

One Story A Day

for Early Readers

(Book 7 for July)



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Preface

This is the seventh book of *One Story A Day For Early Readers*, a series of twelve books designed to develop a love of reading in children ages 6 and up.

Written by a team of professional writers, these books comprise high-interest topics and motivational content that make children excited about reading.

The stories are based on everyday life, funny tales of friendship and family, fables from around the world, and stories about nature, science and history.

The *One Story A Day* series fosters children's total development—linguistic, intellectual, social, and cultural—through the joy of reading.

Both the content and structure of the books encourage children to read every day. Controlled vocabulary and targeted illustrations make the stories easy to understand. Moreover, each book comes with an audio CD with all stories narrated in clear, natural voices.

This series can be used in a variety of settings and with many different approaches. The stories can always bring the joy of words and reading to the ears and minds of children at a crucial stage in their development.

Sit back, relax, and discover the pleasure of reading!





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Omar's Goat (I)

Omar is a ten-year-old boy. He lives in a small village in Africa. But, unlike most kids, he doesn't go to school. His family has no money.

All they have is a small goat herd.

Every day, Omar takes the ten goats to the field so they can eat grass. He watches over the goats carefully. He can't lose a single one.

At the end of each day, Omar counts his goats and brings them back to the village.

One morning, Omar counted the goats. To his surprise, he discovered eleven goats! A baby goat was born during the night!



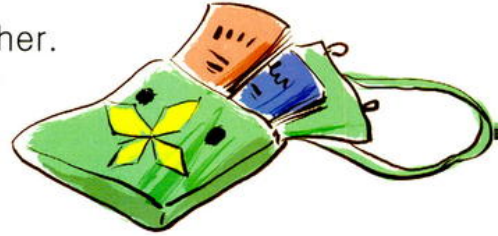




Omar's Goat (II)

When Omar's father saw the new-born goat, he was very happy. He gave the baby goat to Omar. "This will be your goat, my son," said his father. "Take good care of her and raise her to be big and strong."

Omar listened carefully to his father. He took extra good care of his baby goat. He watched over it, making sure nothing bad happened.



Every day, the baby goat went to the field with the other goats. Day by day, it grew big and strong. Six months later, it gave Omar's family lots of milk.

Omar sold the milk. With the money he earned from selling the milk, Omar bought school books. Thanks to his goat, Omar can now go to school.



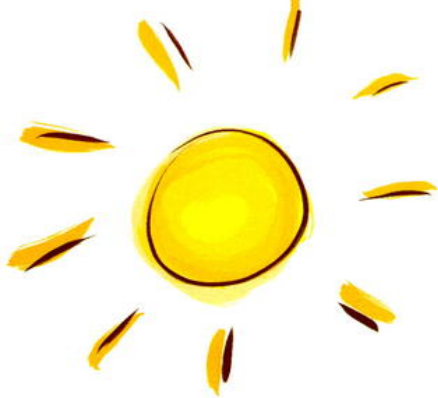


Thinking About Farmers

Last summer, I went on a week-long bus tour of Europe. On the first day, twenty people showed up. They were all of different backgrounds and cultures.

At first, no one talked to each other. But gradually, people got to know each other better. Then, they started to eat together like real friends.





But one old man still didn't talk much. He just listened. He seemed to be a man of few words. Then one day, as we were eating lunch, he opened his mouth. Slowly, he said, "Let's not waste any food. Let's all think about the farmers."

Some young people gave him a strange look. But, he won my respect immediately. He was right. Think about how much work it takes to grow rice and to make the meals on our tables!

Since that day, I often think of that old man and his wise words while I am eating.





A Special Gift

One holiday, when my aunt came to visit, she brought a special gift for my grandparents. Can you guess what it was? She had purchased a box of special birds' eggs. It contained pigeon, peacock, turkey and chicken eggs.

Why did she choose this gift? My grandma and grandpa are getting old, but they love animals. So, my aunt wanted them to have some special birds.

She spent a lot of time finding these special eggs. Some of these birds lay only a few eggs each month. She had to order them long before her visit.

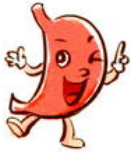


After my aunt brought the eggs to my grandparents, they used a big oven to hatch them.

Before the holiday was over, these special eggs became special birds—pigeons, peacocks, turkeys and chickens. Each of them was unique.

They were very special gifts!





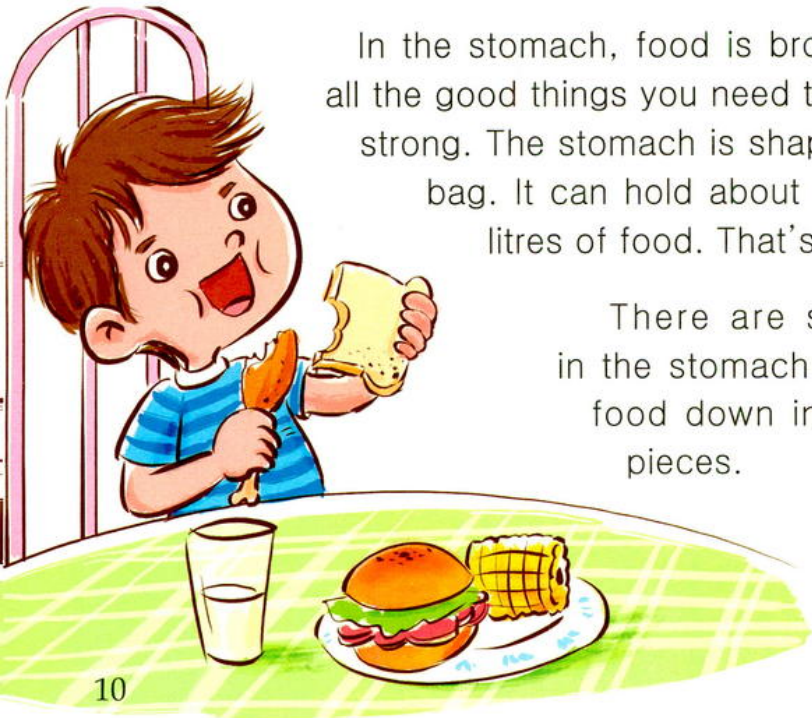
Where Does Our Food Go?

