STORIES FOR YOUNG AND VERY YOUNG LEARNERS

Editor: Zhivka Ilieva

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Stories for young and very young learners

A handbook

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Dear Reader,

You have a compilation of 13 stories.

They are suitable for pre-school and primary school children, for parents and teachers. This handbook is also helpful for student teachers of pre-school and primary school pedagogy.

The first story in our collection is *Yummy numbers* by Mariya Kaneva. It shows you how tasty counting and mathematics can be.

The second story, *Maya and the beautiful garden* by Dzhangyuler Mustafa, takes you to a garden where you will see a butterfly, a fly, a cow, a rabbit that leads Maya to a rose garden. There Maya finds that she should not pick flowers.

The clever rabbit by Ayten Sali tells about three rabbit brothers and a vegetable garden.

Archie by Miroslava Belcheva is about a dog who is a member of a family.

Boby by Rumyana Vasileva is a story about a brave adventurous boy.

Adventure with a boat by Mariya Ivanova takes us to the beach with Ronny the monkey and his friend Monny.

The adventures of Tom and Kikko by Bistra Dikova is about two superheroes saving the town from a pizza monster.

A tale of winter by Nikolay Bliznakov shows two children playing outside in the snow and getting lost.

The Merry Tooth by Miglena Angelova teaches us to eat healthy food and to wash our teeth.

The hungry little mouse by Slavyana Gospodinova is a story about a rabbit and a mouse who enter a house and look for food in the fridge.

Flower kingdom by Petranka Ivanova takes us to a beautiful garden and depicts flowers of all seasons.

Dani's clothes by Zhivka Ilieva introduces us to Dani's T-shirt and jeans that have run away from their owner.

The adventures of Max and Maggie by Zheni Uzunova takes us to the zoo.

If you like a story, you may contact the author ☺

We enjoyed creating these stories very much and hope you will enjoy reading them.

YUMMY NUMBERS

Mariya Kaneva

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Once upon a time, there was a little boy named Chris. He loved numbers very much. Chris counted everything – his fingers, his toy cars, the clock numbers. One day his mother gave him a book with number games. On the first page there was a big red strawberry.



“One strawberry!“ he said.

On the second page there were two orange apricots.

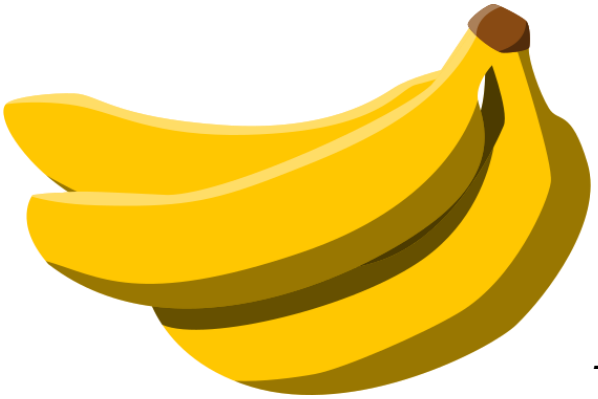
“One apricot, two apricots. Two apricots!“



said Chris.

On the third page there were three yellow bananas.

“One banana, two bananas, three bananas.



Three bananas!“ he said.

On the fourth page there were four orange oranges.

“One orange, two oranges, three oranges, four oranges. Four



oranges!“

he exclaimed, “I love oranges!“

On the fifth page there were five red apples.

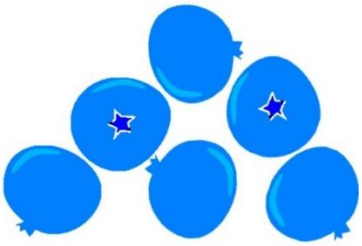
“One apple, two apples, three apples, four apples, five apples.



Five apples!“ said Chris.

On the sixth page there were six blue blueberries.

“One blueberry, two blueberries, three blueberries, four blueberries, five blueberries, six blueberries. Six blueberries!“



he said.

On the seventh page there were seven ripe pears.

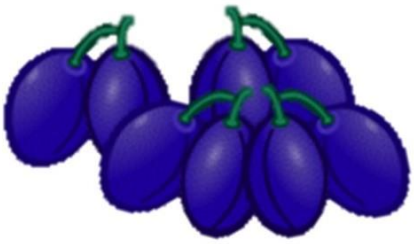
“One pear, two pears, three pears, four pears, five pears, six



pears, seven pears. Seven pears!“ he exclaimed, “I love pears!“

On the eighth page there were eight blue plums.

“One plum, two plums, three plums, four plums, five plums, six plums, seven plums, eight plums. Eight plums!“

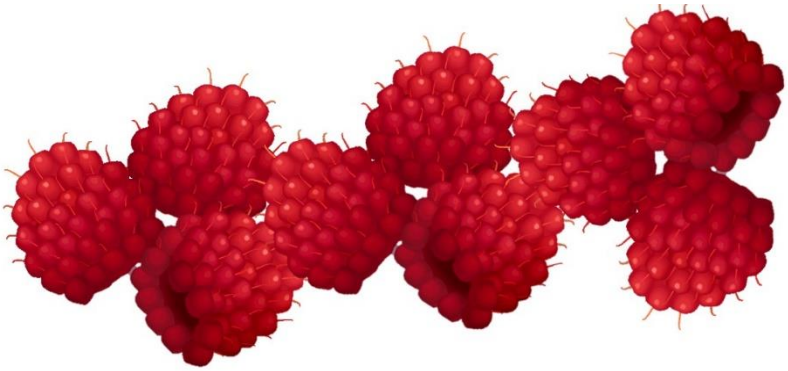


said Chris, “Mmm yummy!“

On the ninth page there were nine red raspberries.

“One raspberry, two raspberries, three raspberries, four raspberries, five raspberries, six raspberries, seven raspberries,

eight raspberries, nine raspberries. Nine raspberries!“



exclaimed Chris.

On the last page there were ten red cherries.

“One cherry, two cherries, three cherries, four cherries, five cherries, six cherries, seven cherries, eight cherries, nine cherries, ten cherries. Ten cherries!



I love cherries!“ said Chris.

