

Tony's farm had a big pond. His big brother said that alligators lived in the pond. Tony was not sure. He had not seen any alligators. He had not even seen any fish. He had seen some turtles, though.

A friend lived down the road. His name was Ted. Tony thought Ted was a crybaby. Ted never liked to play outside. He did not like to get dirty either.

Ted came by one day. He asked, "What are you doing, Tony?" "Not much," said Tony. Ted did not have anything to do either. "Hey," said Tony. "I have an idea. Let's go fishing. We have a big pond. We can go there." Tony did not tell Ted the story of the alligators.

Ted said, "OK. But I cannot get my pants dirty. Mom will get mad."

Tony got the fishing poles. Then he got a bucket and filled it with water. He poured the water over some ground. Soon worms floated to the top. Tony then scooped up the worms with his hands. He put them in the bucket. "We will use these for bait," he said. Ted said, "Gross! I am not touching a worm." "You will have to," said Tony. "That is the way you catch fish."

Soon they were at the pond. Tony put a worm on his hook. Then he put one on Ted's hook. They tossed their lines into the water. Then they waited.

Soon they became bored. Tony told Ted about the alligators. "There are some in the pond here," he said. "I do not believe you," said Ted. "Only fish live in here."

"My brother said he saw an alligator. He said it was ten feet long. He said it could eat a horse!" said Tony. He watched Ted's eyes get big. Suddenly, Ted felt a pull on his line.

"I have a fish!" he said. "He must be big. I cannot pull him in!" Tony tried to help Ted. They pulled and pulled. Still no fish. Tony got scared. "What if it is the alligator? What will we do?"

"We will run!" said Ted. Just then the line snapped in the air.

A dark black thing flew up. It landed on the ground. It was not an alligator. It was an old boot!

The boys laughed and laughed. They were silly to think it had been an alligator. "Do not tell anyone," said Tony. "I will not if you will not!" said Ted.

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