

A Special Birthday for Rosa



Copyright © 2017 Pearson Education, Inc. Reproduction is permitted for classroom use only.

Today was the day Rosa had eagerly been waiting for, her birthday! She was very happy but she also felt sad. This would be the first birthday that she would celebrate without all her family around her. The company that Rosa's father worked for had given him a wonderful promotion. But this meant that Rosa, her parents, and her little brother, Jose, had to move to another state. Rosa liked her new home and friends. But, she really wanted to celebrate her birthday with her grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins all around her.

They had sent presents but it wouldn't be the same if she couldn't thank them in person. They wouldn't be there to watch her blow out all the candles. And what kind of a birthday would it be without listening to her grandparents' stories about growing up in Italy and Cuba? Also, four people could never sing as loudly or joyfully as her whole family could sing together!

That night, Mama made Rosa's favorite meal. Afterwards, there was a beautiful cake. Mother, Father, and Jose sang "Happy Birthday" while the eight candles glowed. Rosa made a wish, took a deep breath, and blew out all the candles. "I know I won't get what I wished for," she said to herself, "but I'm going to wish for it anyway."

Then it was time for the presents. Rosa's father gave her the first present. It was a DVD. "I think we should play it right now before you open any more presents," her father said. He put the DVD into the player. Suddenly, there on the television



screen was the rest of Rosa's family smiling and waving and wishing her a happy birthday. One by one, each person on the DVD asked Rosa to open the present they had sent. Her father put the DVD on pause while Rosa did this. Then they explained why they had chosen that gift especially for Rosa. After all the presents were unwrapped, her family sang some favorite songs and Rosa, her mother, father, and Jose joined in.

Then, Rosa's grandfather spoke to her. "Rosa, this is a new story, one you have never heard before. I am going to tell it to you as a special birthday gift. It is about my first birthday in this country when I was very lonely for my friends and family. It is about how I met your grandmother." When Grandfather was finished, he and Grandmother blew Rosa a kiss and the DVD was finished.

Rosa felt wonderful. It was almost like having her family in the room with her. Rosa hugged her parents and her little brother. "I didn't think I would get my wish but I did," she said. That night, when Mama and Papa came to say goodnight to Rosa, they found her in bed, already asleep, with the DVD next to her. It had been the best birthday ever.

The Friend

Once upon a time there was a boy named Mark. Mark loved to go to the ocean and play his flute. One day he was playing his flute when a school of dolphins swam by. They leaped in the air every 30 seconds. Mark could almost predict when they would leap again. He watched them for a long time because he was so interested in their play. That day he decided that he wanted to learn more about dolphins. Mark went to the library.

The next weekend he took a boat and rowed out about as far as he had seen the dolphins before. He started playing his flute, trying to mimic the pulsed sounds he had heard on tapes of dolphin sounds. He had learned that they make two kinds of pulsed sounds. One kind is called sonar and is used to locate dolphins and objects. The other kind of sound is a burst pulse that tells the emotional state of the dolphin. Mark was trying to mimic sonar. Soon, about 400 yards away, he saw the roll of the dolphins. The boat bounced in the waves as the dolphins came closer. They seemed to be curious about the sounds coming from the boat. Suddenly, the boat tipped sharply and Mark fell out. Somehow he held on to his flute. Mark was a good swimmer, but he was too far from land to swim. The only thing to do was to try to mimic the sound of a dolphin in trouble. Maybe then the dolphins would help him to land. Kicking strongly, he kept himself up above the water. He blew high, burst pulse sounds. Just when he was about to go under water, he felt a push against his leg. Again and



Copyright © 2017 Pearson Education, Inc. Reproduction is permitted for classroom use only.

again a dolphin pushed him. She managed to keep his face above water as she gently pushed him to shore. Mark couldn't believe what was happening. He got safely to shore, although the boat was never seen again. As he sat on the beach, still shaking from fear, he realized that he had reached his goal. He had surely learned a lot about dolphins that day!



Copyright © 2017 Pearson Education, Inc. Reproduction is permitted for classroom use only.

A New Friend from Europe



Copyright © 2017 Pearson Education, Inc. Reproduction is permitted for classroom use only.

Mrs. Wagner was reading a story to her 5th grade class. While Joseph listened carefully, he also watched the new boy. Ivan looked sad and confused and Joseph could not understand why. Mrs. Wagner had introduced Ivan to the class about a week ago. Ivan was from a country in Europe. It had a very long name that Joseph found hard to pronounce. Ivan's parents were both dead and he had spent most of his life in an orphanage. Then Mr. and Mrs. Mayer adopted him and brought him to America. Mrs. Wagner explained that Ivan did not speak English but she was sure he would learn it very soon. No wonder Ivan looked sad and confused. Joseph would feel that way if he could not understand the story that Mrs. Wagner was reading.

Joseph wanted to make friends with Ivan but he didn't know how to do this if Ivan could not understand English. That night, Joseph asked his parents what he should do. Father thought a bit and then he answered, "You know, Joseph, words are not the only way to communicate with people. You can let Ivan know you want to be friends by the look on your face and the gestures you make. You can share things with Ivan such as a special treat from your lunch or perhaps a toy."