“Now I’m hungry! I’m going to make fruit salad with all of the fruits from the book.“

“Mmm yummy!“

1. What did Chris put into his fruit salad?

2. What will you make (fruit) salad of?

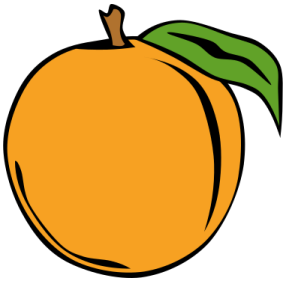
strawberry



apricot



peach



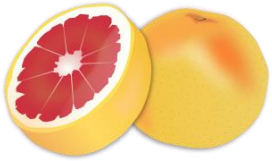
banana



orange



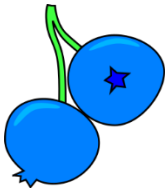
grapefruit



apple



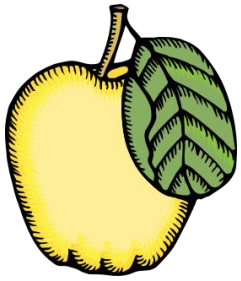
blueberry



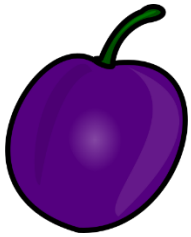
pear



quince



plum



fig



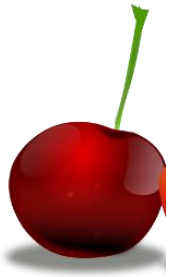
raspberry



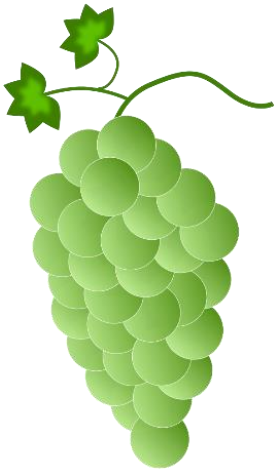
blackberry



cherry



grapes



MAYA AND THE BEAUTIFUL GARDEN

Dzhangyuler Mustafa

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Once upon a time there was a little girl named Maya.

She lived in a beautiful village.

One day she left her house and decided to play in the garden. The garden was full of different flowers.

She strolled between the flowers, and then noticed a beautiful colourful butterfly.

She started running after the butterfly.

At this time the butterfly landed on a flower. A fly flew out of the same flower.

The fly landed on the tail of a cow that was grazing grass.

The cow felt that the fly had landed on its tail, so it moved its tail and the fly flew away.

Maya saw all this and started laughing.

At this time, a rabbit popped out of the grass and Maya started running after it.

The rabbit ran to the rose garden. Maya, seeing the beautiful roses, forgot about the rabbit.

She decided to pick a red rose, but the thorns of the rose pricked her hand. She felt intense pain and began to cry.

She went home crying.

Her mother saw her crying and asked her, "Why are you crying?"

Maya replied, "I wanted to pick a red rose from the garden, but the thorns of my rose pricked my hand and hurt me. Maya's mother explained that when flowers are picked, they fade, but when they are on their stem, they remain beautiful. Maya promised that she would not pick flowers any more.

Can you describe a (beautiful) village? (houses, streets, shops, a park, a school, a kindergarten, a post office)

Try to describe Maya's garden: What flowers are there? Are there any vegetables? What vegetables can you find there? Can you find any kinds of fruit there?

THE CLEVER RABBIT

Ayten Sali

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Once upon a time there were three rabbit brothers: Ben, Ted and Ken.

The youngest one, Ken, had just turned 18.

The three brothers lived in a beautiful house next to a big farm with a huge vegetable garden. The garden was guarded by a big and very evil dog – Rory.

Every autumn Ben and Ted picked vegetables from the garden to store them for the winter. This year Ken was also going to take part in the harvest.

Until then his brothers could not pick all kinds of vegetables.

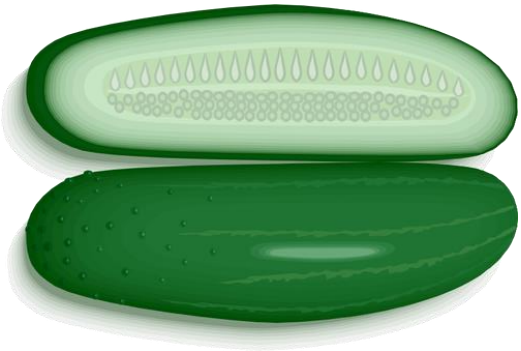
One sunny autumn morning, like every year, Ben said:

“I am big, strong and brave! I will go to the garden by myself and I know I will harvest all kinds of vegetables!”

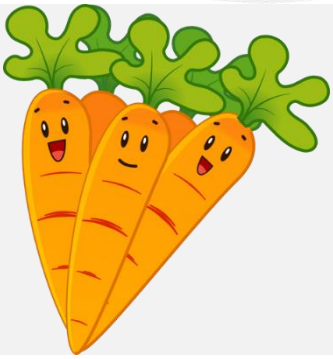
No sooner said than done! He harvested tomatoes,



cucumbers,



carrots,



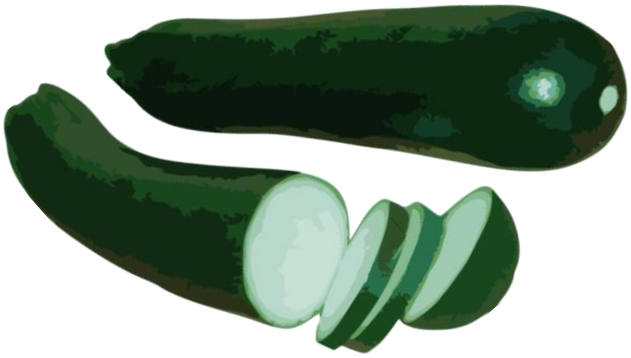
cabbage,



and eggplants.



When he got to the zucchini



it went dark. Rory appeared and chased him away.

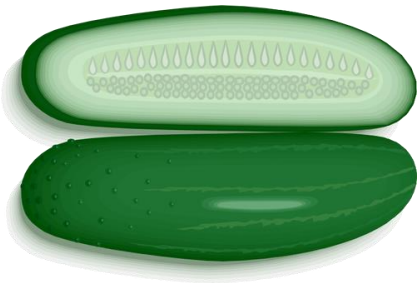
Ben managed to escape. He came home disappointed.

Without saying a word he went to bed.

The next morning Ted said:

“I am big, strong and brave! I will go to the garden by myself and I feel this time I will harvest all kinds of vegetables!”. No sooner said than done! He harvested tomatoes,





cucumbers,



carrots,

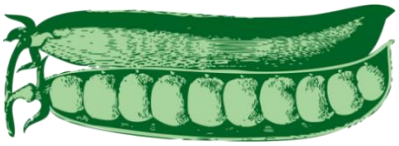


cabbage, *eggplants,*



zucchini,

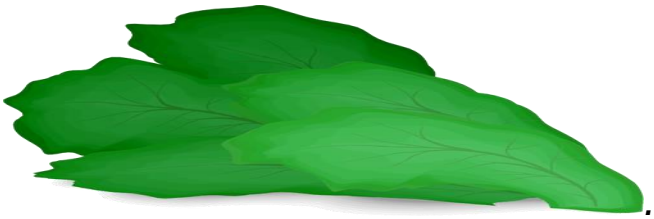


peas, 



potatoes .

But it went dark before he got to the lettuce



. The evil dog appeared.

It chased Ted away. He was lucky he managed to escape.

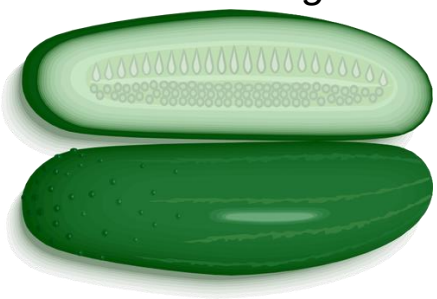
Without saying a word, he went to bed.

