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new things and exploring the land behind his house. One morning	22
before he went exploring, he packed his backpack. He put many things	34
inside. He packed a flashlight, a candle, matches, a compass, popcorn,	45
a hard hat, and his lunch. Then he journeyed into the woods to his new	60
secret spot.	62
The previous day he had discovered a cave, and today he wanted	74
to explore it. Long, thick weeds hid the mouth of the cave. Alan pushed	88
the weeds to the side and looked into the cave. It was too dark to see	104
anything. He turned on his flashlight and looked inside again. The cave	116
was only five feet tall. Alan just fit when he stepped inside.	128
Alan put his hard hat on. It would protect his head from the roof of	143
the cave. He shined his flashlight around the cave. It was dry and cold	157
inside. He walked around and explored the cave. He dropped popcorn	168
behind him as he walked. He found old dishes in the cave. The cave	182
walls displayed several paintings of animals.	188
Alan didn't know what he might find. He had dreamed about finding	200
a lost treasure or some buried gold, but he knew he was more likely to	215
find only mud and rocks. As he worked his way deeper into the cave, he	230
discovered small waterfalls and sharp points of rock hanging from the	241
ceiling.	242
When Alan reached the back of the cave, he stopped to eat his	255
lunch. He was very hungry. But just as Alan finished eating, his	267
flashlight went out. The batteries had died. It was very dark in the cave.	281
Alan struck a match so he could see. The flame lit up the cave.	295
Then he lit the candle he brought. He carried it carefully. He followed	308
the popcorn all the way back to the mouth of the cave. Alan had	322
enjoyed the cave, but he thought he should pack more batteries for	334
future explorations.	336

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Along the seashore of Florida, the Gulf of Mexico's waves lapped up	12
on the sand. In a secluded cove, a pack of boys who called themselves	26
the Coral Cove Gang hunted for treasures. These five boys spent their	38
summer days combing the beaches of their town. Their beach searches	49
rewarded them with interesting discoveries, including pieces of driftwood	58
and sea glass, conch shells, lost jewelry and coins, and occasionally a	70
deserted fishing boat. The boys kept three salvaged boats tied to an	82
anchor in a secluded area about a mile from their homes.	93
When the weather was clear, the Coral Cove Gang would row their	105
boats out to a coral reef and dive for clams. With diving masks strapped	119
to their faces, they would keep an eye open for clams or for anything	133
unusual in the waters. One day this vigilance paid off.	143
Sonny, one of the younger boys, swam far from the shore and	155
splashed about in the deep water. The other boys watching were	166
concerned that a shark was in the water. Suddenly Sonny yelled, "Look!	178
Look!" In his hand he held a dripping wet, but shiny, gold doubloon.	191
This coin was the sort of discovery every young adventurer dreamed of.	203
Sonny had uncovered a sunken treasure.	209
The race was on. The other four boys dove into the water. Sonny	222
led the way to the area where he had unearthed the coin. At first it	237
appeared that nothing was there but sand and seaweed. As the five	249
boys hovered over the sea floor, the dark outline of an ancient ship	262
began to take shape before their bulging eyes.	270
They raced to the surface of the water and gasped for more air.	283
They put their heads together and made a plan. They agreed to borrow	296
scuba gear, nets, and all the other gear needed to harvest the gold from	310
the ship. They were able to salvage many pounds of gold doubloons,	322
gold bars, and precious jewelry. The items turned out to be over four	335
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Cazz the camel was used to making long treks across the desert.	12
Cazz was very good at traveling. He could carry three people on his back, and he could carry a carpet on each hump. He could carry many bags and many trunks. Cazz was so good at traveling across the hot sand, he never had time to rest because people always wanted him to take them places.	25 39 52 65 68
Cazz would find himself walking north one day and south the next. Cazz was traveling so much that he was getting very tired.	80 91
"Oh, I need a holiday from all this hard work. All I do is carry people on my back. I know I am good at what I do, but that doesn't mean I can do it all the time. I want to lie on the beach for a while. I want to swim in the ocean and drink fruit drinks," Cazz said. "What I need is a nice long nap. Tomorrow I will ask my master for a vacation."	107 125 145 160 170
When Cazz got up the next day, he was nervous. He thought his master was a kind person, but Cazz wasn't sure his master would give him a vacation. Cazz worried about what would happen if he didn't get some rest. He knew, though, that the only way he would get a break was to ask. So he did.	183 196 209 223 229
"Yes, Cazz," his master said, "I know you work very hard. You may have a break. In fact, why don't you come with me? I know a very beautiful place down by the sea."	242 257 263
Cazz went with his master. He had a wonderful time. He swam in a swimming pool. He drank fruit drinks. He slept all through the night and late into the morning.	277 290 294
Soon enough, Cazz was ready to go back to work. Once again he walked north one day and south again. But now he was happy because he knew he was very good at his job and he knew his boss appreciated him enough to give him a vacation. He was sure he would get another one someday.	307 320 335 349 351

