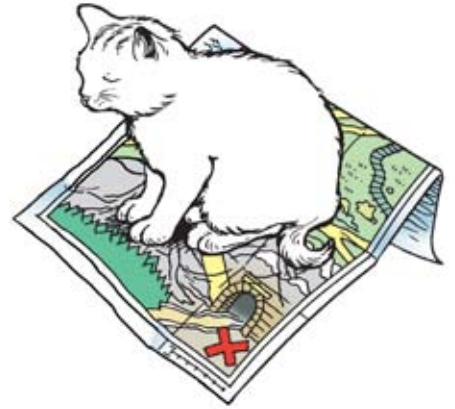


Cat Nap



The cat had a nap.

The cat had a nap on the map.

The cat had a nap on my lap.

The cat had a nap on Dad's lap.

Dad had a nap... a cat nap!

Zzzz...zzzz...zzzzz.

Sam and Pam



I am Pam.

I am Sam



I like jam.



I like ham.

I am _____.

I like _____.

In a Fix

This is Kicking King.

He likes to kick!

This is a big kick!



This is Fix-it Max.

He likes to fix things.

But can he fix this?



Mom and the Dog

Mom took the dog for a walk.

They went to the big rock.

They went to the shop.

They went on the dock.

They got lost in the fog.

The dog took Mom home.



Jen is sick

Jen got sick.

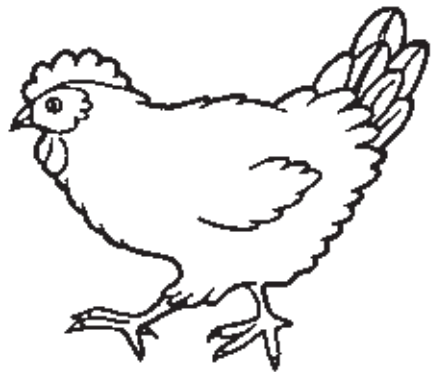
Then she went to her bed.

When Jen is sick, we do not yell.

When will she get well?

We will take her to the vet.

Jen is our pet hen!



The Cubs

The bear Mom has two cubs.

They run and run in the sun.

Mom helps them get bugs.

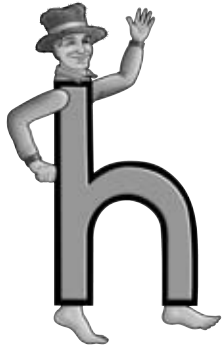
She helps them go up a tree.

The cubs hug Mom.



Quack, Quack, Quack

Quack, quack, quack, went the ducks.



“Such quacks! Too much for me! Sh...”

Quack, quack, quack, went the ducks.



“Quit! Hush! Quiet!”

Quack, quack, quack, went the ducks.



“That is much better!”

Zig Zag Zebra is Shy

Zig Zag Zebra is not in many words.

Why? She is too shy.

She lets Sammy Snake be in words like

has and **is**

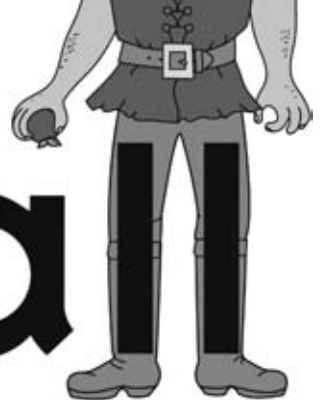
He is in so many words that he gets a bit sleepy. Zzz-zzz-zzz.

He is in many animal words like dog**s** and hen**s** and cub**s**.

But when we go to the zoo,
Zig Zag Zebra will be there, too.



Giant All Poem



Giant all is very tall.

He can step over the wall.

He is so very, very tall

that we can't see his top at all.

Will he get all the apples
that he can see?



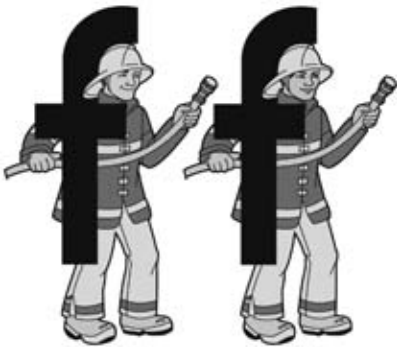
No, he will not.

He will not get me.

Best Friends' Race

The best friends have a race.

Get set, off we go!



Firefighter Frank and
Firefighter Fred huff
and puff as they go.



Lucy Lamp Light and
Linda Lamp Light fell
as they went up the big hill.