On the third morning Ken, the youngest brother, said:

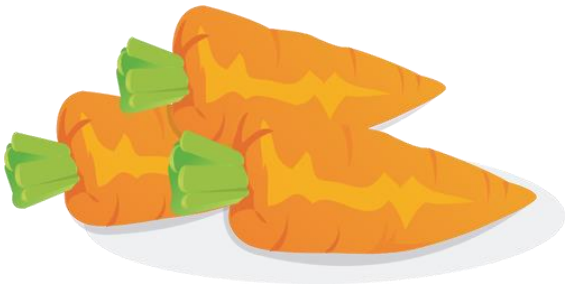
“My brothers, I am already big, brave and strong. But I will not go to the garden alone. Come with me! The three of us will be stronger and faster!”. Ben and Ted agreed.

At last they could harvest all kinds of vegetables: tomatoes,





cucumbers,



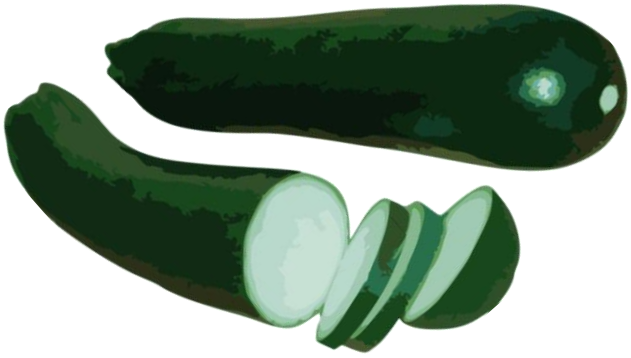
carrots,



cabbage,

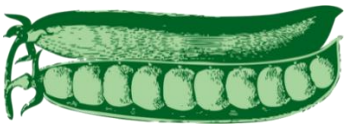


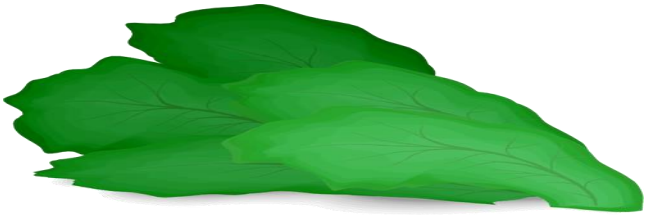
eggplants,



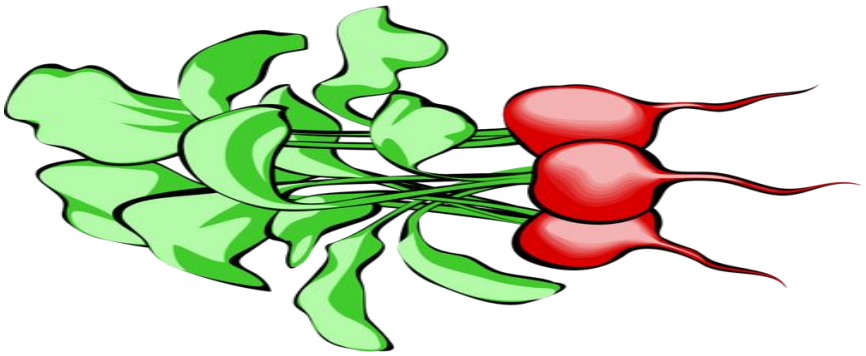
zucchini тиквички,



peas,  *potatoes,*



lettuce,



radishes *and*



onions.

It went dark and Rory appeared. But it was too late.

The garden was almost empty and there was no trace of the rabbits.

The three rabbit brothers were already home. Satisfied, they arranged the vegetables. Ben and Ted told Ken:

“You were right, brother Ken. Yes, each one of us is big, strong and brave, but together we are stronger and faster!”

They hugged each other and were friendlier than before.

What vegetables do Ben and Ted harvest? (fill in the table)

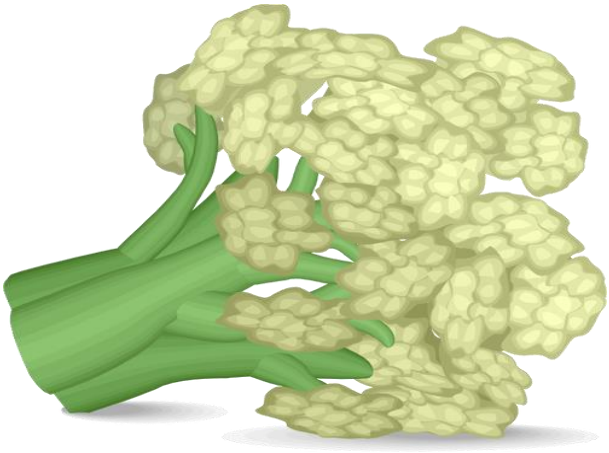
What vegetables do the three brothers harvest? (fill in the table)

What is different? (compare the three columns of the table)