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An old man lived in a shack deep in the forest. His tiny shack stood beside a musical brook. He didn't mind that his house was tiny or that the wind blew in under his doors. Even though he was cramped and often cold, he could listen to the music of the brook all day and night.	15 29 42 57
In his spare time, the old man made bells out of brass and silver. However, the bells he made were silent. Only the musical brook beside his shack could make the bells ring. Every evening the man would carry the bells he'd forged that day to the brook and dip them into its musical waters. The bells would go into the brook silent and come out ringing with song. It always made the man joyful to hear his bells ringing. What a beautiful sound!	71 83 96 111 124 138 141
New towns and villages were popping up all over the countryside, so the man's bells were in high demand. People wanted his bells for their clock towers and their churches. They wanted to hang his bells above their doors and set them on the corners of their desks.	152 165 177 189
The bell-maker could have been a very rich man. Because his bells rang more beautifully than any bells in the country, he could have set any price for them. Instead, the man charged very little for his bells. In fact, he gave many of his bells away for free. He gave entire octaves to orphanages and hospitals.	202 215 229 244 247
The bell-maker was very happy. However, he was also getting old. He could hardly lift the larger bells and carry them to the musical brook. It was time for him to retire, but before he could retire, he needed to train someone for his craft.	259 273 289 293
One evening a young man wandered up to his door. The bell-maker recognized the young man. He knew the young man was once rich and spoiled, but bad luck had stripped him of his fortune. The young man was now humble and wise for all his toils.	305 317 330 341
"I need food," the young man told the bell-maker.	351
"Yes," the bell-maker replied. "But you need much more than that. You need music, and I will help you."	363 371

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It was a fine winter's day, perfect for ice-skating. As soon as Alice finished her breakfast and brushed her teeth, she was out the door with her ice skates over her shoulder.	14 27 33
Alice's best friend, Mary Beth, lived just two blocks away in a big house with black shutters. Alice knocked on the back door and waited patiently for Mary Beth to gather her ice skates, coat, and mittens.	46 58 70
"Let's go," Alice said when Mary Beth was ready. "If we hurry, we'll be the first ones on the rink. We'll have all that fresh ice to skate on. We'll get to put the first lines of the day on the ice."	83 99 112
Alice and Mary Beth hurried down the street toward the ice rink. The sidewalks were covered with snow, so walking was hard. Alice and Mary Beth didn't mind. They stopped and made snow angels and snowballs as they trudged along.	124 135 147 152
"You were right, Alice," Mary Beth said as they rounded a corner and saw the empty rink. "Let's hurry and put on our skates." In no time at all, the girls had shed their boots, laced up their skates, and were standing on the edge of the rink.	164 179 193 200
The rink was a flawless silver mirror. As Mary Beth and Alice skated in circles around it, they could see their reflections moving on the ice beneath them.	212 224 228
"Oh, it's perfect," Alice said as she put one foot down and slid across the ice. "Watch me."	241 246
She made a funny face, laughed, lost her balance, and fell to the ice. Mary Beth skated around her. Finally she got close enough to help her friend to her feet. The girls held hands and skated across the ice together. Alice tugged Mary Beth one way, and Mary Beth tugged Alice the other way.	259 271 285 297 301
The two girls were having so much fun they didn't realize the rink was filling with other children. When they finally stopped their game, they saw their friends skating around them. They decided to play a game of ice tag. Alice and Mary Beth had a wonderful time at the rink.	314 325 337 352

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Jason sat and waited for his grandfather to arrive. He always	11
enjoyed his grandfather's visits. Jason could see the old car slowly	22
make its way down the street toward his house. Grandpa's old car	34
pulled into the driveway.	38
"Grandpa! Grandpa!" Jason shouted. "You're here!"	44
"Hello, Jason. How is my favorite grandson?" Grandpa chuckled.	53
"Well, I'm just dandy," said Jason. "Thank you for asking."	63
Grandpa and Jason walked into the house. Jason helped his	73
grandfather carry his bags. They spent a wonderful day together	83
playing in the backyard. Jason sat by his grandfather that night.	94
"Grandpa, what did you do when you were little?"	103
The grandfather looked at his grandson and answered, "Well, what	113
do you do when you play?"	119
Jason answered, "We play games in my basement. We play catch	130
in the backyard. We play football in the empty lot down the street. After	144
school, my friends and I watch television shows. Sometimes my mom	155
takes us to see a movie at the mall."	164
Grandpa smiled and said, "Jason, I used to do the same things	176
when I was a boy."	181
"Really?"	182
"Really. In my old neighborhood, we would pick teams and play	193
baseball in a sandlot. At school we played football. We didn't have	205
facemasks. We wore leather helmets and soft pads in our shirts. When	217
I was a young boy, we didn't have television. We only had radio. My	231
friends and I would gather around the radio and listen to shows like 'The	245
Lone Ranger' and 'The Shadow.' On Saturdays, we would ride our	256
bikes to the movie house and watch cartoons or a double feature. The	269
movies had singing cowboys and superheroes."	275
Jason asked his grandfather, "Can we see a movie together this	286
Saturday?"	287
"Yes," said Grandpa. "I think we should."	294

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"Grandpa, what did you do when you were little?"