Sammy Snake and Sally Snake
hiss as they go. Can they win?
Sammy and Sally pass them all!



What Do You Like to Do?



We like to sled. Do you?



We like to skip. Do you?



We like to spin. Do you?



We like to swim. Do you?

We like to **s****p****e****l**.

What do you like to do?

Our School Flag

Our school had no flag.

“We can get a flag for the school,”
said Jill.

Our class made a plan.

“We can sell snacks,” said Stan.

“We got a flag for the school.”

Now the flag flaps and flops in the wind
over the school.”



The Crab

The crab ran sideways over the sand.

It made a funny track in the sand.

The crab ran over the grass.

It ran to the trap.

Uh-Oh!



The crab ran back under the truck.

It ran back over the grass.

The crab ran back over the sand and into the sea.

The New Nest

The bird lands on a tree.



It hops about a bit and picks a spot.

It will build a nest.



It lands on the grass.

It takes some grass back to the tree.

It lands in the dust.

It takes some bent sticks to the tree.

It builds its nest in the tree.

At last it has a rest in
its brand new nest.



The Angry King Bee

The king bee has wings. He can sting.

The king bee rang his bell.



“ZZZZZ, I want ZZZZZZ a drink,”
sang the king.

The bees plan to trick the king.

The bees buzz along and bring him a drink.

The king takes a sip.

The king bangs his cup.

The king is angry.

“This is ZZZZZ not a good drink,” sang
the king.

“This is ZZZZ pink ink, ZZZZZ!”

“Yes, ZZZ,” sang the bees.

“You did not sing ‘please’, ZZZ!”

Sammy Snake's Birthday Cake

It was Sammy Snake's birthday.

Sammy Snake's friends had a party for him at the lake.

Golden Girl made grape drink.



Mr. I made a big ice cream cake.

All Sammy's friends came to the lake.

The sun was very hot at the lake.

But where was Sammy Snake?

Sammy Snake was late!

Then at last Sammy Snake came.

"There is the cake," said all Sammy's friends.

"Where is the cake?" said Sammy Snake.

"All I see is a plate!"



Golden Girl and Noisy Nick

Noisy Nick wrote a note to Golden Girl.

Dear Golden Girl,
I hope you will ride bikes with me.
We can go see Munching Mike.
What time can you go?

Your friend,
Noisy Nick



Golden Girl wrote back.



Dear Noisy Nick,
I would like to ride bikes with you.
We can go at two o'clock. I have
to be at home at five o'clock. We
will have time to jump rope with
Jumping Jim, too.

Your friend,
Golden Girl

The Hamster



Harry Hat Man has a pet hamster.

He has had it for just a little while.

He got it in June so that is its name.

June has a little nose and a cute face.

She is a very nice pet.

Her home is a small cage, but it is huge to her. Its shape is a cube.

There is a box inside with a little hole for her to hide in.

She gets water from a tube and food from a little plate.

She likes to use her ball. She gets inside it and races all over the place.

Harry Hat Man likes June a lot.



Going to Camp



Vicky Violet and Golden Girl went to camp for a week. It was fun.

They got to sleep in a tent. They got up at six.

Then they would dress and brush their teeth.

They went on a hike. “I see lots of trees and green plants,” said Vicky. “I see deer, too,” said Golden Girl.

Vicky Violet hurt her feet. “They feel bad,” she said, “I need help.”

Golden Girl was there to help her.

Soon Vickie was fine, and they went back to their tent.

The Soccer Team



I am on a soccer team. We call our team the Dream Team.

We have a coach to teach us. We listen when she speaks.

We practice all the time. Then we have a real game each week.

In our last game, I had a good kick.

Would it reach the goal?

Yes! It was a win for our team.

Then we got to eat a treat.

The Farm Trip



The teacher said we would go on a trip to a farm. We would take a train.

We had to wait for nine days. At last the day came. Away went the train.

We saw the main barn. The cows gave their milk there. Their tails swish and sway while they give milk. Tim was afraid for a while but then he was okay.

We saw chicks and hens. The hens say cluck, cluck, and lay eggs all day.

Then we had the best treat. We got to play in the hay.

Then we rode home. We sent thank you notes in the mail to the farmers.

The Snow Plow

We had a big snow. Dad said I could help him plow the road.

We put on our coats and went outside to the truck. Dad said, “The snow looks like soap flakes when the wind blows.” Black crows were flying low in the snow.

“What is our goal?” said Dad.

“To keep the snow off the road,” I said.

We got in the truck and dug a long row.

We could not see the road. Dad said, “We can follow the poles at the side.”