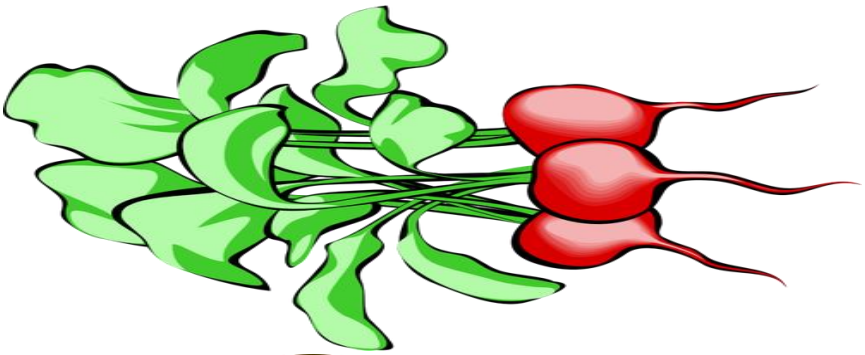


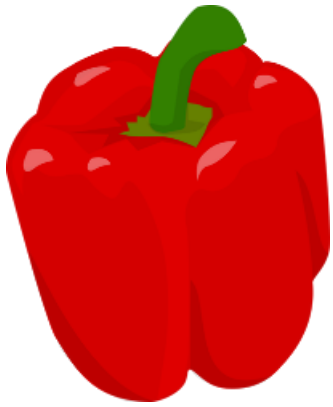




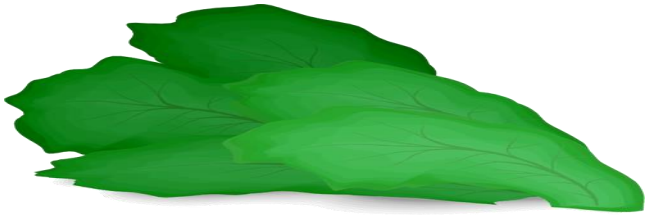








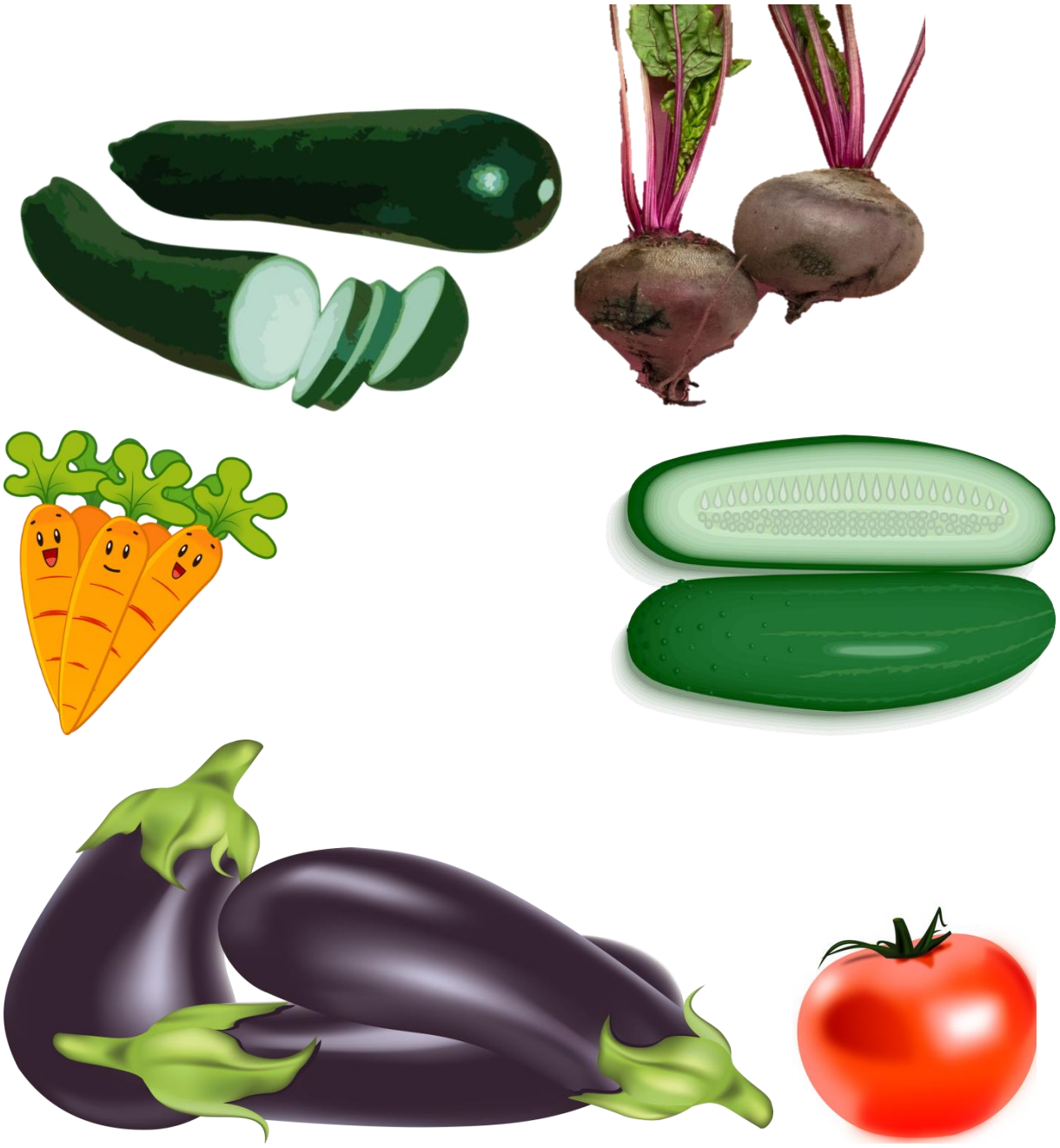












BEN	TED	The three brothers

ARCHIE

Miroslava Belcheva

mim4eto_jhelyazkova@abv.bg

Hello! My name is Archie. I'm the prince of my human family. This is my mother. This is my father. This is my sister. And this is my little brother. Listen to the story to find out how I got to their home. My sister Christie dreamed to have a dog. One day my mum saw a picture of me and said:

"What a beautiful dog! Christie will be very happy."

So their home became mine. I was very small and scared. They love me so much and show it to me every day. And I give them lots of kisses. I like eating dog food, bananas and apples. Sometimes I like eating Bobo's toys. I like playing with a ball. I like going for a walk with the family in the park. That is how we live together happily.

Who is Archie?

A family member?

A dog?

What does Archie like eating?

Do you have a pet?

What does it like eating?

What do you like eating?

What does your pet like playing?

What do you like playing?

What do you like doing in your free time?

BOBY

Rumyana Vasileva

rumityy92@gmail.com

Boby is a little boy who is only one and a half years old and he can already ride rollerblades and play the harmonica. He started walking when he was just 8 months old and in order to be healthy and safe his mother bought him a helmet. Boby doesn't like staying at home. He would rather go outside and play no matter if it's hot, cold or raining. He loves walking through the puddles, riding a sleigh and driving as many vehicles as he can. When Boby gets tired he just falls asleep right away no matter where he is. So, every day of Boby's life is a big adventure.

Do you like adventures?

What do you like doing in your free time? (riding a bike, sleighing, etc.)

Do you have

a helmet

knee pads

elbow pads

riding gloves?