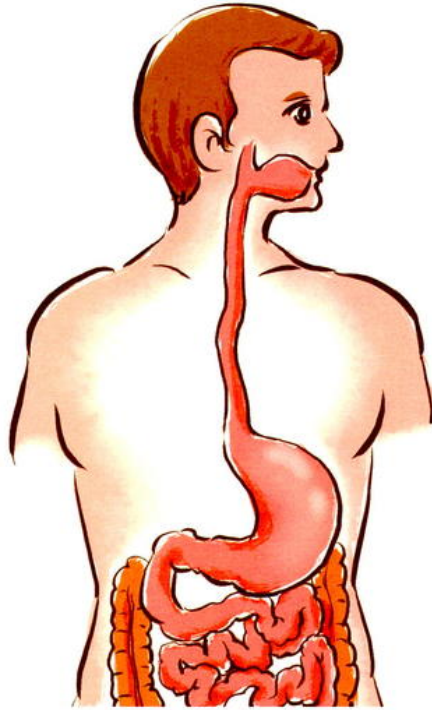
When you are hungry, you eat. You put food in your mouth. Then you swallow. But where does the food go after that?

The food travels down your throat and into your stomach, where all the interesting stuff happens!

In the stomach, food is broken down into all the good things you need to grow big and strong. The stomach is shaped like a small bag. It can hold about one and a half litres of food. That's a lot of food!

There are special juices in the stomach that break the food down into really small pieces.





A person eats about 450 kilograms of food each year. Imagine how busy a stomach is each day! That's why we have stomach aches sometimes. Too much food or the wrong kinds of food can make our stomachs hurt.

Now you know what happens to the food you eat.



At the Fair

My sister travelled to Cuba last Christmas. While she was there, she visited a country fair near Havana.

Many local vendors were selling their arts and crafts. They had carved wooden animals, hand-made musical instruments, seashells, drinks made from fresh coconuts and much more.





My sister stopped at a toy stand. She noticed a special toy—a toy camera. This camera was made of old aluminum cans.

What a great idea! You see pop cans everywhere. But you never see them used in this way. The tin-can camera is light. The lens cover pops up with springs when you click the button. My sister bought the toy camera for me.

This special camera doesn't take pictures. But, I am having a lot of fun playing with it. It's a piece of art!





Head in the Sand

Rico's mother told him a story about a big bird. This bird has long legs and a long neck. What is it? It is an ostrich.



When ostriches are frightened, they hide their heads in the sand. They think that if they cannot see danger, nothing bad will happen.

One day, an ostrich was being chased by a wolf. It was really scared. So, it hid its head in the sand. The bird assumed that if he couldn't see the wolf, then the wolf couldn't see him either. But the wolf saw the rest of the ostrich and he quickly ate the bird.

Rico laughed. "What a dumb bird."

Rico's mother said, "Yes. Pretending danger doesn't exist does not make it so."





Two Sons

Our teacher, Mr. White, has two sons. Both of them are deaf. They can't speak either.

When the first boy was born, they found that he could not hear sounds. In great shock, Mr. White and his wife went to many different hospitals to seek treatment. After three years, their son still could not hear sounds.

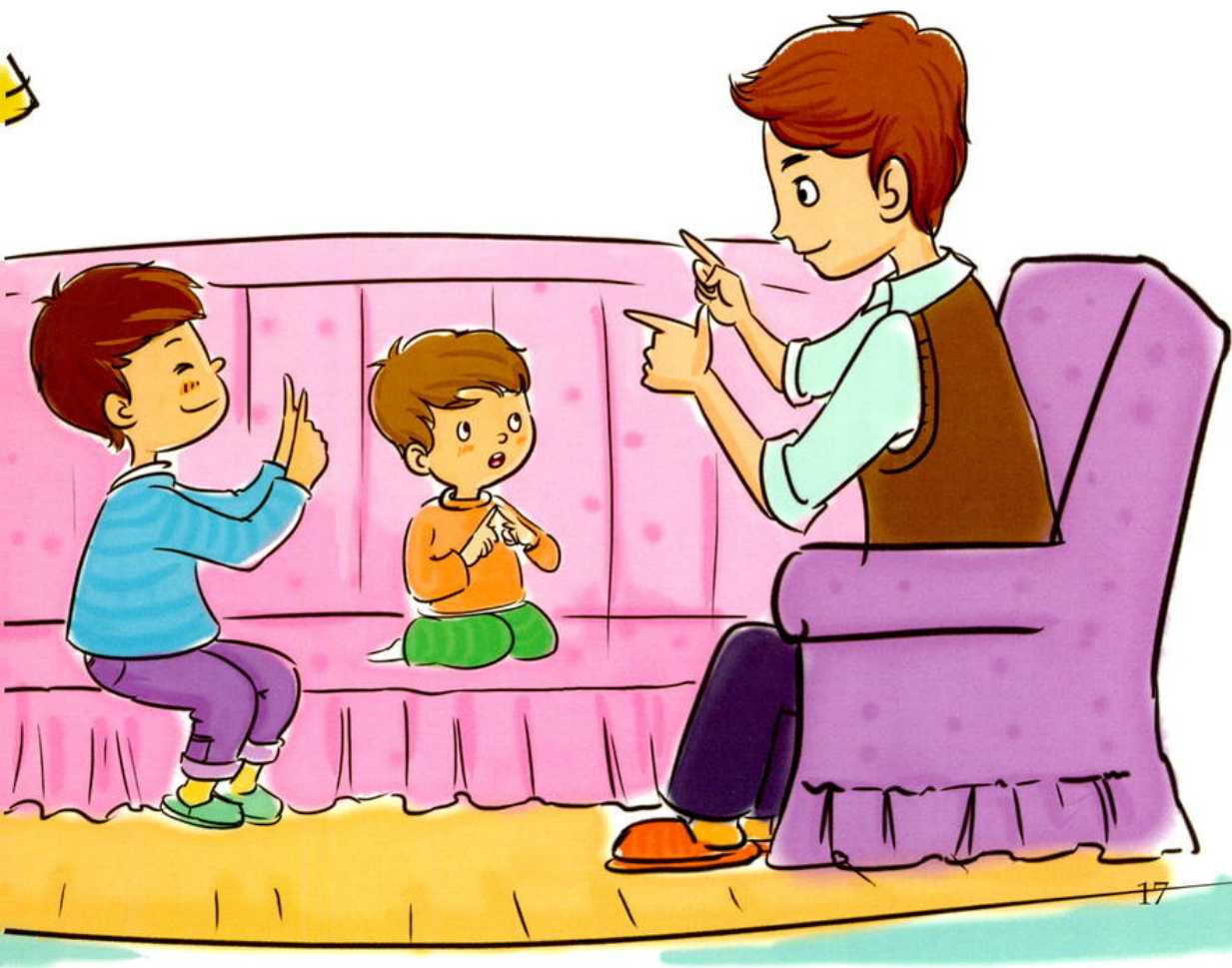
They accepted the fact that their son would never hear anything. His world would be silent.