The plow throws the snow to the side of the road. It makes a pile that grows and grows.

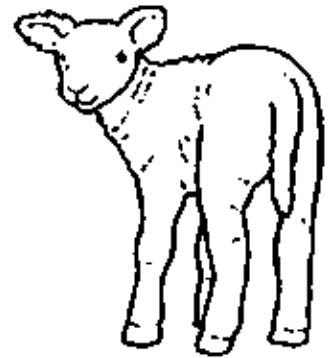
It was snowing a lot so the going was slow. At last the job was done.

Lucy Lamp Light's Lamb

Lucy Lamp Light lives in a lighthouse high on a hill. She has a pet lamb that lives there, too.

Sometimes she ties the lamb outside with a rope so it can eat grass.

One day she tied up the lamb.
She went away to see her friend
Linda Lamp Light.



Then came nighttime and Lucy was not back.
The lamb got a fright. It tried to get away, but
the rope was tight.

Soon, Lucy came back and shone her bright
light. The lamb could see there was no need
to be afraid.

“Baaa, Baaaa,” said the lamb.

“You are such a sweet sight,” said Lucy Lamp
Light.

Munching Mike on the Mountain



Munching Mike and his Mom live high in the mountains. They both like to go rolling up and down winding mountain roads. Then they can look down at the valley.

Munching Mike is still a child. So his Mom told him not to climb up mountain roads by himself.

But one day Munching Mike could not find his Mom. He went rolling up a mountain looking for her.

Soon the wind got wild. It got very cold.

“Where is my Mom?” said Munching Mike.

Then he looked behind him.

There she was, rolling up the road. She was looking for him while he was looking for her!



Mr. U's Spelling Class



Golden Girl got Mr. U to help her with her spelling.

“How do I know when to use **ue** or **ui** or **ew**?” she said.

“Just remember these little stories,” said Mr. U.

ue: Here's a clue. Is it true that glue can be blue?
If Mr. U and Mr. E say it's true, then I do too.

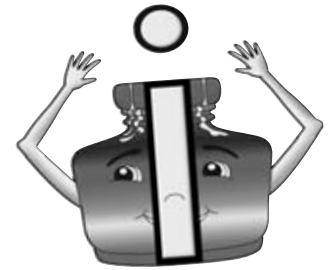
ui: Mr. I just told me: ‘Help! I got fruit juice on
my best white suit!’

ew: Harry Hat Man sat in his home chewing on
a few hot dogs. The wind and rain blew and blew
like Eddy Elephant spraying Walter Walrus.
Then the wind threw the roof right off his house!
The roof flew away. But Harry Hat Man knew
what to do. He made a huge hat and put it on his
house for a new roof!

Golden Girl said Mr. U, “I knew you would have
some clues that I could use.” And she told him the
stories that he had told her. Why? To help her re-
member all those spellings for Mr. U's name.



A Silly Story



Yo-yo Man likes to work for Mr. E in words.

One day he got Impy Ink to write a story. Impy put in lots of words with Yo-yo Man saying 'eee.' Here is Impy's story:

One to day I went to the pet shop to get a new pet.

I saw a pretty pony. But it was too big.

I saw a baby bunny. But it was too small.

I saw a messy monkey. But it was too wild.

I saw a funny fishy. But it was too wet.

Then I saw a peppy puppy. She was just right!

"This is a silly story," said Impy Ink.

"Yes," said Yo-yo Man, "but it makes me very happy working for Mr. E in all those words."

The Jigsaw House

Jumping Jim's jigsaw house needed some work. It was looking pretty bad.

Lots of Jim's friends came to help.

Walter Walrus wanted to wash windows.

Lucy Lamp Light loaded up trash.

Golden Girl weeded the garden.

Noisy Nick nailed things down tight.

Peter and Patsy Puppy painted the walls.

Firefighter Fred filled holes.

Clever Cat cleaned up the yard.

When all was done, Jumping Jim said,
"I had not dreamed my house could look
so nice. Thank you, thank you, all."

Then all the friends played a game of hide
and seek.



Quarrelsome Queen is Locked Out

Quarrelsome Queen was at the castle door. It was closed. It was locked. She hoped she had her key. She reached in her pocket and checked for her key.

“No key!” she hissed.



She wished she had stashed it before she went out. She knew she had dressed up. She had fixed up her long pretty hair. (She liked her hair a lot.) She had packed her umbrella. “I always take my umbrella,” she said. But she had not picked up her key.

Just then Impy Ink came by. He looked at the door. He saw a crack under the door. Impy said, “I think I can help, Quarrelsome Queen. I know a trick I can use.”