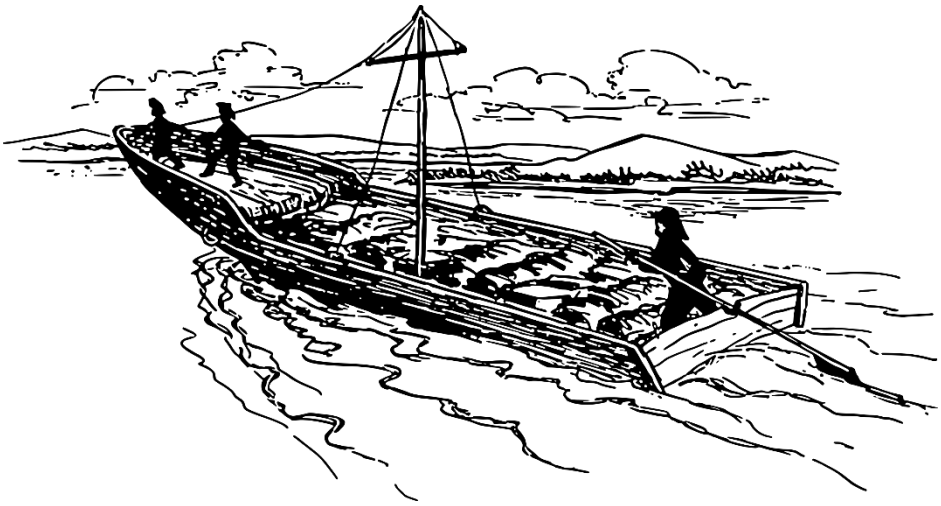
ADVENTURE WITH A BOAT

Mariya Ivanova

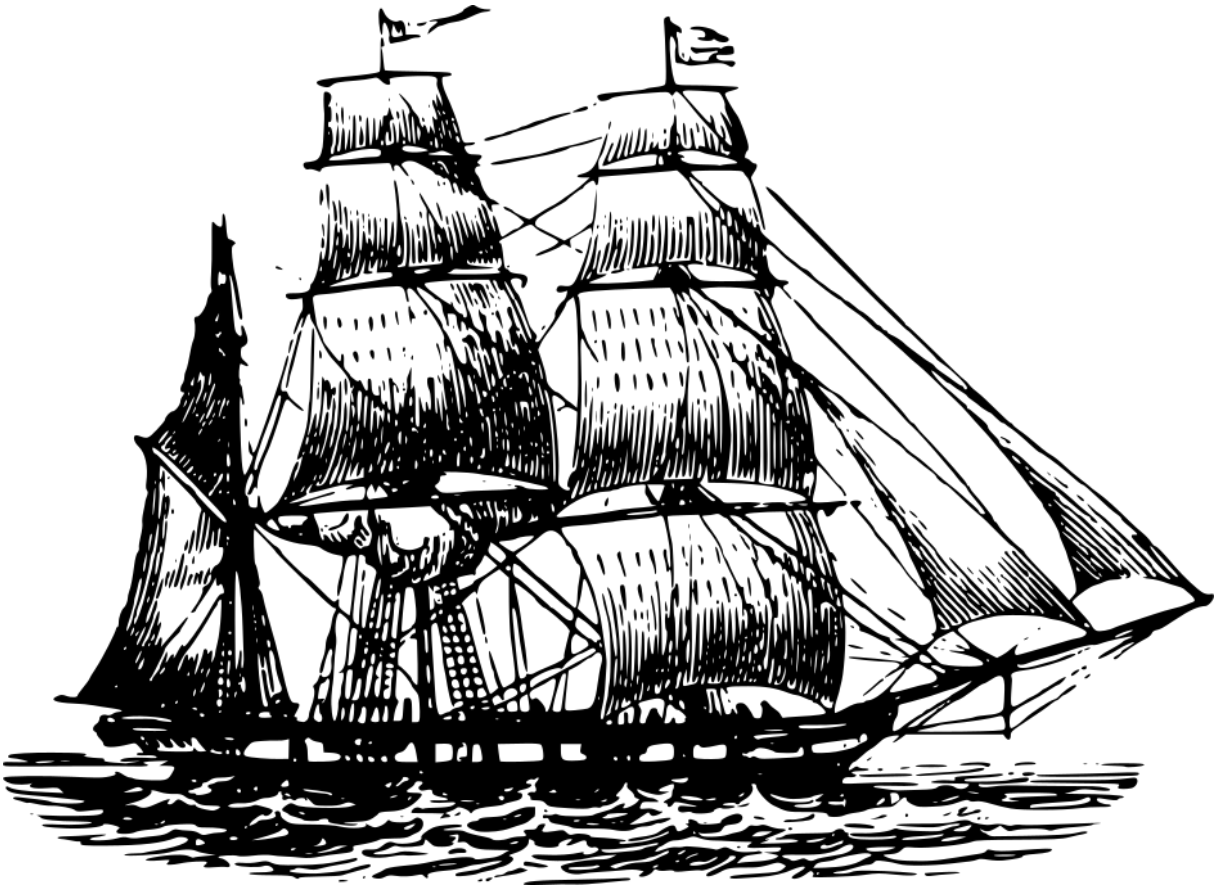
mariyaivanova0602@gmail.com

Once upon a time there was a little monkey, named Ronny. Ronny loved the sea.

One day he went to the beach with his friend Monny and they found a little old boat.



“I`m going to catch up the big ship with my boat,” said Ronny.



And he was rowing very hard but he couldn't catch up the ship. The ship was fast and Ronny was tired.

His friend, the crab Monny was watching Ronny`s adventure from the shore.

"Ronny, come back here! You can't catch up the big ship. It's dangerous for you!" said Monny.

Ronny was sad. He came back to the beach, opened his umbrella and thought that he would never catch up.

"The big fast ships are boring. It's better to stay on the beach and play with my friend."

Who is Ronny?

Who is Monny?

What games did they play in the end?

THE ADVENTURES OF TOM AND KIKKO

Bistra Dikova

bisidikova79@gmail.com

One day Tom and the mouse Kikko were watching television. Mum was at work that day and they had nothing to eat for lunch. They decided to order a pizza.

Tom called to order the pizza. They told him they had no pizza. Tom called another pizzeria, but there was no food there.

Tom called all the pizzerias in the town. There was no pizza anywhere. Kikko and Tom were very hungry. They didn't understand how the pizzas were sold out everywhere.

Suddenly, they saw a monster through the window – a monster stealing pizza and eating it!

Tom and Kikko were scared. But they were superheroes and had magical costumes.

"We will save the world!" they said.

"Why are you stealing all the pizza?" asked Kikko.

"Because I haven't eaten for 100 years and I will eat you too!!!" roared the monster.

Tom and Kikko used a lot of magic to defeat the beast. Finally it disappeared.

When they defeated the beast, Tom and Kikko handed out a piece of pizza to all the children in the world.

The two friends went home. They sat down to watch TV. Tom and Kikko had taken two pieces of pizza. They were eating and eating and they were very happy.

Do you like pizza?

If there is no pizza to buy, can you make your own pizza?

What will you put on it?

A TALE OF WINTER

Nikolay Bliznakov

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It was snowing all night.

In the morning the children were excited and joyful.

Our heroes Moni and Alex, a bit of rebels, went out to play in the snow.

They went downhill with sledges. Then they went ice skating. There was a snow-ball war and they took part in making a big snowman.

In the game time passed quickly. They didn't notice how they went away from home and ended up in the woods.

The sun hid, the moon rose. It became dark and frightening, the wind was blowing.

While they were going home they lost the track and started spinning in circles.

They realized they were retracing their own steps, but then they saw that on their footprints there were traces of a wild animal. That meant that the animal was following them.

They were very frightened.

They heard a wolf howling in the forest behind them and they already expected that they would become food for the wild animals that were getting closer.

They heard a loud thunder and saw an old Hunter. He helped Moni and Alex. The kids came home. They were cold and scared to death.

After this day, our heroes decided that they would never be late again.

The games continued to be as cheerful as ever, but they were no longer far from home.

What do you like doing in winter?

THE MERRY TOOTH

Miglena Angelova

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Once upon a time there was a little tooth called the Merry Tooth. It had a nice home and a happy big family.

The Merry Tooth fell into great distress: germs were housed in his home.

The tooth was very sad and sick. Time passed and the tooth became black and ugly. Something terrible was happening. The germs started making holes in the tooth.

A good dentist came to the rescue. She helped the tooth to heal.

The child began to eat fruits and vegetables. The dentist said he should not eat too much sweets, chocolate, pizza and candy.

The tooth was happy again! The child started to wash his teeth after each meal.

What do we have to do in order to keep our teeth merry?

to (eat...)

not to (eat...)

THE HUNGRY LITTLE MOUSE

Slavyana Gospodinova

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It was a beautiful summer day!

The little mouse woke up and said, "Oh, I'm so hungry! I have to go out to look for some food!"

The little mouse came out of his cottage and went out to look for something to eat. He walked a little in the wood and met a little bunny.

"Hello, Mouse!" said the bunny.

"Hello, Bunny!" said the mouse.

"I'm looking for something to eat!" said the mouse.