The grandfather looked at his grandson and answered, "Well, what do you do when you play?"

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"Really?"

"Really. In my old neighborhood, we would pick teams and play baseball in a sandlot. At school we played football. We didn't have facemasks. We wore leather helmets and soft pads in our shirts. When I was a young boy, we didn't have television. We only had radio. My friends and I would gather around the radio and listen to shows like 'The Lone Ranger' and 'The Shadow.' On Saturdays, we would ride our bikes to the movie house and watch cartoons or a double feature. The movies had singing cowboys and superheroes."

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Jenny brushed her doll's hair. She loved to look at it because the golden curls were so shiny. Jenny brushed it so often that sometimes she was afraid the hair would stop shining, but it seemed to get prettier every day.	13 25 39 41
Jenny also loved to talk to her doll. "Agnes," she said one day. "I think we should have a tea party today. You can wear your pink dress and white sandals." Jenny was very excited about her idea.	55 69 79
Jenny started to get ready for the party. She put on her fanciest dress. It had pink ruffles on it. She put on her socks that also had pink ruffles and her shiny white shoes. Jenny and Agnes both wore white gloves. They even had matching white straw purses to carry.	92 108 120 130
Sometimes Jenny's younger brother Michael wanted to join them, but Jenny always told him no. Boys weren't invited to tea parties. They always spilled things, and they never knew what to say.	139 152 162
When everything was ready, Jenny brought Agnes to the table. It looked so pretty. The matching china cups and plates were set up just right. Jenny set a napkin on each of their laps.	173 186 196
As she started to pour the tea, she heard her mother calling her. "Jenny, will you please come here? I need some help folding clothes." Jenny looked at her doll sadly. "Well, Agnes," she said. "I guess we'll have our tea party tomorrow."	209 221 234 239
"I'll be there in just a minute," Jenny called to her mother.	251
Jenny went to her bedroom to change. She took off her fancy clothes and put on jeans, a T-shirt, and sneakers. Then she changed Agnes's clothes and went to help her mom.	263 275 283
The next day Jenny's mom asked for her help early in the day. They worked together to get the house ready for company that night. Then Jenny's mom said, "Thank you for your help. Now you can do whatever you'd like."	296 308 321 324
Within minutes, Jenny and Agnes were in their fancy outfits again and having tea.	335 338

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Jenny's father often went on business trips. Sometimes he was gone for only a few days. Other times he was gone for entire weeks. Even though he called every night, Jenny still missed her father. She was happy when he would finally come home.	10 24 36 44
Jenny always rushed to the front door when she heard her father's taxi approach the driveway. She would wait for him to open the door and jump into his arms.	56 69 74
"How's my girl?" her dad always asked as he gave her a big hug. "Did you miss me?"	88 92
"I always do," Jenny would answer.	98
"Were you a good girl? Did you listen to your mom and your teacher? Did you do all your chores?"	111 118
"I always do," Jenny would answer.	124
"I have something for you then," her father would say. He would reach into his coat pocket and pull out a beautifully wrapped present.	136 148
Every time her dad gave her a present, Jenny would carefully open it. First she would pull off the ribbon and, without tearing it, peel off the paper. Then she would open the box and giggle with glee. Her father always brought home the best presents from his business trips.	160 175 188 198
From the last trip he brought her a little glass globe with a tiny city inside. When you shook the globe, snow danced around the city.	213 224
"That's New York," her dad told her as he watched her shake it. "See that tall building in the center? That's the Empire State Building. It was once the tallest building in the world. Someday I'll take you there with me."	237 250 263 265
Jenny loved the glass globe with the tiny city inside it. "Dad, will you really take me there someday?"	279 284
"Of course I will, when you're older."	291
That night, Jenny studied her present before she went to bed. She picked it up, shook it, and watched the snow fall.	303 313
"New York City," she whispered as she closed her eyes to sleep.	325