Impy took a deep breath. Then he changed into a long thin ink pen. He rolled under the castle door. Then he unlocked it from the inside.

“Quite a trick, Impy Ink. You saved the day!” said the Queen and she thanked him for his help.

A Smart Dog

One morning Carla went to see her friend Jordan. He lived on a farm. It was hard to wait for her Mom to park the car.

Jordan was in the yard waiting for her. His large dog, Bart, barked hello and wagged his tail.

“Let’s go to the cornfield.” said Jordan.

“We can play hide and seek there. But it is pretty far. Let’s take Bart with us.”

They started off to the cornfield. They did not see that the sky was a bit dark in the north.

They played most of the morning. But just before lunch time they heard a sharp crack of thunder. A storm had come up, and fast!

“It’s too far to run to the house!” said Jordan.

Just then Bart barked for them to follow.

Bart led them to a large barn just as the rain started pelting down!

“Bart is a real star!” said Carla.



Sammy Snake Helps with Sssspelling



Noisy Nick was working on his spelling for the week. He knew that Sammy Snake liked ssssspelling a lot. So Noisy Nick asked Sammy to help him.

“Orvil Or is tricky,” said Noisy Nick. “Look at these words: **more**, **door**, **four**. They are not spelled the same, but Orvil Or keeps on saying his last name ‘Or’ in all of them.”

“Yesssss,” said Sammy Snake, “Orvil Or is quite tricky. But I know a way to ssstop him from tricking us when we sssspell. I put all his words with the silent e on the end into one short little ssssstory like thissss... .”

ore: Orvil Or wanted to **store** up **more** oranges than ever **before** in his den by the **shore**. It was such a **chore** that it made him **sore**, so he went to bed, **snore**, **snore**, **snore**.

“Okay,” said Noisy Nick, and he said the little story three times. “Do you have a story for **o-u-r**, and what about **o-o-r**?”

So this is what Sammy Snake told Noisy Nick:

o-u-r: “Talking Tess, please **pour** **your** friends **four** cups of tea.”

o-o-r: “**Poor** Dippy Duck, she has a **door**, but she has no **floor**.”

Noisy Nick said each short story three times.

“Good,” he said. “Now what about **horse**? ”

The magic sparks don’t work, so there is just a silent e at the end.

“Let’s ssssee,” said Sammy. “Who in Letterland has a **horse**?”

“Harry Hat Man!” said Noisy Nick. “I know!

Harry Hat Man starts the word **horse**, so he puts a silent e on the end to try to keep his horse quiet!”

“Ssssuper.” said Sammy Snake. “Now you have made up a sssspelling story, too!”

When I Was Just a Baby Bird

I was just a baby bird when I fell out of a tree. It was a cold morning. I was hurt and too cold to move. Then I saw a little girl.

She was just about to turn around and go back into her house. I made a little stir in the dirt. She bent down and looked at me. I made a tiny little chirp. It was all I could do.

“Are you hurt?” she said. She picked me up and put me inside her coat. I curled up in the fold of her shirt. It was nice and warm.

The girl took me into her house. First she said,

“You must be cold.” She put a bit of fur around me. I chirped just a bit.

Next she said, “Are you thirsty?” She put a dish of milk beside me. I had just a sip.

She played nurse to me all morning. By then the sun was shining and it was not cold outside.

She took me out and put me in a fir tree. I felt well and happy. I said, “Chirp, chirp, chirp,” and flew away.



Beavers

It is a dark night at the pond. The water is still. Then there is a small splash. By the shore a large beaver has moved into the water. She drags some long sticks in her mouth. She swims over to a pile of sticks in the water. She lays her sticks on the pile. Then she dives down under the water. Next she comes up with some mud.

She climbs up on the pile of sticks. With her wide, flat tail, she pats the mud and sticks. Then she does it all another time. She is a mother beaver. Before long she has fixed a leak in the beavers' house. The house is called a lodge.

Another beaver's nose pops up from the water. He is on the other side of the lodge. It is the father beaver. He has a water plant in his mouth. He dives back down below. He swims into a tunnel under the water. He comes up inside the lodge. It is dry and safe for little beavers on the lodge floor. The father

gives the plant to his children. The two brothers and two sisters eat up the green leaves quickly. Next they eat some tree bark.

The brothers and sisters were born in the spring. It is summer now, so the little beavers can play and swim in the pond. If the big beavers ever see danger, they slap their big, flat tails on the water. The little beavers know to quickly swim to the lodge to keep safe. The father beaver follows one of his sons into the lodge. There they all stay until the danger has passed.