"Where are you going?" asked the bunny. "I can help you! There is a house nearby. The people who live there went out early in the morning. There you will find a lot of food!"

They walked and walked… … and they saw the house.

They came inside and went to the fridge. They opened it and gasped!

So much food!!! The bunny jumped on the first shelf.



"Do you want an apple?" asked the bunny.

“No, I don’t!” said the mouse.

The bunny jumped on the second shelf.



“Do you want a carrot?” asked the bunny

“No, I don’t!” said the mouse.

The bunny jumped on the third shelf.

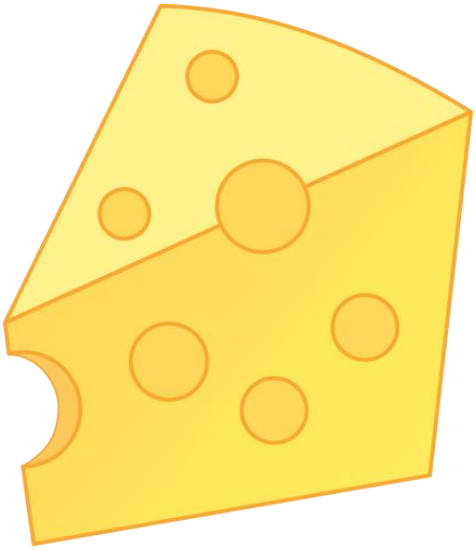
“Do you want some chocolates?”



asked the bunny.

“No, I don’t!” said the mouse.

The bunny jumped on the last shelf and asked.



“Do you want some cheese?”

“Yes, I do! Give me some cheese, please!”

The bunny gave some cheese to the mouse, took a carrot for himself and satisfied they went back to their homes.

What do mice eat and what do rabbits eat?

Mice eat … **Rabbits eat …**



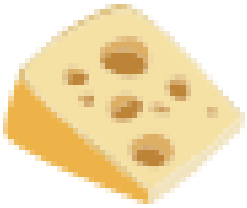
Apple



Carrot



Chocolates



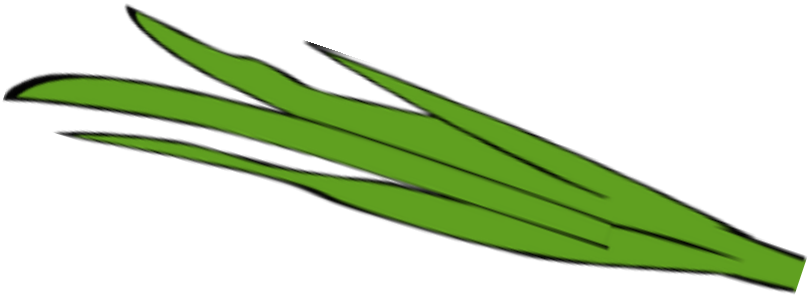
Cheese



cabbage



corn



grass



bread

FLOWER KINGDOM

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Far away from the fuss of the city there was a tiny house with the most beautiful garden in front of it. An old lady and her husband lived in this little house. They were the most loyal servants who took care of the royal family and all the subjects in the flower kingdom. It was winter and all was covered with snow. The kingdom was sleeping.

But one day the sun peeked over a cloud and smiled. Its loving beams touched the snow and invited the royal family to start the new flower year. The queen was so curious that every year she was the first to make a hole in the snow and pop out. Her name was Snowdrop. Then came the king, sir Crocus.

Soon the old lady looked out of the window and exclaimed, "Look, dear! They have arrived. Aren't they beautiful?"

"Gorgeous!", laughed the old man happily.

Day by day little snowdrop-daughters and crocus-sons filled the garden. And every morning one could hear the servants having the same conversation:

"Look, dear! Aren't they beautiful?"

"Gorgeous!", laughed the old man happily.

The braver the sun became, the warmer it became in the kingdom and the royal family grew sleepy. Lady Snowdrop and Sir Crocus announced the new flower year, called the spring subjects and yawned. Soon they fell asleep.

Spring flowers heard the call and on an early spring morning arm in arm there came red tulips and pink peonies, bluebells

and pansies, freesias and daffodils. Crystal clear dew filled their cups and they all had fresh drinks for their flower party.



The old lady looked out of the window and exclaimed:

“Look, dear! Aren’t they beautiful?”

“Gorgeous!”, laughed the old man happily.

The braver the sun became, the warmer it became in the kingdom and the spring flowers grew sleepy. But before they went to sleep they whispered their invitation to their summer relatives.

Summer flowers received the invitation and on an early summer morning arm in arm there came daisies and marigolds, roses and lavender. Bright colours covered everything and the air was fresh with the joyful laughter of the flowers.

The old lady looked out of the window and exclaimed:

“Look, dear! Aren’t they beautiful?”

“Gorgeous!”, laughed the old man happily.

As the sun was more often hiding behind different clouds and the air was becoming cooler and cooler, summer flowers remembered to invite other guests to the flower party. They bent down and whispered their invitation and fell asleep on the ground.

Autumn flowers heard them and on an early autumn morning arm in arm there came chrysanthemums and asters, dahlias and zinnias. Yellow, white, purple, blue, red and pink – all the lovely colours appeared in the garden.

The old lady looked out of the window and exclaimed:

“Look, dear! Aren’t they beautiful?”

“Gorgeous!”, laughed the old man happily.

Day by day the sun grew more and more tired.

“I need a little rest”, it yawned and covered itself with a cloud blanket.

Beautiful snowflakes started dancing in the air and the flower party was over.

“I am looking forward to the queen and king announcing the new flower year and throwing another party’, said the old lady.

“Me too!”, smiled her husband. “Now let’s enjoy the dance of the white snowflakes!”

Questions:

Which are the seasons of the year?

Which is your favourite season?

What is your favourite flower?

Which flowers bloom in which season? What are their colours?

