

Bill Wants a Pet

Bill wanted a pet. He asked his mom for a pet. She said he had to wait.

One day, Bill saw a little dog. The dog was crying.

Bill said, "This dog is lost." Bill took the dog home.

Bill's mom saw the dog. Bill asked, "May I keep it?"

Bill's mom said he could keep the dog.

Bill had a pet!

Jane and Meg's House

Jane and Meg are friends. One day, Meg went to Jane's house to play.

They went outside. Jane showed Meg a big tree. Jane said, "I want to make a house next to this tree."

Meg said, "I know! Come to my house! My mother just got a new bed. It came in a very big box. Maybe we can have the box for our house."

Meg and Jane went to Meg's house. They asked Meg's mother if they could have the box. Meg's mother said yes.

Jane and Meg took the box to make a house. They had fun.

Jan's Favorite Book

Jan loves to read books. Most of all, Jan loves books about animals. She likes books about dogs that help put out fires. She likes books about cats that get stuck in trees.

The best book is about a doctor. The doctor in the book takes care of animals. Jan loves to read about him.

In the book, a tiger at the zoo was hurt. The doctor came to the zoo. He put something on the tiger's leg. Soon the tiger was well again. When Jan grows up, she wants to be a doctor. She will take care of animals, too.

Sarah's New Teacher

Today is the first day of school. But Sarah doesn't want to go. This year, Sarah was supposed to have Mrs. Black for her teacher. But last June, Mrs. Black told the class she wouldn't be back this year. She told them their new teacher would be very nice.

Mrs. Black is the best teacher in the world! Last year, sometimes the big girls on the playground wouldn't let Sarah and her friends jump rope. Then Mrs. Black would come out to turn the rope just for them. Sarah doesn't think a new teacher will do that.

Sarah was surprised when she got to her classroom. The new teacher's name was Mr. Black. He said, "Good morning, boys and girls. My name is Mr. Black. I am married to Mrs. Black. I will be your new teacher. Mrs. Black asked me to tell you that she had a baby on Friday. I brought a picture of Mrs. Black and the baby."

Sarah and her friends made a card for Mrs. Black and the baby. Maybe the new teacher wouldn't be so bad after all.

The Accident

Yesterday, Bill's dad ran into the kitchen, shouting, "There has been an accident!" He told Bill to call the police. He said to tell them a bus had hit a car at the corner of Oak and Maple streets.

Bill wanted to go back to the corner with his dad. He wanted to join the excitement. But his dad said it was too dangerous. Bill watched out the window as his dad ran back out to the street. He hoped his dad wouldn't go on the bus. It was leaning against a wall. The car was underneath the bus, and gas was all over the ground.

But his dad did go back on the bus. Bill watched as his dad carried people from the bus to the grass. Bill saw his dad carry a little girl from the bus. She was clinging to a teddy bear. He said, "Thank goodness, that's the last one!" Just then, a truck screeched to a stop as the rescue workers arrived. The rescue workers rushed to care for the people who were hurt. They even put a bandage on the little girl's bear!

Then the news reporters arrived. They wanted information about Bill's dad. This morning there was a picture of Bill's dad in the paper. Under the picture, in big print, it said, "LOCAL HERO SAVES PASSENGERS."

Josh's Ski Trip

At daybreak, Josh looked out the window of the cabin. He looked through the icicles to the snow-covered mountainside. He couldn't wait to get out on the slopes! This year he would get to go on the Challenger Slope. He wanted to feel the wind rushing past his face as he raced down the hill.

When Josh's family came to Bear Mountain last year, Josh was the best skier in his class. But he was too short, and the ski patrol wouldn't permit him on the more difficult slopes. He tried to convince the captains of the ski patrol. He knew he was good enough to go on the tougher slopes, but they wouldn't bend the rules for anyone.

But during the long summer months, Josh had grown to five feet, seven inches, and nobody could stop him now! It was the first ski trip of the new season. The mountain was just outside the window, but everyone else was still sleeping peacefully. Josh couldn't stand it any longer! In silence, he picked up his boots and goggles and crept downstairs. He quietly lifted his gear down from the rack and slipped out the door.

The morning was perfect! The air was crisp, and the snow sparkled like silver in the sunrise as Josh made his way to the ski lift. He was anxious to feel the wind in his face. What a disappointment when he saw the new sign: "No Children under Fifteen without an Adult!"

Grandpa's Farm

Sometimes Beth hated towns and cities! They were taking over, and the farms and open land were disappearing. Beth wished she could live on a farm, but her dad was a mechanic. He repaired machinery for a mill in town.

Beth's favorite times were spent with Grandpa on his farm. Beth spent almost all her weekends with Grandpa. On cool evenings, Grandpa would light a fire. Beth loved to read by the firelight, just like girls did when this was the frontier.

On Saturday mornings, Grandpa was always up early, ready for his long day of chores. First, the pigs had to be fed, and the chicken coop had to be cleaned. Then the stallion had to be brushed. When Beth was little, Grandpa let her help milk the cows, but now he used milking machines.