A few years later, their second son was born. Like their first child, this son was deaf too. After talking to experts, they learned that the reason why their children were born deaf was defective genes.



Even so, Mr. White loves his sons very much. Every day, he sends them to a special school.

The two boys are very smart. Mr. White uses sign language to talk to their sons. They taught us some sign language too.





Lemon Ice for Sale

On a hot summer day, Jim and Jill decided to sell lemon ice. But first, they had to make it. They poured lemonade into small paper cups and put the cups in the freezer.

“Let’s set up a table while we wait for it to freeze,” said Jim.

“Great idea,” said Jill. Soon, they had set up a table with a yellow tablecloth by the road.

Jill went to the freezer but came back empty-handed. “It’s not frozen yet,” she said.

“Let’s make a sign while we wait for it to freeze,” said Jim.

“Great idea,” said Jill.

They made a big yellow sign: *Lemon Ice for Sale*.





Soon, a crowd of kids formed in front of the table. Jim and Jill went to get the lemon ice.

“It’s still not frozen. It’s just cold,” said Jim. “What will we sell to all those kids?”

“Lemonade!” exclaimed Jill. “Ice-cold lemonade!”
Soon, Jim and Jill sold out of lemonade and started another batch.

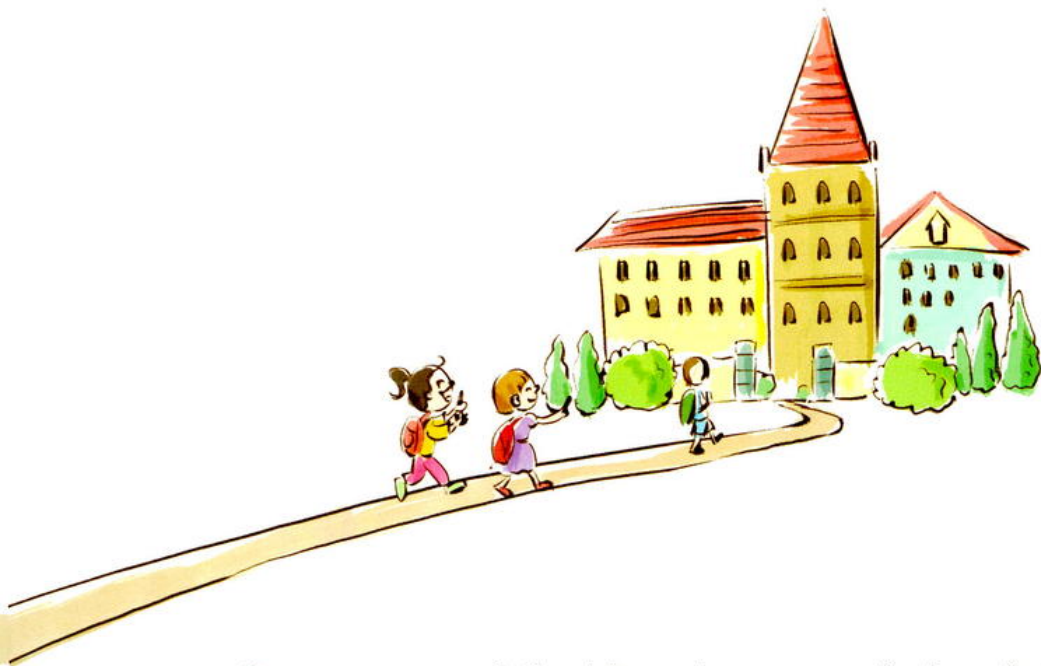


For You and Me

Today, I walked to school. As a matter of fact, everyone in my school walked to school. Why? Today is a special day. We call it “Nature-Friendly Day”.

What does that mean? Well, it means that for one whole day, we do something special for nature.





Cars are one of the biggest causes of air pollution. They burn fuel so they can run. But as the fuel burns, it creates a harmful gas. It makes our air dirty and unhealthy.

If we want to be nature-friendly, we need to think about new ways to get around. So, on this special day, we all decided to walk to school.

And you know what? Walking to school wasn't that bad. We got some exercise, breathed in some fresh air and saw things differently than when we were in a car.



What's That in the Sky?

My sister and I love to learn about all the beautiful things in outer space. What is outer space? Well, it's the space beyond the earth's atmosphere.

Last night, we went outside to watch the night sky. Wow! Every minute, there was a bright flash of light in the sky. Sometimes the light had a really long tail. I felt like I was watching a fireworks show—only it was made by nature.

What were we seeing? Meteors.

We sometimes call meteors “shooting stars”. But they are not stars. They are pieces of dirt and rock from outer space. Some are the size of a small grain of sand. But they make a big show when they enter the earth's atmosphere.



Some scientists believe that the dinosaurs were killed by a massive meteor that hit the earth millions of years ago.

But don't be afraid. Falling stars are natural. Go out and find one in the sky one dark night. It's worth the effort!



Hold That Thought

Kate and Susan are best friends. Like most friends, they have a lot of things in common.

“My cat is so funny!” Kate told Susan. “Today...” Just then, Susan broke in, “I have a cat too! She’s orange.”

Kate didn’t like how Susan had interrupted her. It made Kate feel like her words were not important.

Kate’s mom understood. She told Kate that stepping on others’ words was a bad habit, kind of like sucking your thumb. Kate remembered how hard it had been to





stop sucking her thumb. She also remembered how her mom's gentle reminders had helped.

The next day, Susan broke in again while Kate was talking.

"Susan, when you interrupt me like that, it hurts my feelings."

"I'm sorry, Kate. I didn't know."

With Kate's help, Susan learned to hold her thoughts until it was her turn to talk. She became a great listener, and the two girls became even better friends.



A Curious Boy

Bobby is a curious boy. One day, he saw a picture in a magazine. The picture showed a woman lying in a chair. She had two thin slices of cucumber on her eyes.

“It must be good for my eyes,” he thought.

That afternoon, Bobby cut two slices of cucumber. He lay on his back and carefully placed the cucumber on his eyes, just like the magazine photo. He felt so relaxed that he fell asleep.

When Bobby’s mother came home, the house was quiet.

She wondered where Bobby was. “Maybe he is sick,”





she thought. She went up to Bobby's room and found him sleeping with his two huge cucumber eyes.