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Jessica stared at the new black-rimmed glasses on her nightstand.	11
As she lay in bed, many questions ran through her head. "Are these	24
frames too ugly? Are kids going to laugh at me when I get on the bus?	40
Should mom have bought me the rectangular ones?"	48
Suddenly, Jessica saw 7:13 on the clock. She didn't feel like eating	60
breakfast and quickly got ready. She packed her backpack and said	71
goodbye. "I'm sure things will be just fine," her mom said as Jessica left	85
the house. She ran down the driveway and saw her friends waiting for	98
the school bus. Today, of all days, Jonathan was already there.	109
Jonathan was the meanest kid at the bus stop. He was always	121
bossing people around and teasing them. "Hey, here comes Four	131
Eyes," he shouted.	134
"Be quiet, Jonathan. I think Jessica looks awesome!" said Vanessa.	144
Vanessa was in Jessica's math class. Jessica liked her because she	155
wasn't afraid to stand up to anyone.	162
She thought kids might stare when she got on the bus. To Jessica's	175
surprise, no one laughed at her. Later at school, she remembered the	187
note she needed to leave in the office. For the first time, she noticed	201
that the secretary, Mrs. Green, wore glasses. Then the health aide,	212
Leslie, came to make a copy. She had glasses on too.	223
Jessica couldn't help but notice that lots of teachers wore glasses.	234
That made her feel a little less nervous. Her teacher, Mrs. Hadwick,	246
was not wearing her contact lenses today. She was wearing new	257
glasses!	258
"Good morning, Jessica," she said, "I love your new glasses. You	269
remind me of that teenage star who sings 'Don't Be Scared.'" Jessica	281
loved that song and had a poster of the famous singer in her locker.	295
All day long she noticed the difference her glasses made. Letters	306
were sharper, and she could see the board better. She thought it was	319
easier to see exactly how many minutes were left until recess.	330
"This day wasn't so bad after all," Jessica thought.	339

Jessica stared at the new black-rimmed glasses on her nightstand. As she lay in bed, many questions ran through her head. "Are these frames too ugly? Are kids going to laugh at me when I get on the bus? Should mom have bought me the rectangular ones?"

Suddenly, Jessica saw 7:13 on the clock. She didn't feel like eating breakfast and quickly got ready. She packed her backpack and said goodbye. "I'm sure things will be just fine," her mom said as Jessica left the house. She ran down the driveway and saw her friends waiting for the school bus. Today, of all days, Jonathan was already there.

Jonathan was the meanest kid at the bus stop. He was always bossing people around and teasing them. "Hey, here comes Four Eyes," he shouted.

"Be quiet, Jonathan. I think Jessica looks awesome!" said Vanessa. Vanessa was in Jessica's math class. Jessica liked her because she wasn't afraid to stand up to anyone.

She thought kids might stare when she got on the bus. To Jessica's surprise, no one laughed at her. Later at school, she remembered the note she needed to leave in the office. For the first time, she noticed that the secretary, Mrs. Green, wore glasses. Then the health aide, Leslie, came to make a copy. She had glasses on too.

Jessica couldn't help but notice that lots of teachers wore glasses. That made her feel a little less nervous. Her teacher, Mrs. Hadwick, was not wearing her contact lenses today. She was wearing new glasses!

"Good morning, Jessica," she said, "I love your new glasses. You remind me of that teenage star who sings 'Don't Be Scared.'" Jessica loved that song and had a poster of the famous singer in her locker.

All day long she noticed the difference her glasses made. Letters were sharper, and she could see the board better. She thought it was easier to see exactly how many minutes were left until recess.

"This day wasn't so bad after all," Jessica thought.

Last summer my family took a great train adventure. My mom and dad, my sister Rachel, and I live in Minnesota, and my cousins live in California. We traveled over two thousand miles by train to visit them.	12 26 38
Our trip began in Saint Cloud. At midnight, a whistle blew and a train with fifteen huge cars pulled into the station.	52 60
"All aboard," the conductor called.	65
He helped us into the train. We climbed narrow stairs that led to a second level. The car was dark, and people were sleeping. We walked silently through the rows of seats until we found our seats.	79 91 102
"Your seats lean back for sleeping," the conductor told us. He showed my sister how to move her seat. Next he gave us pillows. Mom took our blankets from her bag.	113 127 133
At first we were too excited to sleep. The train rocked from side to side and made clickety-clack sounds. Soon the rhythm of the sounds and the rocking made us sleepy. We finally dozed off.	147 159 169
For the next three days, the train was our home. We ate meals in the dining car or at the snack bar. Our seats became our beds. We washed our faces and brushed our teeth in a small bathroom. To pass the time, we played games or watched television in the lounge car.	183 197 210 222
We spent a lot of time looking at the scenery. We saw fields and prairies, mountains and forests, rivers and valleys, small towns and big cities. When we saw orchards of fruit trees, we knew we were near our cousins.	236 247 261 262
As we arrived at the train station, the whistle blew and the train slowed down. We looked out the windows for our relatives.	275 285
"There they are!" Mom exclaimed. Aunt Elizabeth and Uncle David waved, and our cousins Brian and Brittany jumped up and down. The train stopped, and we got off. Everyone gave each other a hug.	295 307 319
"Did you have a good trip?" Aunt Elizabeth asked us.	329
"It was great," we all answered.	335
Just then, the train whistle blew again as if to say goodbye.	347