In the afternoon, Beth and Grandpa walked the horses. This was Beth's favorite chore. Grandpa's favorite place to walk the horses was Bear Mountain. It took most of the afternoon to ride all the way out to the mountain and back. Grandpa and Beth always packed a snack to eat on the mountaintop. As they shared their fruit and milk, they talked. Grandpa told her how much he liked to look out over the farms and towns for miles. These trips to the mountain reassured Beth. They showed her that there was still enough land and open spaces. They helped her to feel less closed in by civilization.

Pam's New Job

More than anything, Pam wanted to be a veterinarian. She was great with animals. For the last two years, Pam had volunteered at the zoo. But this summer, she was going to be paid. Pam's biology teacher had recommended her to work in a special science program.

Pam was disappointed when she found out she was assigned to the zoo nursery. Pam didn't want to feed a bunch of baby animals. She had hoped for something more exciting, like reptiles. Pam decided to talk to the zoo's vet, Dr. Mack. Maybe she would understand how Pam felt, and Pam could ask her to convince the zookeeper to change her placement.

When Pam arrived at the zoo, Dr. Mack was in the nursery. There had been an emergency, and Dr. Mack had been called to help. The nurse asked Pam to wait for Dr. Mack in the observation room. She was surprised to find that the observation room overlooked a small operating room. There she saw Dr. Mack, working frantically to save a baby orangutan. After several minutes, the tiny ape started to breathe on its own, and Dr. Mack came out to greet Pam, "I thought we were going to lose her! Since we rescued her from a fire, we've been trying to bottle-feed her, but suddenly she stopped breathing. The nurse called me because I specialize in great apes. Now that I'm sure she'll be all right, how can I help you?"

"I'm glad she's going to be okay," replied Pam, "I didn't know you were equipped for surgery."

"That's why we need someone like you. We just added the hospital last winter. We had it built in the nursery because it had separate rooms to house sick or injured animals. We need someone who can handle frightened animals and comfort them while they wait for surgery and while they recover. Now, what was it you wanted to discuss?"

Pam replied, "I think you've answered all my questions. When can I start?"

Gym Class

Sometimes, Debbie wondered how she and Kim even tolerated each other, much less remained best friends. While Debbie was outgoing, Kim was quiet and shy. While Debbie was famous for her total lack of coordination, Kim was the most acrobatic person in the entire school. Yet the girls were inseparable, best friends since kindergarten. They were thrilled to find out they would be in gym class together. But as usual, they had opposite opinions about actually taking gym. Kim greeted the class enthusiastically, and Debbie had nothing but contempt for it.

Today, they began the gymnastics unit, and Debbie wished she could crawl into a deep hole and disappear. Down the hall came the new gymnastics teacher, Ms. Bain. She announced that today they would be tumbling. Then Ms. Bain described some of the moves the girls would be doing, the forward roll, the backward roll, and the cartwheel.

Ms. Bain asked if anyone could demonstrate any of the moves for the class. The whole class sang out in unison, "Kim!" Then Ms. Bain asked Kim if she had taken lessons, and she nodded shyly. When Ms. Bain asked if Kim had gotten far enough along to demonstrate any of these moves, the class giggled. Debbie realized that Kim was too modest to tell Ms. Bain the truth, so she spoke up proudly, "Ms. Bain, Kim is the state champion in gymnastics. She's a competitor at the national level."

Ms. Bain smiled at Kim and said, "Maybe you could give us a demonstration of the routine you performed at the state meet." With some encouragement from her classmates, Kim agreed to show the class part of her tumbling routine.

As Debbie watched in admiration, Kim stepped onto the floor mat. As soon as she started to perform, her whole personality changed. Usually Kim was awkward in front of people, but when she stepped onto the gym floor, her body became elegance in motion. Kim's normal shyness disappeared, and she seemed to be an actress playing the part of a gymnast. Even Ms. Bain was taken aback! She applauded approvingly and said she hoped Kim would invite her to her next meet.

Kate Becomes a Journalist

Kate's greatest ambition is to be a journalist. Throughout her high school years, she has been a photographer on the school newspaper. Now she is the senior editor of the school paper, but her goal is to be a foreign correspondent. Kate is taking a class in photography and learning how to use pictures to tell a story. Kate would like to find a way to combine writing about international relations and photography, perhaps writing for a news magazine or for a TV news show but using her own photographs.

Two years ago, Kate's history class took a trip to the southeastern states. She took her camera and photographed the eroded seacoasts. When Kate's pictures were published in the local newspaper, there were many letters to the editor, praising her work.

Last year, when Kate was a junior, her class went to Mexico. Kate took pictures of how the recent earthquake had devastated the entire region. When Kate showed her pictures to the editor of the town newspaper, he asked her to write an article to go with her pictures. He told Kate that she had a unique talent for capturing people's attention with a profound photograph. He said if she wrote an article go with the pictures, people would understand the message in the photographs better. This time, public reaction was phenomenal! Kate could finally see a way to combine her ability to write with her interest in photography.

Now in her senior year, Kate is deciding where to go to college. Kate's inclination is to go to a prestigious college in Washington, DC or New York. She wants to be near the ambassadors and diplomats. Kate has never abandoned her goal to be a foreign correspondent. She keeps that in mind through all her decisions.