After another winter, these four little ones will be older. Then they can help their mother and father. They will gather food and work on the lodge, too. The little beavers will become hard workers just like their mother and father.

Zoom

At noon he is fast asleep, high in his oak tree home. He will not stir until it is cool and dark.

As the moon comes up, he stirs in his tree. He lets out a hoot as he grooms his wings. Hoo, hoo, hoo! He is the Great Horned Owl.

Now is the time to find food. His huge eyes are his best tool as he scans the floor of the forest. He can see tiny animals far away but not up close.

He spots a small gray mouse. He swoops out of the tree and dives at the mouse. His wings make hardly a sound. Just before he scoops up the mouse, it scoots into a hole beneath the tree.

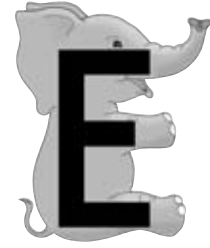
Now he zooms across the sky. He flies in a wide loop above the forest. He sees two eyes glowing in the dark. He swoops down closer. The eyes belong to a large raccoon. It is cleaning its food in a pool.

The raccoon turns to face the owl and shows its teeth. It snarls and makes a hiss.

The owl zooms on by. This raccoon is too large and too mean for him.

The owl stops to rest in a tree. He will keep hunting. He will find food before it is light again. He is the Great Horned Owl. Hoo, hoo, hoo!

Eddy Gets Stuck



It was the day for the Letterland parade.

Everyone was excited. Peter Puppy would lead the parade. Firefighter Fred was in charge of the floats. Eddy Elephant would put Kicking King on his back for a ride. Quarrelsome Queen thought she would look good riding on Zig Zag Zebra.

Eddy went to the castle to pick up Kicking King. Talking Tess was there telling everyone just who was turning up at the castle. Just as Eddy started into the castle door, Talking Tess announced his name. “Eddy Elephant is now arriving at the Letterland Castle,” she said.

Eddy was so excited to hear his name that he did his Elephant on End trick. When he did it, he became stuck right in the castle door. Now Eddy Elephant could not go in and he could not back out.

Now everyone began to arrive to begin the parade, but no one could get in or out of the castle.

Red Robot brought a rope and tried to pull Eddy out. He was still stuck. “Rats!” said Red Robot.

Golden Girl got in her Go-cart and tried to push him in. “No good,” she said.

Harry Hat Man had a hook. Eddy held on as Harry pulled the hook. “Hopeless,” said Harry.

Bouncy Ben looked in the Letterland book to help him think of someone who could help. “I bet Fix-it Max could help.”

Soon Fix-it Max arrived. Do you know what he said? “Eddy, make your lower case letter.”

Eddy did and then slid right through the castle door.

“Hooray! for Fix-it Max. He has fixed the problem,” said Harry Hat Man, “Now we can have the parade!”

A Cow Downtown



Sam: There's a cow downtown
and she's white and brown.
There's a cow downtown
and she's dancing all around.



Nate: No! It can't be!



Sam: Go and see.



Pam: There's an owl downtown
and he's drawing a crowd.
He's acting like a clown
and hooting extra loud.



Shane: No, no! It can't be!



Pam: Go and see.



Sam: There's a sow downtown
and she's wearing a crown.
She's got high heel shoes
and an evening gown.



Jane: No, no, no! It cannot be!



Sam: Go and see.



Pam: There's a trout downtown
and it's swimming all around.
It's got a mean look
and it's chasing a hound.



Jake: No, no, no, no! Can't be!



Pam: Go and see.



Sam: There's a mouse downtown.
It's as big as a house.
You can hear the dogs howl
and the cats mee...ow.



Lane: No, no, no no, no! Can't be!



Sam: Go and see.

Later...

Nate, Shane, Jane:

Well... We went downtown.
There's no cow to be found!
There's no trout..., no owl,
no house-sized mouse...



Jake and Lane:

No cats going, 'meow'.
no howling hounds.
We've been all around
and there're NO SUCH SOUNDS!



Pam: No... there's NO cow downtown,
No mouse, no hound.
No sow with a crown,
no heels, no gown.



Sam: There's NO cow downtown,
but please don't frown.



Sam and Pam:

We made it all up
because we like the **ow/ou** sound!



Roy's Letterland Friends

Did you know that the boy called Roy has lots of friends in Letterland who like to play his Oy Game?