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On Saturday morning, Lucy was happy to see the snow falling outside her windows. She jumped from her bed and raced into the kitchen. Her mom and dad were sitting at the table drinking coffee.	11 23 35
"Can I go to Grandma's house today?" Lucy asked as she climbed onto her mother's lap. Last week, Lucy's grandmother had promised her that she could go to her house and bake cookies if it snowed over the weekend.	47 58 73 74
Lucy couldn't wait. Her Grandma Kate was the best baker in the entire county. In fact, this past summer she'd won the grand prize in the baking contest at the state fair. Lucy knew she and Grandma Kate would make gingerbread men. They would dress them with frosting. They would also bake sugar cookies and sprinkle colored sugar on them.	86 100 112 122 133 134
Grandma Kate was watching for Lucy through the front window of her house when Lucy's dad dropped her off an hour later.	145 156
"Are you ready to bake cookies?" Lucy asked her grandma as she walked into the house.	168 172
"You bet I am, sweetie," Grandma Kate said as they stepped into the kitchen. Grandma Kate made Lucy a cup of hot chocolate before they began baking. Lucy loved hot chocolate, especially in her grandma's big, thick mugs.	184 196 206 210
After the hot chocolate, they started baking. All day long, sugar, flour, butter, eggs, and vanilla were all over the kitchen.	221 231
At sunset, six hours later, Lucy's dad came to pick her up. They could hardly fit all the tins of cookies into the cab of his pickup truck.	244 259
Lucy knew just what they'd do with the cookies. They would open one of the tins and eat those cookies during the trip home. They would also give everyone on their block a tin of cookies as a Christmas treat. The rest of the tins would go to the food shelf in Lucy's town. This Christmas, a lot of people would get to share a little bit of the joy Lucy and her grandma felt on their special cookie-making day.	271 285 299 314 330 340

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Most of Jamie's clothes were homemade. They were nice, and she liked them, but they were still homemade. It was a special treat when Jamie's mother bought her a complete, brand-new, store-bought outfit. Jamie loved her new red pants and the blue and white knit shirt her mother bought for her. She thought the clothes looked beautiful on her. She couldn't wait to wear them to school on Monday.	11 24 35 49 61 71
On Monday, Jamie dressed carefully. Her new clothes made her feel confident and pretty. When she came down for breakfast, her mom and dad told her how nice she looked. She smiled even more. To her surprise, no one at school seemed to notice her outfit. Only her best friend complimented her on it. It didn't matter though, because Jamie still loved it.	81 93 107 120 131 134
At about ten in the morning, the teacher sent Jamie on an errand to the office. Walking the deserted halls alone always gave Jamie a spooky feeling. On her way back to class, Jamie saw another student coming her way from down the hall. She recognized it was Debbie, a sixth grader. She was three years older than Jamie. She was big, and she was also a bully.	148 159 171 184 197 202
Jamie tried to walk as far from Debbie as possible. Jamie didn't look at Debbie, but Debbie would not be ignored. As they approached each other, Debbie started taunting Jamie. She called her a skinny, little kid, and she made fun of Jamie's new clothes. She asked if Jamie got dressed in the dark and said Jamie looked like a flag. By the time Debbie moved on down the hall, Jamie was close to tears. All the joy and excitement of her new outfit was gone.	214 226 238 252 266 280 288
Jamie stopped in the bathroom to compose herself. She looked at her new outfit in the mirror. It looked the same as it looked earlier.	299 313
"She's just a bully," Jamie thought. "She would have made fun of any clothes." Even though Jamie knew that was true, it didn't take the sting of Debbie's words away. She would remember Debbie every time she wore the outfit.	325 338 349 353

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Mr. Lee Sung had a very important job. He wrote fortunes for	12
fortune cookies. Mr. Sung lived in a tiny town that had many children.	25
He and his wife owned a small restaurant. Mr. Sung's restaurant was	37
called "Under the Willows" because it stood under four huge weeping	48
willow trees.	50
Every afternoon while Mrs. Sue Sung made the lunch specials, Mr.	61
Lee Sung would go outside with a notebook and his best red ink pen.	75
He would find a place to sit under one of the weeping willows or near the	91
pond. Then he would write the fortunes for his cookies.	101
Sometimes the local children came to play by Mr. Sung as he wrote.	114
Mr. Sung would watch the children run through the shadows of the	126
willow trees. He would watch them splash in the warm water of the	139
pond. It was easier for Mr. Sung to write fortunes when the children	152
were near him and he could hear their pleasant laughter.	162
"Luck comes today in the form of a sunny smile," Mr. Sung wrote on	176
a piece of small paper as he watched the children's antics.	187
"An old man is wise, but a child is carefree," Mr. Sung wrote as he	202
watched the children climb up into the branches of the willows and	214
disappear from sight.	217
Often the children would surround Mr. Sung as he wrote.	227
"May we have a fortune?" a child would ask.	236
Mr. Sung would then take out a handful of fortune cookies from his	249
pocket. He would give one to each of the children. Some of the	262
children cracked their cookies and read their fortunes right away.	272
Others slowly nibbled on their cookies and saved the tiny slip of paper	285
with the words of fortune for last.	292
Some of the children who gathered around Mr. Sung were still too	304
young to read. The children would hold out the small slip of paper, and	318
Mr. Sung would read it to them.	325
"A smile is the best of luck," he read to one little girl. Then they	340
smiled at each other.	344

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Some of the children who gathered around Mr. Sung were still too young to read. The children would hold out the small slip of paper, and Mr. Sung would read it to them.