"Ah!" she gasped in surprise.

But when she found out what Bobby was doing, she laughed. What a curious little boy!

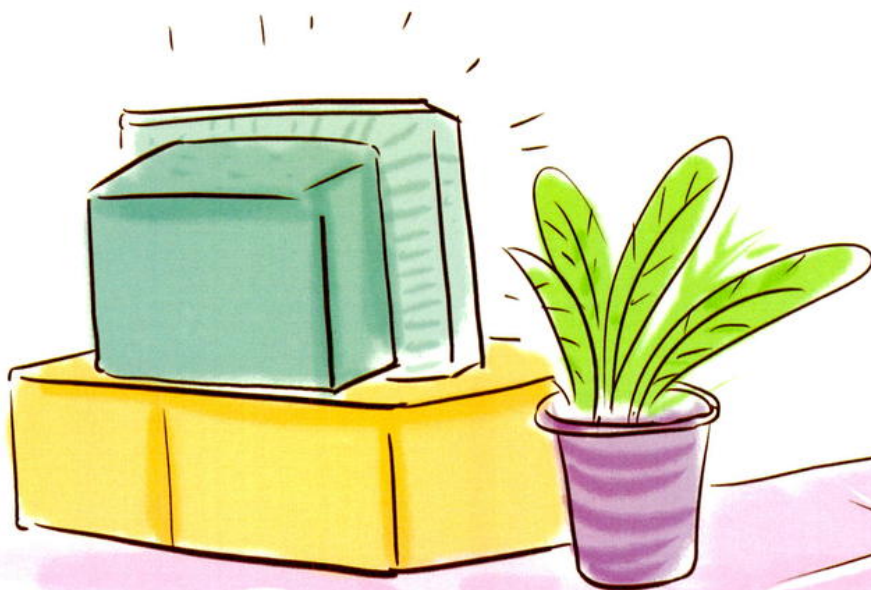


No Couch Potatoes

Tim and Ben were best friends. They used to love to play tag and ride their bikes together. But lately, Tim spent most of his time on the computer or watching TV.

One day after school, Tim asked Ben if he wanted to watch Power Rangers with him.

“Okay. We can pretend to be Power Rangers while we watch!” Ben said, feeling very excited. But Tim just wanted to sit and watch.



Ben wasn't happy. He said, "My mom says that if I just watch things and never do anything, I'll turn into a potato. Not a real potato, but a lump that can't do anything. You don't want to turn into a couch potato, do you?"

Tim thought about what his friend had said. Of course he didn't want to turn into a couch potato.

Then, he jumped up and said, "Come on, Ben! Let's play Power Rangers!"





A Day with Dad

Adam is not going to school today. He is spending the day with his dad. That's right, it's "Take Your Child to Work Day"! Adam will be going to the fire station to watch how his dad works.

Adam's dad is a firefighter. Today, Adam wants to see the big, red fire trucks. He wants to see the black-and-white dog that lives at the fire station. He wants to see



the big ladders. He wants to see everything!

Yes, Adam is very happy.

He and his dad get up early this morning. They take the bus to the fire station. Many parents will be bringing their kids to work today. The fire chief shows the kids around the station. It is very exciting!

Adam has one wish. He wants to sit in the fire truck. He says, "Please, Chief. May I sit in the big, red fire truck?"

Adam climbs into the big seat. He feels the wheel. He sees many buttons. His dad presses a button. Wow! The fire siren makes a big sound.

What a fun day!



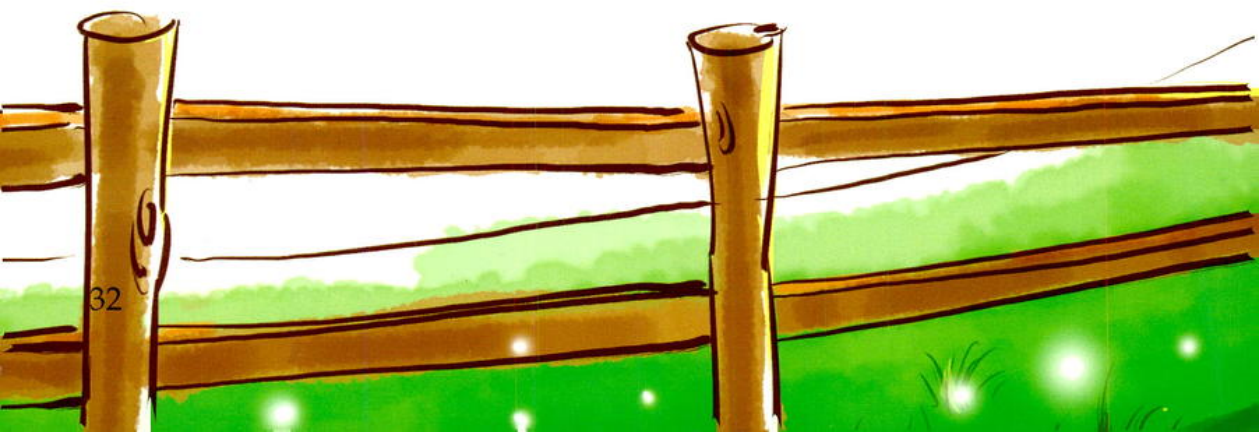


Big Moon Rising (I)

Wow! Something strange happened last night. It scared me at first. Lucky for me, my dad was home.

What was it? A big moon! And I mean BIG—really big. It was the biggest moon I had ever seen. I saw it outside our house on the farm. It was rising from the end of the field.

Normally, when the moon is full, it looks pretty big. But, the moon last night was something I had never seen before.



As it rose, it seemed to take up the whole sky. It was very bright. It was a weird orange colour. And scariest of all, it lit up the night sky as if someone had turned on a big light.