Roy enjoys playing leap-frog at the end of words with Yo-yo Man. Roy leaps over an **o** right into Yo-yo Man's sack. Roy calls out, “**oy!**” every time. Yo-yo Man really does not mind, but he pretends to be annoyed, so he shouts, “**oy!**” at the same time as Roy. Roy thinks it is a joy to play his Oy Game. How many times can you find **oy** so far?



Mr. I does not mind joining in the Oy Game with Roy. He does not mind Roy's loud voice. That is so long as Mr. I does not have to be on the end of a word. His choice is to be in the middle of a word. You know why Mr. I does not like to be on the end, don't you?



Yes, he gets dizzy when there is no letter after him. So, if the **oy** sound is at the end of a word, Yo-yo Man will take Mr. I's place. How many times can you find **oi** so far?

Roy and Noisy Nick enjoy joining together in some words. When they do, there is so much noise that people point at them and look annoyed. But that does not spoil the fun for the boys. It is as much fun as playing with their noisy toys. How many words can you find with both Roy's sound (**oi**, **oy** and Noisy Nick's **nnn** sound?



There is one more boy in Letterland who likes to join in the fun. He likes jumping for joy. Do you know his name? He and Roy do so much leaping and jumping that sometimes it makes their joints sore. How many words can you find with both Jumping Jim's sound and Roy's sound?

Tiger on the Hunt

The furry animal shivers because he sees the Tiger through the weeds. The big cat opens her mouth in a yawn. The huge jaws hold her long, sharp teeth. Her fur is blown by the wind.

Then Tiger spots him. Her eyes zero in on him. She crawls slowly, low to the ground. Now she is pausing with her eyes still on him. Her tail waves back and forth slowly.

He does not know what to do. Should he freeze? Should he run? He tries to run but he cannot move.

She creeps closer. She reaches out with her huge paw. Her claws almost touch him.

Then... she takes him in her jaws and skips across our backyard lawn. She is my kitty cat, named Tiger.

She is playing with her toy mouse.



The Letterland Costume Party

Scene 1 In Letterland

Annie Apple Have you heard? There's going to be a big Letterland costume party.

Bouncy Ben No, I hadn't heard but it sounds like fun. Where's the party going to be?

Annie Apple It'll be at the Letterland picnic grounds. That is, if it isn't raining.

Bouncy Ben What will you dress up as?

Annie Apple I think I'll be an acrobat. You'll have to think of something to be, too.

Bouncy Ben Maybe I'll be a... *he looks up as if trying to think of something.*

Clever Cat comes along.

Bouncy Ben Clever Cat, are you going to the costume party?

Clever Cat Oh, yes. It's going to be lots of fun. But I don't know what I'm going to be.

Annie Apple Maybe you'll go as a clown.

Clever Cat Or maybe a cow. What are you going to be Bouncy Ben?

Bouncy Ben Maybe I'll be a... *he trails off as if thinking.*

Annie Apple What's Dippy Duck going to be?

Clever Cat She won't tell. Maybe she'll be a doctor.

Bouncy Ben Do you know what Red Robot is going to dress up as?

Annie Apple He's thinking he'll come as a rock and roll star or maybe as a rabbit.

Clever Cat I heard that Sammy Snake and Harry Hat Man were dressing up as a team to surprise everyone.

Bouncy Ben Maybe they'll be **sheep**.

Annie Apple Maybe they'll be **sharks**.

Clever Cat We'll just have to wait and see. But, Bouncy Ben, what will you be?

Bouncy Ben I'm thinking I might be... *he is thinking again.*

Annie Apple You'll think of something Bouncy Ben.

Scene 2 The costume party at the Letterland picnic grounds

Noisy Nick Hi, Jumping Jim. Maybe I can guess what your costume is. Hmm... you are jumping out of a big box and you have a clown face. And it must start with your sound. J...j...j... oh, I give up. What are you?

Jumping Jim I'm a Jack-in-the box. And you, with that big nine on your t-shirt, must be Number Nine.

Noisy Nick That's right, Jumping Jim. Who's that in the kangaroo costume?

Jumping Jim I'm sure it's Kicking King. Has Bouncy Ben shown up yet?

Vicky Violet (*She's dressed as a vet.*) No, he hasn't but I bet he'll be here soon. What's he going to be?

Noisy Nick He wasn't sure what he would be when I saw him. Who's that with a white bed sheet over her head?

Vicky Violet That's Golden Girl. She dressed up as a spooky...

Golden Girl Look! It's Sammy Snake and Harry Hat Man.

Vicky Violet I can't see them. What are their surprise costumes?

Golden Girl I'm not sure. Sammy Snake has a big triangle hanging from his neck. Harry Hat Man has a big circle hanging from his neck, but I don't know what they are dressed up to be.