"A smile is the best of luck," he read to one little girl. Then they smiled at each other.

One day Philip and his family boarded a large ship at the wharf in London and set sail for the New World. Philip's family had been very poor in England. They were so poor all of their belongings fit in one trunk. However, their hearts carried many dreams for the New World.	14 27 41 52
Philip's father wanted to build an inn of his own where people could rest and get a good meal. His mother wanted her children to grow up in a land that was free.	65 80 85
Philip and his family stayed in a tiny, dark room on the bottom of the ship. Day after day and night after night, the sea tossed and turned the ship. Everyone in Philip's family got seasick. They all got well, except for Philip's youngest sister, Hannah. While everyone else was able to stroll on the decks of the great ship, Hannah lay on her cot and slept. Her face was pale, and she was getting weaker every day.	100 114 126 137 152 163
One night Philip's father was so worried about his youngest child, he spoke to the captain of the ship. The captain had very broad shoulders, white hair, and a white beard. His voice was gruff, but there was kindness in his eyes. Philip's family was shocked when their dad came back to the cabin with the captain at his side.	174 187 200 212 223
The captain knelt over Hannah's cot. He picked up her hand and held it in his own. "Well, what have we got here," he murmured. "What's your name, child?"	235 248 252
"Hannah," the little girl said weakly.	258
"Don't worry now, Hannah," the captain said. "I know exactly what you need." There was a twinkle in the captain's eyes as he reached into his pocket and pulled out a large orange.	269 283 291
"This orange is for you," he told Hannah. "I want you to eat the entire thing and stay in bed. In a few days you should be up on your feet and feeling better."	305 321 325
The captain was correct. In two days, Hannah was out of bed and annoying Philip as usual. Philip's family was relieved Hannah was herself again.	338 348 350

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One day Russ had a wonderful idea. He found a large bucket. He	13
filled it with warm water and added a generous amount of dish soap. As	27
quietly as he could, he snuck up to his mother's and father's bedroom	40
and took a metal clothes hanger from their closet.	49
Then he carried the bucket of warm, sudsy water and the clothes	61
hanger out to the backyard. Russ found a nice spot under an oak tree,	75
far out of view of the house, and sat down.	85
First he bent the clothes hanger into a large circle. His perfect circle	98
made him smile. Next, he dipped the circle into the bucket of water.	111
Then he lifted it back out, held it at arm's length, and spun around in	126
circles. Huge bubbles emerged from the circle and floated around the	137
backyard.	138
Russ was having so much fun that he didn't see his little sister,	151
Jenny, sneaking up on him. Russ didn't always like Jenny because she	163
tattled on him whenever she got the chance.	171
When Jenny saw her brother making bubbles with their mother's	181
clothes hanger, she thought she could get him in lots of trouble. If she	195
told on him, he might get grounded for a week. But Jenny didn't want to	210
tell. She wanted to make bubbles too.	217
"Let me try," she told him. "I want to make bubbles too, Russ."	230
Russ ignored her and continued to make bubbles.	238
"Go away, brat," he said. "This bubble maker isn't for babies."	249
"I'm not a baby, and if you don't let me play, I'll tell on you," she	265
replied. Russ sighed and handed the bubble maker to his sister. He	277
watched her laugh as she made huge bubbles. Somehow, she	287
managed to make even bigger bubbles than he had.	296
"How do you do that?" Russ asked. "Teach me, please."	306
Jenny showed Russ how to make big, slow-moving bubbles. They	317
laughed as they watched them float across the yard. For that afternoon,	329
they forgot that they didn't always like each other.	338

