Delta is my horse. She is my best friend. I feed her every morning and every night. When she sees me, she calls to me. When I pat her, she nuzzles me. When we’re out riding she is perfect. Delta is an angel.

Well … maybe not always. Sometimes …

Sometimes she is a little bit devilish. In summer, when it’s hot she likes me to hose her with cool water. She won’t wait though. If I’m at school, she bites through the hose on her drinker.

Dad says, Delta likes her meals on time. If I am late, she is NOT patient. She stamps her feet and whinnies. If I don’t come at once, she uses her nose to open the door to the feed shed and helps herself.

Dad says, Delta likes the sweet grass that is around our house but she is not allowed on the lawn. Sometimes this makes her cross and she plots!! She watches carefully to see that the gate is tightly closed. If anyone is careless, she uses her nose to open the gate.

"That horse has the nose of an elephant", Dad says.

But I smile. I think she’s clever!

Ollie’s Story

Ollie’s first memory is of her mother’s gentle eyes as her brothers and sisters hatch in the ornithopod nesting site in a ferny forest.

For the first few weeks the dino-lings’ parents feed them leafy titbits and berry-mash. Ollie is kept clean, warm and safe until she is big and brave enough to venture into the dark, damp, ferny forest.

Each day the ornithopod herd browses on tender leaf tips, fern fronds and bright berries. Ollie and the other growing dino-lings learn to hide from the terrifying theropods. Theropods love ornithopods.

Each afternoon the forest dinosaurs gather together at the lake to drink. There is safety in numbers.

One afternoon the ornithopods meet a herd of coelurosaur by the water. After their drink, the dino-lings chase butterflies and play in the mud. The grown-ups just hang about the lake watching their children.

Suddenly the herd lookout shrieks, “DANGER! Run for it, everyone!”

Charging out of the forest is the most gigantic theropod Ollie has ever seen. Ollie remembers her mother’s message, “Stay with the rest of the herd and hide until it is safe to come out.”

Ollie races with the herd. They race across the muddy shore and into the ferny forest. They hide in the shadows of the forest trees and wait silently. Finally the lookout calls, “ALL CLEAR!”

After being joyfully reunited with their parents, Ollie and the other dino-lings slip back to their nesting site. They are exhausted, but happy to be safe and sound… for a while, that is!

Caution: Dinosaur Stampede

What happened:

The coelurosauruses and ornithopods gathered near the lake’s edge for a drink when a large theropod decided to catch some lunch. He crept slowly toward the smaller dinosaurs, then charged at his prey. The herds scattered in all directions trying to flee from the monster.

The result:

The dinosaurs’ footprints were left in the muddy banks of the lake. When the lake flooded, a layer of sandy mud, called sediment, covered the prints. Every flood buried the prints deeper and deeper in layers of sand and mud. Eventually these layers became rock and the footprints were turned into fossils.

What to do:

In 1971, a local man, Glen Seymour, found the footprints. He thought they were fossilised chicken prints. He was in for a big surprise!

Today, visitors from all over the world come to view the footprints at Lark Quarry Dinosaur Trackway, 110 kilometres from Winton. The site is the only example in the world of a real dinosaur stampede.
Caution: Dinosaur Stampede

Where: A lake in the lush low wet areas of Central Queensland.

When: 95 million years ago.

Who: 150 small to medium dinosaurs (coelurosaurus and ornithopods) and one huge theropod.

What happened: The coelurosauruses and ornithopods gathered near the lake's edge for a drink when a large theropod decided to catch some lunch. He crept slowly toward the smaller dinosaurs, then charged at his prey. The herds scattered in all directions trying to flee from the monster.

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This story is based on the events that took place millions of years ago in Western Queensland. The footprints of creatures like those described in this story can be seen today at the Dinosaur Trackways at Lark Quarry, 106 kilometres from Winton.

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Each day the ornithopod herd browses on tender leaf tips, fern fronds and bright berries. Ollie and the other growing dino-lings learn to hide from the terrifying theropods. Theropods love eating small ornithopods.

Each afternoon the forest dinosaurs gather together at the lake to drink. There is safety in numbers.

One afternoon the ornithopods meet a herd of coelurosaurs by the water. After their drink, the dino-lings chase butterflies and play in the mud. The grown-ups just hang about the lake watching their children.

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