Vicky Violet I know! A triangle and a circle—they are...

Everyone at once Shapes!!

Harry Hat Man That's right. But here comes Bouncy Ben. I don't know what he is dressed up as, but he has a blue suit with wings.

Bouncy Ben comes along.

Harry Hat Man Just what are you, Bouncy Ben?

Bouncy Ben I'm a blue bird!

The Sprinkler

It was a very warm spring day. Nate was sprawled out on the couch. His sister Kate was looking out the screen door at the lawn sprinkler across the street. It was spraying back and forth to water the grass in the park. Just then she had an idea!

“Nate,” she said, “let’s put on our bathing suits and go play in the sprinkler! We haven’t done that since last summer!”

Nate sprang from the couch. Soon Kate and Nate were ready. They were in the park looking at the strong streams of water coming from the sprinkler. “I bet that water is cold,” said Nate. “You go first.”

“No, you go first,” said Kate. Just then a small stray puppy ran through the spray. His belly scraped the sprinkler. It sent the water splashing right at Nate and Kate.

“If a puppy can do it. We can do it!” Kate screamed as she ran into the spray. Nate ran screeching right behind her.

Soon lots of Nate’s and Kate’s friends came to join them. They all splashed and played for the rest of the day.

Camping

One weekend my grandmother and grandfather took me on a camping trip. We went to a campground in the mountains. After we set up our tent, we hiked up a hillside looking for wildlife. We went through a forest of evergreen trees.

We heard a woodpecker pecking for insects on a tree. We saw a butterfly on a milkweed plant. A woodchuck was chewing on grass near the footpath. A hawk flew overhead. Grandpa said its wingspan was as long as I am tall. He said wingspan means how long it is from one wingtip to the other.

When we reached the hilltop, we watched the sunset. On the way back downhill we picked up firewood. By the time we got back to the campsite it was nighttime. But there was enough moonlight to make a campfire. We cooked hotdogs on the ends of sticks over the flames.

After a while, Grandpa said I looked like a sleepyhead. We took our flashlights and crawled into the tent.

Around midnight, I heard something or somebody outside the tent. I was afraid it was a bear. I woke up Grandma. She tried to wake up Grandpa. “Look who is a sleepyhead now,” she said.

Just then we heard a crash outside. Grandma shined the spotlight at the trashcan. There was a mother raccoon and two baby ones eating our leftovers. Grandma smiled, “It looks like we are not the only family that likes hotdogs!”

Soon I was asleep again dreaming of all we would do the next day.

A Painful Paw

One beautiful day in Letterland Clever Cat was on her way to the Letterland castle. She was hopeful that Kicking King would be there so that she could see him kick. Suddenly she had a painful feeling in her paw.

Quickly she lay down under a shady tree to look closely at her paw. There was a large thorn stuck there. “Oh, crumbs, who can help pull this awful thorn out of my paw?” she said tearfully. Then she looked up. “Here comes someone who knows all about pulling things out of paw pads.”

Who was Clever Cat talking about?

It was just then that Peter Puppy came poking along the path. “Clever Cat, you poor, pitiful pet. I can’t pull out your thorn with my paws, but perhaps I can find someone with helpful hands.”

Who do you think Peter Puppy was talking about?

Pretty soon Peter Puppy came back with Harry Hat Man. He had come in such a hurry that he still

had a handful of hay from feeding his horse. “Here, Clever Cat, let’s see if I can help get that hurtful thorn out.”

“Oh,” said Harry Hat Man. “I can hardly see the thorn. It is too dark under this shady tree.”

“I know who can help,” said Peter Puppy.

Who do you think Peter Puppy was talking about?

Soon Peter Puppy came back with Lucy Lamp Light. “Let me lend my lamp to light up this lovely paw,” she said brightly.

Harry Hat Man slowly worked the thorn out of Clever Cat’s paw. She hardly felt it at all, but she just could not help letting out a little sneeze, “Ch.”

Then the thorn was out. “I am so grateful to you all and so thankful to have such helpful friends! I feel wonderful now.”

As they all set off to see Kicking King kick, Clever Cat reminded everyone, “Be careful not to step on a thorn.”

Going Green

One day after school, Golden Girl was walking home. She thought about what the teacher had said today. She began to retrace her steps and pick up trash along the sidewalk.



“What are you doing?” asked Harry Hat Man. Golden Girl said, “We learned about being friendly to the Earth in school today. They call it ‘going green.’”



“I guess I already went green. My hat is green. The roof of my house is green,” said Harry Hat Man.