Joseph thought about this when he went to bed. Before he fell asleep, he had a plan. Joseph loved trains. He had played with toy trains since he was a baby. He had his own model train set and he had many books about trains. The next morning, Joseph chose his favorite book. It had beautifully colored pictures of trains from the first steam to the sleek modern diesel engines of



today. Joseph also liked to draw trains and he tucked one of his pictures between the pages of the book.

After lunch, Joseph walked toward Ivan who, as usual, was sitting alone on the playground. When Ivan looked up, Joseph smiled. He sat down next to Ivan, pointed to himself, and said "I'm Joseph." Then he took the train book out of his backpack. He placed it on Ivan's knees and slowly began to turn the pages. Ivan seemed very interested and once, he put his hand over Joseph's to stop him from turning the page. Ivan looked for a long time at a picture of a silver streamliner crossing a bridge over a deep ravine. When he came to Joseph's drawing, he pointed at Joseph. His whole expression indicated that he was asking if Joseph drew the picture. Joseph nodded and Ivan smiled.

The next day, it was raining heavily. Joseph knew that the class would spend recess indoors. So he added something new to his backpack. When lunch was over, Joseph walked over to Ivan who seemed glad to see him. Joseph took out his drawing tablet and his set of colored pencils. Then he opened the train book to the picture of the streamliner and began to draw the engine. Ivan watched closely. After a bit, Joseph handed the tablet to Ivan and held out the pencils. Ivan paused for a little. Then he took a pencil and continued the drawing. The boys worked together to draw and color the silver streamliner. When they were finished, Joseph made a sharp forward motion with his arm and said "Whoosh!" to indicate that the train went fast. Ivan made the same motion. "It goes fast," said Joseph. "Fast," Ivan repeated, and both boys laughed.

Cats: Lions and Tigers in Your House

House cats, lions, and tigers are part of the same family. When animals are part of the same family, they are alike in many ways. House cats are like lions and tigers in many ways, too. When kittens are first born, they drink milk from their mothers. Lions and tigers drink milk from their mothers, too. When kittens are born, they have claws, just like big cats. Claws are used by lions, tigers, and kittens to help them keep away enemies. As kittens get bigger, they learn to hunt from their mother. House cats hunt in the same way that lions and tigers do. They hide and lie very still. When the animal they are hunting comes close, they jump on it and grab it by the back of the neck. Cats kill other animals by shaking them and breaking their necks.

Lions, tigers, and house cats show when they are afraid in the same ways, too. Their fur puffs up, making them look bigger. They hiss and spit, too. Those are their ways of saying, "I'm afraid, don't come closer."

A cat's tongue has many uses. Because it is rough with little bumps on it, it can be used as a spoon. A cat drinks milk by lapping it. Because of the bumps, the milk stays on the tongue until the cat can swallow it. If you feel the top of a cat's tongue, it is rough. This makes the tongue good for brushing the cat's hair. Lions and tigers clean themselves with their tongues just like house cats do.

Where Do People Live?

People live in different places. Some people live in a city. Others live in the country. Still other people live in between the city and the country. They live in suburbs. Why do people live in these different places?

People live in the city to be near their jobs. Cities have lots of factories, schools, and offices. People work in these buildings. If people don't want to drive a long way to their jobs, they live in the city. There are many other things to do in the city. Cities have museums and zoos. They also have many movie theaters.

People live in the country to be close to their jobs, too. Many people who live in the country are farmers. They plant crops on their land. They may sell their crops or may use them to feed the animals that live on the farm. Farmers raise cows, pigs, and chickens. The main food that these animals eat is grain. There are other things to do in the country. You can find a river to fish in or take walks in the woods. The life in the country is quiet.

People live in between the country and the city. They live in suburbs. Some people think that people who live in the suburbs have the best of both worlds. They live close to their jobs in the city. The suburbs are quieter than the city. They often have many movie theaters, too. It doesn't take as long to go to either the city or the country. The suburbs are more crowded than the country but less crowded than the city. Where people live depends upon what they like most.

Wool: From Sheep to You



Copyright © 2017 Pearson Education, Inc. Reproduction is permitted for classroom use only.

Do you have a sweater? Do you know what it is made from? One fiber used to make sweaters is wool. Do you know where wool comes from? It comes from a sheep. However, many things must be done before the wool on a sheep can be woven or knitted to make clothing for you.

First, the wool must be removed from the sheep. People shear the wool off the sheep with electric clippers somewhat like a barber uses when he gives haircuts. Like our hair, the sheep's wool will grow back again. Most sheep are shorn only once a year. After the wool is removed, it must be washed very carefully to get out all the dirt. When the locks of wool dry, they are combed or carded to make all the fibers lie in the same direction. It is somewhat like combing or brushing your hair. Then the wool is formed into fine strands. These can be spun to make yarn. The yarn is knitted or woven into fabric. The fabric is made into clothing.

Yarn can also be used to knit sweaters by hand. Sweaters made from wool are very warm. They help keep you warm even when they are damp. Just think, the sweater you wear on a winter day may once have been on a sheep.