DANI'S CLOTHES

Zhivka Ilieva

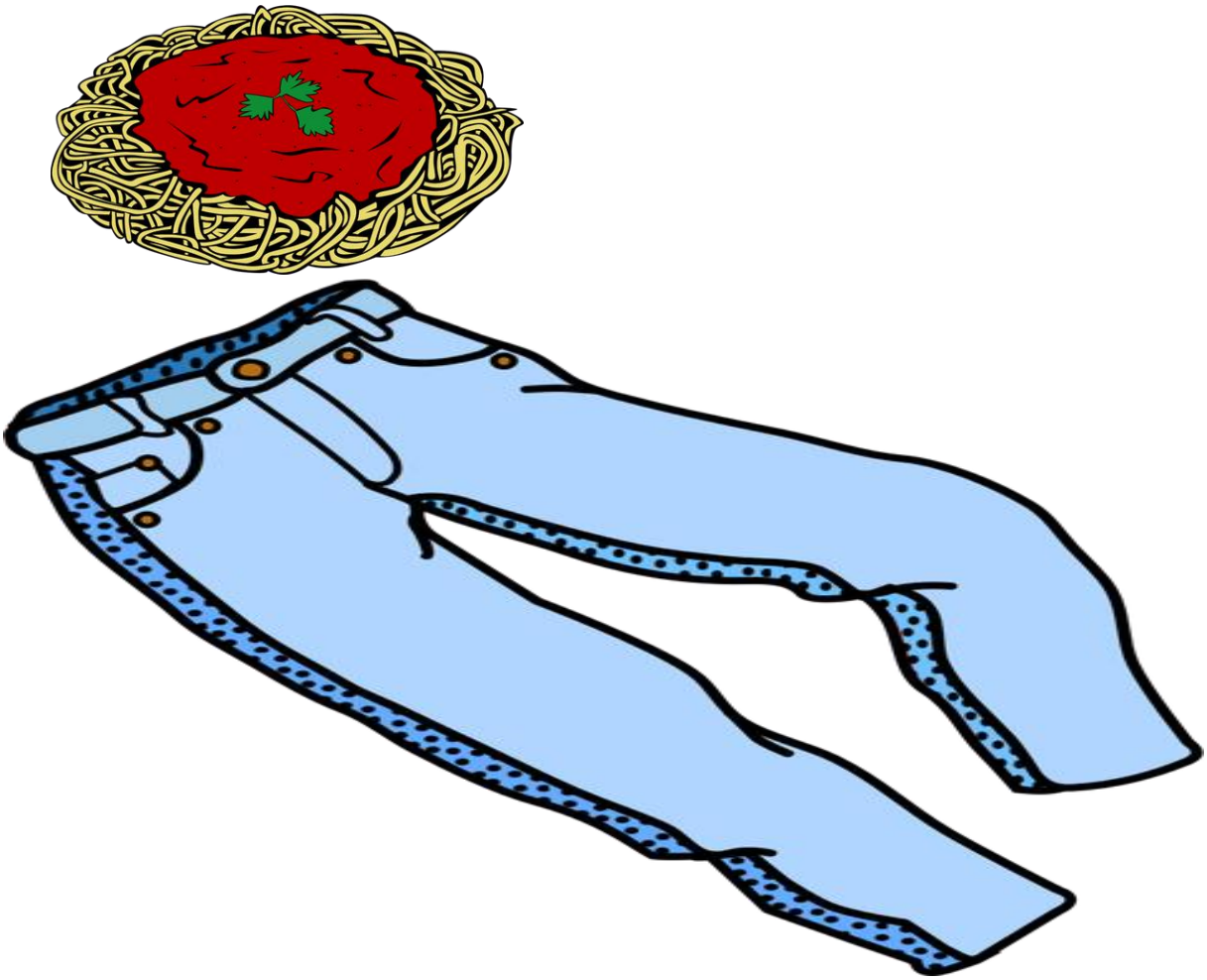
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T: I am Dani's T-shirt and I am not very happy today.

T: I ran away from Dani.

T: Look what I have on me! I have mud from our play in the park. Yesterday I had spaghetti from Dani's breakfast. The day before, I came home with a ketchup spot from his/her pizza and a red drop from cherries. I had a few ice cream spots: a chocolate one, a kiwi one (green) and a yellow one. And I still have ink. But I am black and white and the dark blue ink is almost invisible.





T: Ah, here are Dani's jeans! Her/His mum bought her/him a pair of light blue jeans for the summer. I guess they have run away too.

T: Hello, Jeans!

J: Hello, T-shirt!

T: What has happened to you?

J: Look at us! Spots, spots, spots! Ketchup, ice cream, fruit: all colours, mud! Breakfast, lunch, snack, dinner! You can read Dani's menu on us!

T: Oh, I see… Same with me…

J: But never mind! We ran away from Dani! Let's go and play football now!

T: Football? Let's go and play volleyball or basketball. I can't kick the ball.

J: And we can't play with hands.

T: That's a problem: we can't play together these games.

J: We can create our own game!

And they played a ball game. I don't know what exactly, but they had a lot of fun!

J: We are so hot!

T: So am I!

J: Let's go to the swimming pool for a swim! Then we can sunbathe for a while.

T: That's a great idea! I like it! I like it very much! Let's go!

They had a shower first, then went into the swimming pool, had a lot of fun in the water and then lay in the sun. They had just fallen asleep when Dani and his/her mother came by.

Mum: Look, Dani! As if your new jeans and T-shirt have already come here! But this is impossible, isn't it?

Dani: Mum, this morning I couldn't find them. Are they really mine?

Mum: I'm not sure, but they look the same as yours.

Dani: Shall I check, Mum?

Mum: I think you should.

Dani went to the T-shirt and the jeans lying in the sun.

Dani: Hello!

T: Oh, hello!

J: Hello, Dani!

T: What are you doing here?

Dani: I came with mum for a swim. And you? What are you doing here?

T: We also came for a swim.

J: Look how clean we are!

Dani: Yes, you are, really! Will you come home with me?

T to J: Shall we?

J: Oh, … we don't know… Do we have to? Do we really have to?

Dani: Well, you don't have to, but I would be very happy if you really come back with me. Please, do come back!

T: We'll have to think.

Dani: I promise to be more careful when eating hamburgers and pizzas.

J: … and ice cream…

T: and when having cherries, strawberries and so on…

J: and when writing…

Dani: I promise!

T, J: Do you?

Dani: Yes! I do!

T, J: OK, this time we'll come back, but next time, we won't!

Dani: I love you!

Dani had some fun in the water and they all went home.

Who is Dani? What kind of a person is s/he?

What else can there be on the T-shirt and on the new jeans? What other spots? (practise food and colours)

THE ADVENTURES OF MAX AND MAGGIE

Zheni Uzunova

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It was a bright sunny day. Maggie woke her brother Max up. She was 4 years old and he was 8 years older than her. It was a big day for the little girl. Their parents were going to take them to the zoo. Max had promised that he would tell her about all the animals there. He got out of bed a little annoyed but he understood her enthusiasm. He knew what it was like to go to the zoo for the first time.

"Good morning, mum! Good morning, dad!"

"Good morning, kids!"

"How did you sleep?" asked their mother.

"I was sleeping very well until Maggie woke me up." said Max.

"What about you, Maggie? Did you sleep well?" asked her father.

"Mm, I guess."

"You guess? What happened? Did you have a nightmare?"

"No, I was just so excited about today that I barely slept."

"Oh, honey! Look, I've made some pancakes – your favourite. Would you like some?"

"Can we skip the pancakes and go to the zoo?" asked Maggie impatiently.

"Eat your breakfast first and then we'll be ready to go."

“OK, mum,” said Maggie and took a bite from a pancake.

When they ate their breakfast Max put on his favourite T-shirt, Maggie – a new pink dress and the whole family got in the car. A few minutes later the car stopped and instead of the zoo Maggie saw the supermarket.

“Why did we stop? I thought we were going to the zoo.”

“Yes, we are but first we’ll buy some snacks for the animals,” said Max.

“What do you mean? Snacks like chips or something?” said Maggie confused.

“No, silly. I mean apples, bananas, carrots, seeds, things that animals would eat.”

“Oh, I understand.”

They bought some fruits and vegetables and twenty minutes later the family arrived at the zoo.

First Maggie and her brother saw the rabbits and Max impatiently started to explain about them to Maggie.

“These are rabbits. They have got long ears, soft fur and a small fluffy tail. They live in groups.”