Golden Girl thought she had better retell what she had heard in school.

“We learned that we should reduce, reuse, and recycle. That way we don’t make too much trash. Too much trash is very unhelpful.”

“So, what is that you said—replay, redo, reread?” asked Harry.

“Not quite, Harry Hat Man. Reduce, reuse, recycle. Reduce, that means use less of things. Reuse, that means use things again. You can refill water bottles. When you unpack or untie things, find ways to use the packaging again. And recycle, that means don’t throw things away. Take them to recycling centers so they can be made into new things.”

“Well, I don’t want to be unfriendly to the Earth,” said Harry Hat Man. He took off his Harry Hat and began looking around on the ground.

“What are you doing?” asked Golden Girl.

“I am going to fill my hat with cans and take them to “Red Robot’s recycling center.”

“**Good!**” said Gold Girl. “Now, you are really **going green!**”

The Best and The Worst

Who is the best jumper in Letterland?

Clever Cat is a good jumper.

Bouncy Ben is a better jumper.

But Jumping Jim is the best jumper in Letterland.

Who is the tallest Letterlander?

Talking Tess is tall.

Is Harry Hat Man or Lucy Lamp Light taller?

Who is the tallest in Letterland?

Who is the fastest in Letterland?

Firefighter Fred goes fast to a fire.

Ernest Er is faster than his brothers.

But Zig Zag Zebra can zoom the fastest.

Who is the worst trouble-maker in Letterland?

Noisy Nick is bad at being quiet.

Walter Walrus is worse with his splashing and teasing.

But the Vowel Stealers are the worst trouble-makers in Letterland by far.

Jumping Jim Goes Fishing

One day Jumping Jim was sitting at his table juggling as usual. Someone knocked at his door. It was Firefighter Fred. “Would you like to go fishing today?” he asked.

“Yes!” said Jumping Jim. “Just let me get my jar for bait and my jacket, and I’ll be ready.”

Soon they were in Fred’s firetruck which rattled loudly as they drove. The road to the fishpond was bumpy and covered with pebbles. Juggling Jim was able to keep juggling even in the wobbling firetruck. At last they reached the pond with apple and maple trees all around it.

In a few moments, they were settled in Fred’s little boat. Fred paddled the boat to the middle of the pond. They put their poles in water and held on to the handles. Then they waited for the fish. They waited a long time.

They could see bubbles and ripples made by the fish in the water. But they did not get any nibbles on their lines.

Jim grew tired and bored and soon began to juggle again. It made the boat unstable. It began to wobble back and forth like a cradle. Before Jim could stop, the boat turned over and Jumping Jim and Firefighter Fred splashed right into the water. They struggled to the bank of the pond and climbed out. Water drizzled from inside Firefighter Fred's helmet onto his unhappy face. Puddles formed at their feet from the water dribbling off of the two of them.

Firefighter Fred started to scold Jumping Jim, and pulled off his helmet. A big fish fell right out of his helmet onto the ground.

Fred looked at Jumping Jim and they both started to giggle. "Well, at least we got one fish!" Fred said with a grin.

Eddy Elephant's Trunk

One day Mr. E and Mr. A were getting ready to go out for a walk. They decided that they would take some healthy snacks along. Mr. E looked out of the window to check the weather. He saw Eddy Elephant in the yard. He was playing with a feather. He was blowing it up in the air with the breath from his trunk.

“Eddy Elephant will want to go with us,” Mr. E said to Mr. A.

Mr. A shook his head. He knew what that meant. “We don’t have enough food. We had better make more snacks.” He took a new loaf of bread and laid all the slices out on the table. Then Mr. E began to spread peanut butter on them all.

Soon they were ready to go. Eddy Elephant was happy to join them. “Do you want to head to the park?” said Mr. E.

“No. The weather is so nice. Why don’t we take a longer walk,” said Mr. A.

“We could head for the meadow, instead,” said Eddy Elephant.

The three of them decided the meadow would be the best place to go. They headed down the trail that would take them there.

As they came around a bend, they saw that the path ahead was blocked. A dead tree had fallen across the trail.

“Oh, no!” said Mr. A. “I guess we will have to go to the park after all.”

“No, no, no,” said Eddy Elephant. “I’ll take care of this.” Eddy lifted the heavy tree with his trunk. He laid it beside the path.

As they headed on to the meadow, Mr. E said. “That is quite a fine trunk you have, Eddy. It can lift things as light as a feather and as heavy as a tree.”

Mr. A added, “Hooray for Eddy Elephant!”