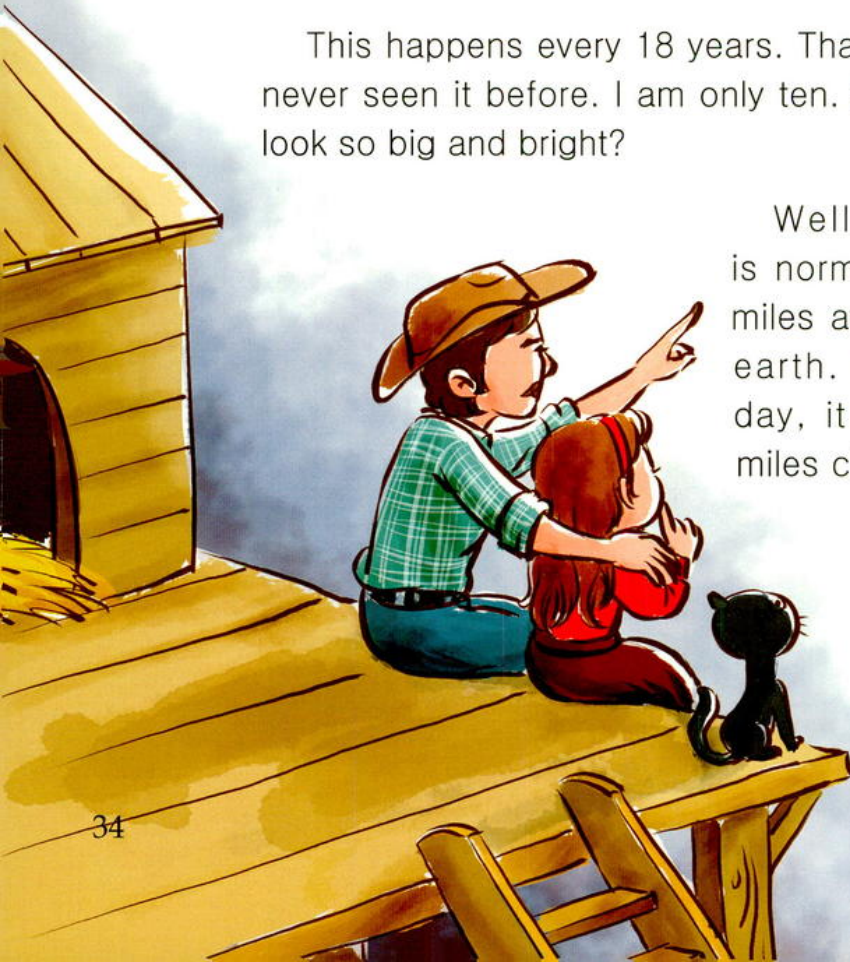


Big Moon Rising (II)

I ran inside feeling really excited and nervous. That's when Dad explained it all to me.

This happens every 18 years. That's why I had never seen it before. I am only ten. So why did it look so big and bright?

Well, the moon is normally 253,000 miles away from the earth. But on this day, it was 31,000 miles closer to us!





Don't worry. It's natural and normal. It will happen again in 18 years. How old will I be then? Wow! I will be twenty-eight years old. But I won't be scared when I see it next time.

When you understand why things happen, you are not afraid of them anymore.

Keep your eyes open and you will be able to see the big moon too.



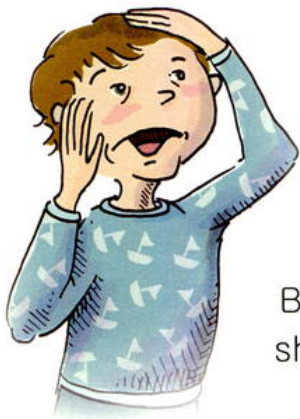
Mom, It Hurts!

“Time for bed!” said Mom. Jacob kicked off his blankets.

“Mom, my foot hurts!” said Jacob. Mom kissed his foot and sang a magic song. Jacob went to sleep.

The next night, when Jacob’s mom told him to go to bed, Jacob said, “I have a tummy ache.”





The night after that, he said that his head hurt.

Finally, Mom said, “Enough! Bedtime is bedtime. Stop this silly game!” But Jacob didn’t want to stop. “My shoulder hurts! My knee hurts!”

Mom switched off the bedroom light and said, “Go to sleep!”

The next night, Jacob had a toothache—a REAL toothache. So, when it was time for bed again, he cried, “My tooth hurts!”

Mom smiled at him and closed the door. Jacob cried, but his mom didn’t care. She didn’t seem to believe him.

Then, all of a sudden, the door opened. There was Jacob’s mom with a bottle of medicine.

“Take some of this,” she said. “It will make your tooth feel better.”

Jacob looked at Mom in surprise and thought, “Wow! Mom knows everything!”



Darcie wanted to give her mother a special present for her birthday. She thought and thought, but couldn't think of anything special enough.

She counted her money. She had two dollars. "What can I buy for two dollars?" she thought.

Dad took Darcie shopping. He bought a new fishing pole for his wife's birthday. "I know she'll like that," he told Darcie.

"Now I know what I can give Mom for her birthday," said Darcie. And so, she bought her mom a box of worms.

Dad laughed and said, "I never heard of

people getting worms for their birthday. But you're right. It is just what Mom will want."

Darcie wrapped the box of worms in birthday paper and put it in the refrigerator.

When Mom's birthday finally arrived, Darcie, Dad and Mom went fishing at the pond.

Mom liked both of her birthday presents very much. Most importantly, she enjoyed the time they spent fishing together.





Wonderful World of Music

Have you ever wondered where music comes from or how old it is?

Some of the oldest things found in caves are drums and sticks. Cavemen used to bang them together to make music.

The Egyptians, Romans, Ancient Greeks and Chinese also used music thousands of years ago.

