glistened in the bright sunlight, the icy mountains loomed like giants walking the Earth, and the water was clear as glass, still as a statue. The wind blew gusts as sharp as spears and the snowflakes landed as delicately as feathers, whilst the penguins huddled together for warmth.

The mother penguins had gone fishing for food for their young. Penny was one of those penguins. She was a fine penguin, with a belly as white as snow, feet bumpier than piles of pebbles and a beak as sharp as a knife. Penny made her long journey to the sea and back in the company of the other penguin mothers.

Back at the colony, the father penguins were keeping their babies warm. Peter was Penny's mate. He too had a strong, sharp beak and a plump tummy. His eyes were big and blue, and he was fluffier than a feather pillow. Peter worked hard to feed their baby, Jack, and to keep him warm, but the food he had would only last for three days at most.

Far from home, Penny didn't realise she was in danger. She was standing on thin ice with a sea lion circling close by. Suddenly, the ice snapped with a crack. Penny squirmed desperately to get back onto safe land, but the sea lion was getting closer and closer. The sea lion snapped its jaws, but luckily Penny's perseverance had paid off and she managed to escape.

Back at the colony Peter was trying to walk with the baby, but he kept falling over, as did all the other penguins. After a long time, Penny arrived home and Peter and Jack were thrilled to see her.

"It's been tough here," said Peter. "We were running out of food and starting to worry." Penny told him all about her long journey and her brush with the sea lion.

"Well thank goodness you came back to us Penny," said Peter worriedly. "I didn't realise that you were having an even tougher time than us!"

Penny huddled in to share the fish supper. "It was a long journey, and I nearly didn't make it," she said seriously, "but I knew I had to persevere and get back to my family safely, for the sake of us all."

“You were very brave Mummy,” said Jack. “When I grow up, I want to be just like you – a persevering penguin.”

And as you can see, Penny the Penguin’s nickname stuck!