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One night as Alice was snuggling her pillows and about to fall asleep, she felt something wriggling between her feet. With a shriek, Alice sat up and turned on her lamp. She pulled the covers off her bed and found a toad looking up at her.	12 23 38 46
"Why, you ugly thing!" Alice yelled. "Get off my bed and out of my room at once." The toad merely looked up at her and blinked his golden eyes. He laid his leathery green head down, sighed, and went to sleep.	60 74 87
Alice slept on the floor that night. When she woke up in the morning, the toad was mysteriously gone. Alice made her bed, ate her breakfast, and went to school.	100 112 117
Alice had a perfect day. She got an "A" on her spelling test and won all the races on the playground at recess. She was feeling very smug as she opened her desk to pull out her literature book, but her smugness disappeared when she saw the toad sitting on her pencil box.	131 144 158 170
The toad's golden eyes glowed in the dim confines of her desk. He let out one low croak as he stared at her. He seemed to be waiting for her to do something, but Alice couldn't figure out what. The toad puckered his lips and made kissing sounds. Alice slammed her desk shut without pulling out her textbook.	183 199 211 222 228
The teacher looked at Alice strangely and then began the lesson. Alice didn't have a book, so she couldn't read along. She could hear the toad moving around in her desk as the teacher spoke. Alice rested her elbows on it and fixed a firm smile on her face. The teacher saw Alice was still without her book.	239 253 266 281 286
"Alice, you need to follow along in your book," the teacher said.	298
"We are reading 'The Frog Prince' on page 45. Open your desk and get your book."	312 314
"But..." Alice said. "I can't."	319
The teacher told Alice to take out her book or go to the principal's office. Alice slowly opened her desk, expecting to see the toad. The toad was gone, but Alice was sure he'd be back again.	333 345 356

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The morning sunshine fell gently on the forest. A clumsy bear	11
stumbled out of his den. The bear covered his eyes and yawned. The	24
bear was a small cub, yet he was very hungry. He was on the hunt for	40
honey, his favorite food. Just then, the bear heard something. A	51
bumblebee buzzed by, and the clumsy little bear decided to follow it.	63
The bee flew further away from the bear. The bear thought he	75
would find honey by following the bee. The bear hurried after the bee,	88
tripping on roots and rocks. He stubbed his toe and stopped to grumble.	101
Then the bear started to run after the bee again. The bumblebee was	114
flying away quickly. The clumsy bear ran even faster because he	125
wanted to find some honey. Finally the bear found the bumblebee's	136
home.	137
The bumblebee's home was a beehive in the trunk of a tree. The	150
beehive buzzed with bumblebees. If he could scare off the bumblebees,	161
the bear knew he would find honey in that tree.	171
The bear walked over to the tree and tried to shake it. The tree was	186
too big to shake. The bear started to climb the tree. As he climbed	200
higher, the bees started to swarm around him, protecting their tree.	211
They tried to sting the bear on the top of his paws, but his fur was too	228
thick. They tried to sting him on the bottom of his feet, but his skin was	244
too thick. Then one little bee found a spot right on his nose and stung	259
him. The sting hurt the little bear.	266
The bear climbed back down from the tree and rubbed his nose.	278
He kicked the tree and said, "Dumb tree." A pinecone fell from the tree	292
and hit the bear on the top of his head. The bear stamped his foot and	308
frowned. "I didn't really want honey anyway," he said. He decided he	320
wasn't that hungry after all, so he went back to his den and fell asleep.	335

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Randy's parents were remodeling their living room. They'd already replaced the windows and painted the walls. Now all they needed was a new rug to put on the floor.	9 22 29
Randy's mom was very excited about getting a new rug. Since Randy's dad was out of town for a few weeks, she decided to take Randy along to pick out the rug.	40 54 61
Randy gasped when they walked through the doors of the carpet shop. Rolls of carpet lined the walls, and rugs covered the floor. Some rugs cost a lot of money, and some rugs were cheap. Randy knew his mom wanted something in between.	72 85 99 104
Randy followed his mom around the shop as she looked. His eyes wandered around the shop and landed on a colorful rug laid out on the floor. The rug had a huge chair on each corner and a couch in the middle. A row of tassels lined each end of the rug. As Randy watched, the rug seemed to quiver under the weight of the four chairs and the couch. Surely, he must be seeing things. Randy took a step closer, but a salesman stopped him.	116 130 145 159 173 186 190
"Hello, lad," he said. "You don't want to buy that rug. That rug is very old and very ugly."	204 209
Just then, the chair on the far left corner of the rug wobbled off the rug and fell to the floor. The salesman smiled, took Randy by the arm, and led him away. He showed Randy and his mom a very boring brown rug that both he and his mom hated.	224 238 252 260
"What about this rug?" Randy's mom asked as she pointed to the colorful rug with the tassels. "How much is it?"	272 281
"It's not for sale," the salesman said.	288
"Then why is it in the shop?" asked Randy's mother. "Could we push aside the couch and chairs for a better look? I think I like it."	300 315
The salesman looked nervous, but he pushed aside the couch and chairs. The rug rippled once, and then laid flat.	326 335
"Yes," Randy's mother said. "I adore this rug. We'll take it."	346

