



One day when his friends were gone, Sammy left early and stayed out later than usual. When he came home, he was very quiet. This was not like Sammy at all.

"Is something wrong?" Sarah Sparrow asked.

Sammy just shook his head and walked to a far point on the branch.

Sammy sat very still. Sammy was *never* still.

After awhile, his mother hopped over to him. Sammy turned away. His mother waited. Finally, Sammy whispered, "I lost a race today."

"Ohhhhh", his mom replied. She knew how important Sammy's races were to him. "Who beat you?"



Sammy quickly turned to face his mother and chattered, "Mom! That's just it! I've never seen him before. We didn't really race. I mean, I saw him far away and I tried to catch up and I couldn't! I tried three times! Mom! What if," Sammy stopped and looked away again. "What if...I mean...Mom, what if I'm not the fastest anymore?"