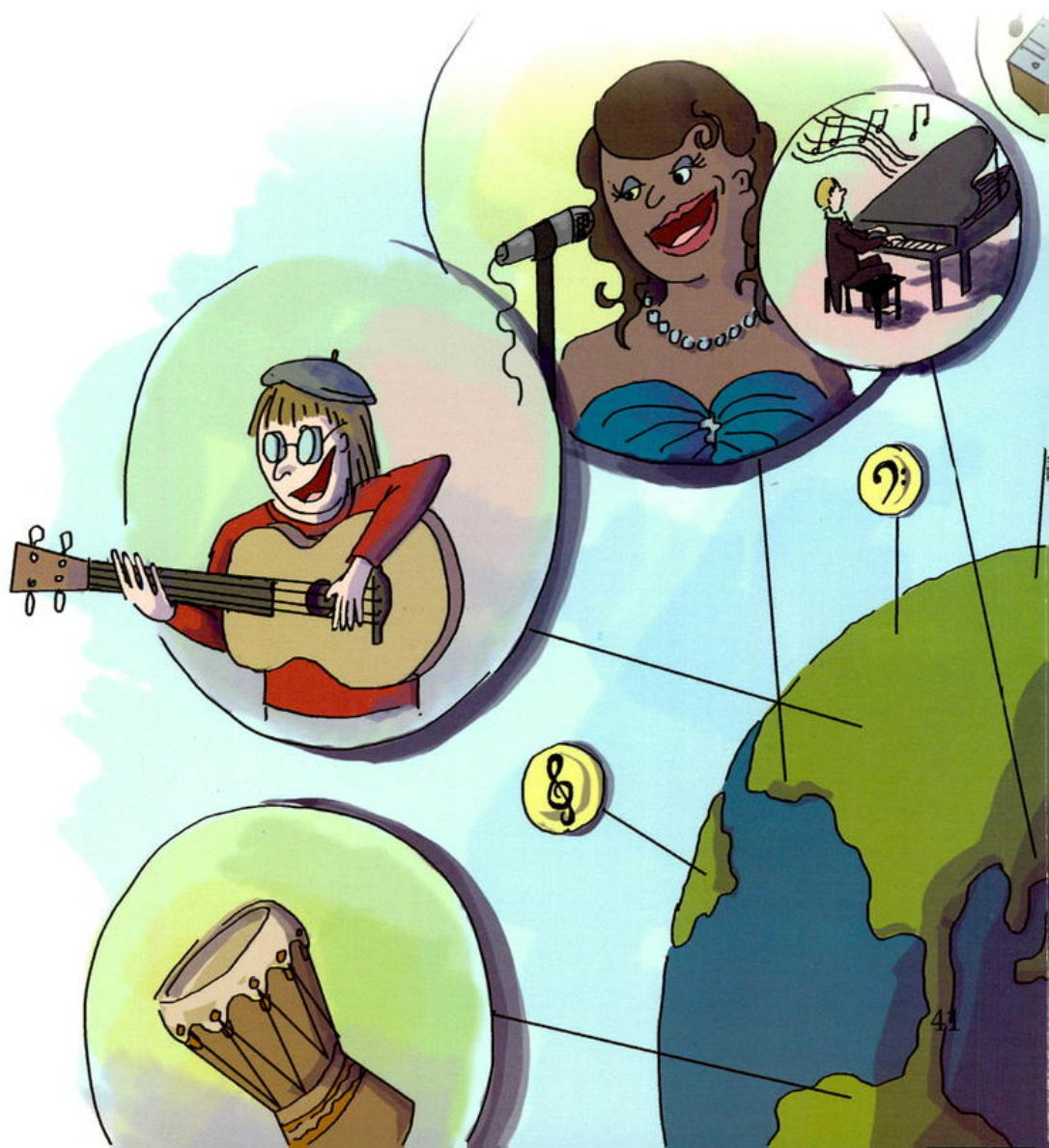
Music is as different as the places it comes from. Modern music is a mixture of all music from around the world.

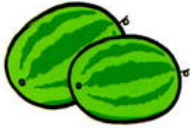
Whether you feel happy, sad or something in between, someone in this world has written music about that feeling.

Music has the power to make you feel alive and excited—whether you are young or old, rich or poor.

Music is a part of who we are.

No matter what happens in the future, people will always enjoy the wonderful world of music.

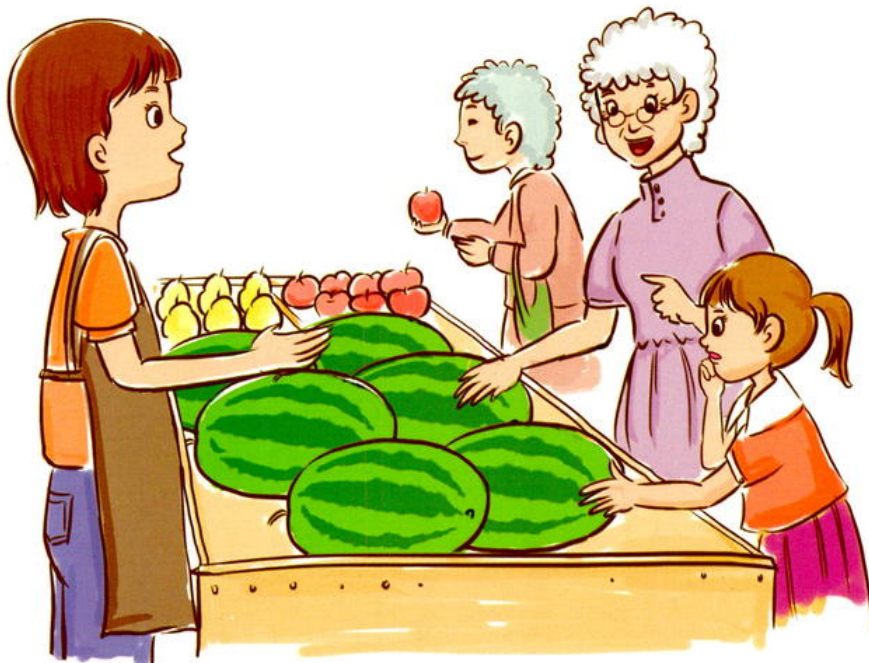


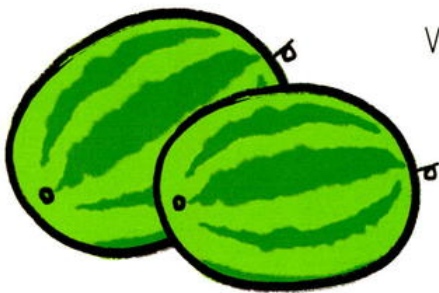


Sweet Watermelons

It's another hot day. Anna feels that watermelons are the best fruit for the summer. But Anna has a problem. She doesn't know how to choose sweet watermelons at the store.

"They all look the same," she thinks. "How can I know if the fruit inside will be sweet or sour, juicy or dry, firm or mushy?"





What a problem for a girl who loves watermelons!

So, what does Anna do? She can't cut open a watermelon before she buys it. Instead, she asks her grand-

mother for help.

"Look at the colour," says Grandma. "It should be dark green all over. This means that the watermelon got enough sun." Then she adds, "Feel the centre. It should have small bumps on it. Squeeze the skin. If it is hard, the watermelon will be sweet."

And then she says, "Finally, *thump, thump, thump*. Hit the watermelon with your hand. Listen for a deep, thumping sound."

Now, Anna knows how to find the perfect watermelon. They are always juicy, sweet and just right to eat.



Ants

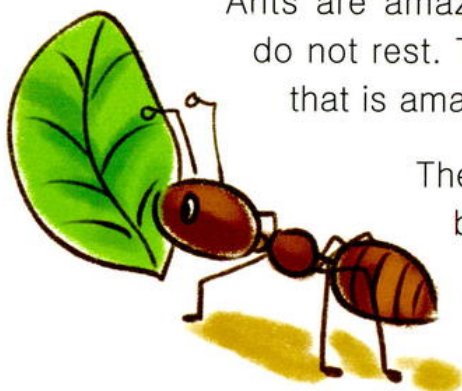
Look around you. See the natural world—birds that fly, animals that walk, and insects that crawl on the ground.