“I know what a rabbit is, silly. May I give them some carrots?” asked Maggie.

“Yes, here you are. Carefully, they sometimes bite.”

They looked so cute that she asked her parents:

“Mum, dad, can we get a rabbit for a pet? They are so cute.”

“Nice try, but no, young lady. Our cat won’t be as happy as you.”

“Well, I had to try.”

They kept walking and saw the lions.

“Maggie, this is a lion. The lion is regarded the king of the jungle. It’s big, powerful and an expert hunter. Lions live in groups called prides,” said Max.

“What does he eat? I want to give him something,” asked Maggie.

“We can’t feed them. It’s forbidden to feed the lions. They eat meat. People who work here feed them.”

Maggie was a little disappointed, but she looked around and saw something.

“What are these funny animals, Max?”

“These are monkeys. There are known a lot of monkey species. Most of them have tails. They love eating fruit. But if they can’t find any, they would eat flowers, bugs and insects.”

“May I give this one a banana? It’s staring at me like it knows what I’ve got in my backpack.”

“Maybe it does,” Max laughed, “Give the banana, but be careful.”

Maggie was very happy. That was the best day ever.

“Come on Maggie. We keep moving,” said her dad.

While they were walking, Maggie stopped and yelled to her brother:

“Look, Max! There’s another monkey over there, but it’s bigger than this one.”

“This is a gorilla, Maggie. Come with me. I want to show you something cool.”

Max took her to the giraffe.

“This is a giraffe. It’s the tallest animal in the world. It has long legs, long neck and distinctive spotted pattern. Giraffes sleep less than two hours a day.”

“Wow, that’s amazing. They must be really tired. I want to see more, show me.”

“Mm, let me think. Let’s go to see the rhino and then we’ll go to the aquarium.”

They walked for a while and Maggie saw a big strange animal with a big nose.

“Max, is this the rhino? What happened to its nose?” asked Maggie.

“That’s not its nose,” Max laughed, “It’s a horn.”

“Oh, a horn,” said Maggie embarrassed. “Tell me more about rhinos. What else do you know?”

“Rhinos are big animals. The largest rhino weighs more than 2000 kg. They eat only plants – trees, bushes, grass and fruit.”

“This is an interesting animal. A little ugly, but interesting,” Maggie giggled. “Take me to the aquarium now.”

“Ok, let’s go,” said Max and took her hand.

When they entered the aquarium, Max pulled Maggie straight to the shark tank.

“Maggie, these are sharks. They are ancient animals. Unlike most fish, sharks don’t have bones, but have several rows of teeth. I really like them. They are my second favourite animal.”

“Which is your first?” asked Maggie.

“A dinosaur.” said Max.

“What’s a dinosaur, Max? Can I see it today at the zoo?”

“Unfortunately not. Dinosaurs don’t exist anymore. But if mum and dad agree to take us to the museum next weekend I’ll show you a dinosaur skeleton.”

“Mm, I would like to go to the museum, but I’m not sure I want to see a skeleton. Your first and second favourite animals are scary. I hope there are no more.”

Max laughed. While they were walking in the aquarium and watching the other sea creatures, Max saw a poster about a dolphin show.

“You’re lucky, Maggie. I know exactly what animal you would like,” said Max.

He looked around for their parents, they were watching the octopus.

“Mum, dad, there is going to be a dolphin show. Can we go, please? Maggie would love it.”

“Alright then. When does it start?” asked his mum.

“It starts in 20 minutes,” answered Max.

“Let’s go and buy tickets! We can’t be late. Come on, Maggie, Max has a surprise for you.”

They bought four tickets and took their seats. Max had been going before on a dolphin show so he explained to Maggie that the dolphins would do all kinds of tricks.

“They are very playful. We’ll see them jumping out of the water, playing with balls and jumping through a ring. They are one of the most intelligent animals in the world.”

“Wow, I can’t wait to see them. They sound like very interesting and funny animals.”

“They are. Look, Maggie the show starts!”

When Maggie saw the dolphins she was mesmerized. While she was watching the show some questions popped up in her mind.

“Max, what’s that on top of the dolphin? Is it a hole?”

Max smiled.

“Yes, it’s called a blowhole. It helps the dolphins breathe.”

“They sound really funny,” Maggie giggled.

“You are funny,” Max rubbed Maggie’s head, “Dolphins communicate with each other whistling and clicking.”

“I love them! They’re amazing! I can watch them all day long.”

Max just smiled. He was very pleased because of Maggie’s happiness. But the show was over. Maggie couldn’t stop clapping. She hugged Max, kissed him on the cheek and said:

“Thank you, Max! That was the best surprise … ever. I loved it!”

“I have another one for you. Do you want to go down to the pool? There you could give the dolphins some fish?”

“Yes, yes, I do! You’re the best, Max!” Maggie was thrilled.

They went down the stairs, but their parents were stuck. They couldn’t follow them because of all the people who were trying to get to the exit. That didn’t stop the children, especially Maggie. Even Max had to chase her.

She got to the pool and took a fish from the bucket. Max told her to wait for him, but she didn’t listen.

“Maggie, wait for me! It’s slippery around the pool. Please be very careful!”

Maggie made a few steps to the edge, she was really close. One of the dolphins showed up and she was just about to throw the fish when she slipped and fell into the water.

Maggie was screaming. Their parents saw everything and were making their way down there. Max froze for a couple of seconds, but then he started to yell for help.

“Help! Help! My sister fell in the water! She can’t swim! Please, help her!”

Their father pushed a few people and ran towards them. He was ready to jump when Maggie appeared on the back of a dolphin. It had saved her! Their parents helped her to get out of the pool and hugged her so hard that she could hardly breathe.

“Mum, dad, you’re hurting me. I’m fine and I’m so sorry.”

“Oh, honey! You scared us so much. Aren’t you scared at all?” asked her mother.

“At first I was, but then this beautiful dolphin saved me.”

“Max, are you alright?” their mother noticed that Max is crying and shivering. She went to him and hugged him.

“She’s fine, Max. Don’t worry. I know you got scared a lot, we did too, but everything is OK now. Go and kiss your sister!”

“Oh, Maggie, I’m so sorry! I thought I’d lost you! It’s all my fault! I shouldn’t have let your hand. Please, forgive me!”

“No, Max. Don’t say that. It wasn’t your fault. I should’ve been more careful. You warned me, but I didn’t listen. Don’t cry, please! It’ll never happen again! I love you!” said Maggie.

“I love you too, little sister.”

“Come on, kids! Let’s go home! It was a long day full of excitement,” said their mother.

“Well, Maggie, you didn’t like the sharks at all and now I guess you hate the dolphins,” Max was trying to make fun of his sister.

“No, not at all!” surprised him Maggie, “Well, yes, I didn’t like the sharks, but from now on dolphins are my favourite animals.”

Max smiled, took Maggie’s hand and never let her go. Because that’s what older brothers do!

How old is Maggie?

How old is Max?

What did they buy at the supermarket?

What animals did they see?

Which animals did they feed?

What other animals are there in the zoo? Make a picture.

Describe Max and Maggie.