It's all very interesting. Stop, look, and listen. If you open your eyes to nature, you will learn a lot.

Look at an ant hill, for example. At first, it looks like just another pile of sand on the ground. But look closer. What do you see?

Ants are amazing insects. They work hard and do not rest. That's right: ants never sleep. Now that is amazing!

They are small too. But they have big brains. Each ant has about 250,000 brain cells. That's a lot for such a small creature.





Ants are really strong too. How strong? Think about this: an ant can lift something that is 50 times its weight. And, it does this with its mouth. Ants pick up and carry really heavy things with their mouths. Wow!

Oh, and there's one more thing. There are lots of ants. How many? For every human, there are more than a million ants.

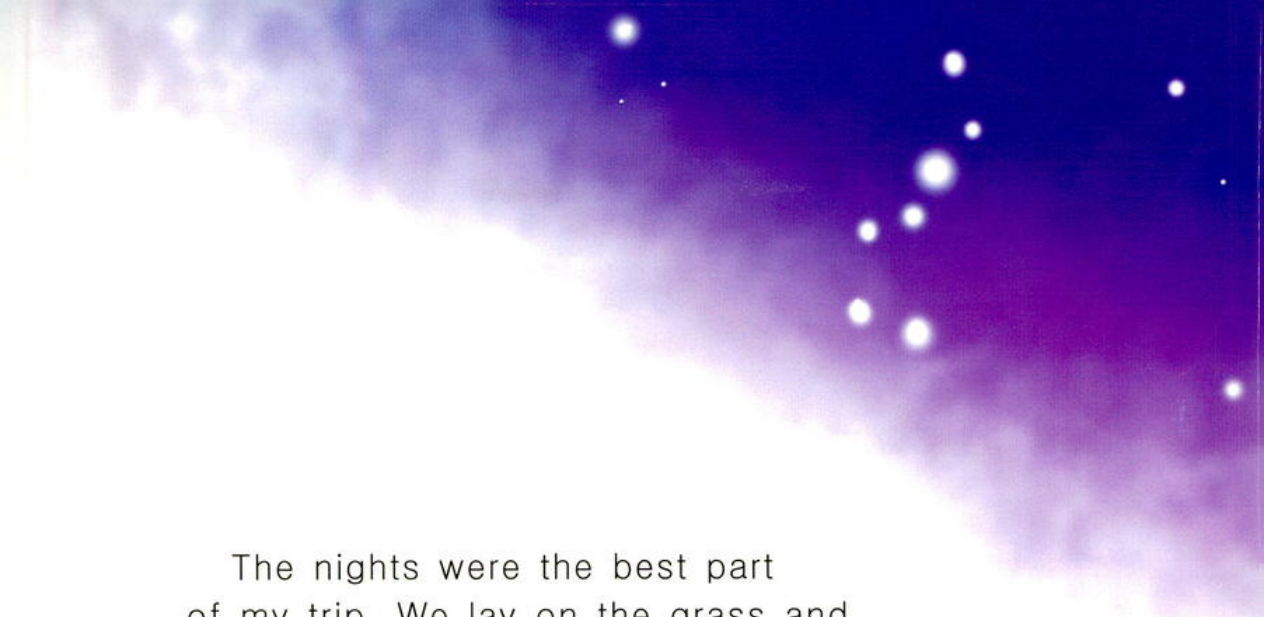
So, stop, look, and listen. Nature is amazing.



Summer Nights in the Country

This past summer, I went to my grandpa's house in the countryside. There were no televisions or computers. Instead, I spent time with kids in the neighbourhood, picking wild berries and catching grasshoppers in the fields.





The nights were the best part of my trip. We lay on the grass and watched the stars in the sky. It was nothing like the sky in the city. It was completely dark. You could not even see your own fingers!

The stars were so bright and clear. And there were SO many of them!

For the first time, I saw the Big Dipper. I even saw the Milky Way. All the kids shared what we knew about the stars and picked out shapes with our imaginations.

I was fascinated by the wonder of the night sky. It was so different from anything I had seen in the city.



The Fortune Teller

One day, my dad and I went to the fair. We heard some strange music coming from a little tent. There was a sign on the tent:

Dr. Tomorrow will tell you your future!

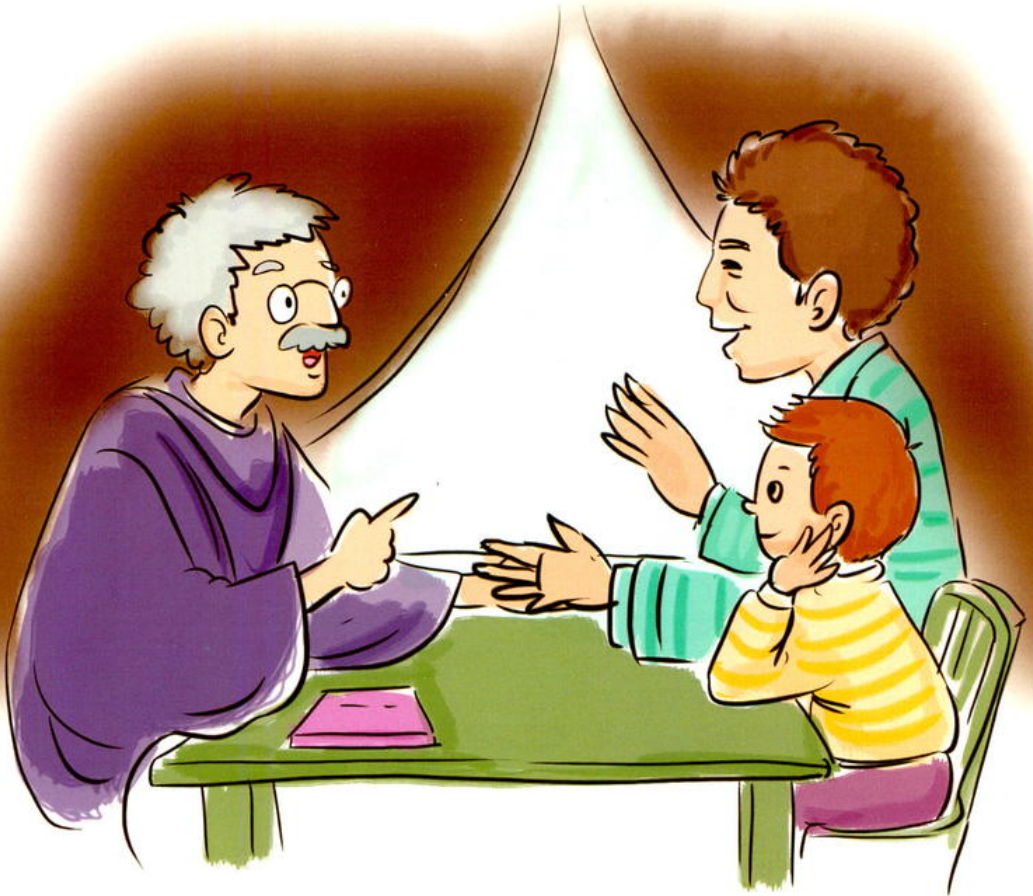
I had just heard a story about a man who was famous for predicting the future. I was curious, so we went inside.

An old man was sitting in a dark corner. He looked at my father's hands and talked about my father's past. About half of the things he said were true!

This amazed both my father and me, for some of the things would have been hard to guess.

Dr. Tomorrow offered to tell my father's future. But my Dad said, "No





thanks. The future comes fast enough!”

We thanked the man and walked out. We both wondered if a person could really know the future.

I still do not know the answer to that question.



Toothbrushes

The next time you brush your teeth, take a closer look at your toothbrush. It's simple. It's easy to use. In fact, it's perfect for removing the dirt on and between your teeth.

Before toothbrushes, people chewed on soft sticks.





They even used feathers to pick their teeth after a good meal. Today, nearly everyone brushes their teeth with a toothbrush.

The Chinese invented the toothbrush about 600 years ago. They used hairs from the Siberian wild pig to make the brush. Bamboo or bone was used for the handle.

European travellers brought toothbrushes back from China. But they did not like the feel of the pig hairs. So they used horse or cow hairs instead.

In modern times, most toothbrushes are made of nylon. But the purpose is the same: to keep your teeth clean. That way, you will grow up with strong, healthy teeth.



Picking Strawberries

Have you ever tasted strawberries picked fresh from the plant? Yesterday, I did exactly that.

It was early in the morning. We were fully equipped with thick socks and waterproof sneakers. We were each given a bucket to put the strawberries in.

I always thought strawberries grew on trees. But that morning, I saw rows and rows of small bushes. There were no strawberry trees at all!

Crouching, the farmer brushed the leaves of the bush aside to reveal three huge strawberries.

“Pick the ones that are completely red and leave the pink and greens ones to grow,” the farmer said. “Here is one. Try it.”

I ate the big, red strawberry. Mmmm... it was so

good! In fact, no strawberries we bought from the store could compare. They wouldn't taste this good even if they were covered in sugar!

That day, I picked two full buckets of strawberries and I ate many more. It was a very fun day. I learned a good lesson: strawberries do not grow on trees.





The Monkey and His Tail

A little monkey lived in the jungle. He loved to swing from tree to tree using his hands and feet.

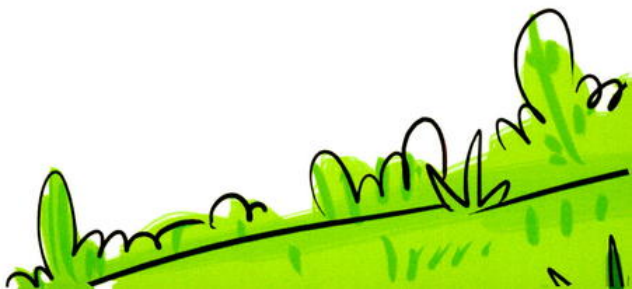
His mother said, "You must also use your tail to swing from the trees. Your tail is very important."

The little monkey was lazy. He did not like using his tail. It was easier to use just his hands and feet.

One day, the little monkey was sitting in a tree. Suddenly, he heard a roar. He looked down and saw a tiger looking up at him, wanting to eat him.

The little monkey was very frightened.

Quickly, he climbed higher up the tree. The tiger tried to climb the tree too. As it got closer, the little monkey saw the tiger's big teeth.



The little monkey knew what he had to do. He made a big jump. His tail caught a high branch. Lucky for him, he was safe.

From then on, the little monkey used his tail to help him climb trees far away from the tigers, lions and bears.





Animal Hospital

Some kids play baseball in their spare time. Some kids just sit around watching television. But Molly and Lily spend their time thinking of ways to help small animals.

One day, their neighbour, Mr. Jones, came to them with a baby bird. “It fell from its nest in the tree in our backyard,” said Mr. Jones. “Its mother left and no one came to help this poor little bird. Can you girls help?”

The girls made a warm nest in a box. They went on the Internet and found out how to take care of a baby



bird. In a few weeks, the bird was strong. It was able to fly. They took it to the backyard and let it go. They were amazed to see it fly away.

That's when they got the idea. The two girls made a sign. It said: *Animal Hospital*.





Fireflies

During the summer holiday, my friends and I often play hide-and-seek near our houses.

One day, I got a new idea. I suggested we play in a small forest nearby so that the game would be more interesting.

We had lots of fun there. Before we knew it, it started to get dark. We had no light. Even worse, we could not find the way home. Some of my friends began to cry. Suddenly, I saw small flashing lights near the bushes.

“Fireflies!” I exclaimed. “Quick everyone, try to catch them.”

We all started to catch them and put them into a bag. The small insects glowed with a bright green light. We could see each other’s faces clearly. We were no longer scared.

We sat in a circle around the light, telling each other stories while we waited for our parents.

About half an hour later, our parents came to find us. We were very grateful to our good friends, the fireflies.





Fight at Home

On a nice summer weekend, Mike and his brother went fishing. They had good luck and caught some big fish.

Happy with their catch, they put the fish in a pail and took them home. They were eager to have fish for dinner—especially since they had caught the fish themselves.

The brothers proudly began to prepare the fish for supper.

But then, their sister Anne came home and saw the fish. She was very upset. Just seeing the fish made her want to cry.

“Why did you bring the fish back?” she asked angrily. “They are so lovely when they live in the rivers.”

“Don’t you want to have a good dinner?” said one of

her brothers.

“No. I don’t want to have dinner tonight,” Anne protested. She would not let her brothers kill the fish and cook them in the pot.

The two brothers loved their sister. They thought about what she had said.

“Don’t worry. We will take the fish back to the river,” they agreed.

Anne went with them. Now, she had a big smile on her face.