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Robin refused to change his dirty socks. He thought his socks were lucky. He believed the longer he wore his socks, the luckier they became. Unfortunately, the longer Robin wore his socks, the smellier they became. When Robin wore his socks for two weeks straight, which he sometimes did if he had two tests in a row, a stench would trail two steps behind him wherever he went.	12 24 34 46 62 68
"Robin, this behavior has to stop," his mother told him. "You cannot wear the same pair of socks day in and day out. Your feet are going to rot. Now go and put that smelly pair of socks in the washing machine."	80 96 110
Robin did what his mom told him. He went downstairs to the washing machine and pulled off his socks. Already, he could feel himself becoming unlucky, but he didn't want his mom to be mad at him.	122 133 147
Hesitantly, he opened the lid of the washing machine, tossed in his soiled socks, and started the washing cycle. Instead of closing the lid and returning upstairs, he pulled himself up on the dryer to watch. Robin watched his socks go round and round, and as he watched, he became very dizzy. His head started to spin, he lost his balance, and he fell inside the washing machine.	159 171 183 196 210 215
When the machine finally stopped, Robin was able to stand up and climb out. He noticed he wasn't in his house anymore. He was in a place filled with piles of dirty laundry. Robin pinched his nose and read the sign stuck in the ground in front of him. The sign said "Dirty Laundry Land," and at the base of the sign was his pair of dirty socks.	227 241 254 269 283
"Well, what are you waiting for?" a voice asked. Robin turned and saw a dirty, little man speaking to him.	295 303
"Excuse me?" replied Robin.	307
"Put on the socks," he told Robin. "Put on the socks and you can stay here and have good luck forever."	321 328
Robin shook his head. He didn't want to stay. He climbed back into the washing machine, went home, and decided he would always wear clean socks.	341 352 354

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The beaver didn't have many friends. It wasn't because he was always working and didn't have time to play. The sparrow and the rabbit worked all day too, and yet they had friends. It wasn't because of his smelly fur. The skunk and the muskrat smelled badly as well, and yet the other animals always spoke to them at parties.	11 24 38 51 60
No, the reason the beaver didn't have many friends was because of his buck teeth. No other creature in the woods had buck teeth like the beaver, and nobody liked them.	72 86 91
The other animals snickered at the beaver as he stood in the corner at parties. No one asked him to dance or offered him punch. Instead, they spoke in cruel whispers.	104 117 122
"Would you look at his teeth," the hawk would hiss to the owl and the rabbit. "Why, I think they're uglier than the last time I saw him. If he wanted friends, you would think he'd at least get himself a pair of braces."	136 152 165 166
The rabbit would twitch her nose in disdain. "I know," she would agree trying to hide her own teeth under her whiskers.	178 188
The beaver always went home sad from parties. He had very good ears, so he always heard what the other animals said about him. "Braces indeed!" he thought. "I would never be able to cut down trees if I had braces put on my teeth."	200 212 226 233
He decided to ignore what the other animals said about him and get down to work. He built himself a nice dam before the cold winds of winter blew. He made a pile of sweet aspen bark for himself and stored it at the bottom of his pond.	246 260 274 281
That winter the beaver was warm and well fed. He didn't worry at all about what the other animals said about him. He knew that all the critters who had spoken cruelly about his teeth were fools. A beaver's buck teeth were a helpful tool in the forest, no matter what they looked like. The beaver grinned each night as he brushed his teeth.	294 308 320 334 345
"I am very lucky," he always thought to himself.	354

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The entire family was going camping. They had never been camping before. Everyone was excited to see what it would be like.	10 22
It took a whole week to prepare for the journey. Mother packed clothes and food. Father prepared the van, packed the tent, and read the map. The children packed activities and games for the long trip.	34 46 58
The family drove through forests and around lakes for hours. The scenery was beautiful, but the van was cramped. The family grew tired of the long drive.	69 81 85
Finally they arrived at the campsite. Everyone piled out of the van to explore the vacation spot. Brother wanted to be the first to catch a fish. Sister wanted to dive into the clear water and swim with the fish. Father and Mother wanted to rest and relax. However, the trip didn't turn out as planned.	97 111 125 137 141
First, Brother dropped the sleeping bags in a mud puddle. Then Sister fell off a picnic table and hurt her head. Mother forgot to pack spoons and forks, so the family ate potato salad with their fingers. Father forgot gas for the boat, so they couldn't go fishing.	152 166 178 189
"Camping is all about having fun and working together," said Father. Mother just smiled as she tried to cook hotdogs over a weak campfire.	200 213
When night came, the family slept in the muddy sleeping bags. Sister talked in her sleep, and Brother tossed in his sleep. Father snored in his sleep. Mother didn't sleep at all.	224 236 245
The family spent the morning riding bikes through puddles and exploring the woods. There was not a bird or animal around. Mother said birds and animals run from loud families.	255 267 275
After lunch, a storm blew through the campsite, tossing the tent into the lake. Hail dented the family van. Everything dripped with cold rain.	287 299
On the drive home, Mother slept and Father yawned as he drove.	311
"Why do we have to leave so soon?" the children whined. "We were having so much fun!"	323 328

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The ice cold wind pushed against Nikki's face, making it difficult for her to keep her eyes open. Her mittened hands tightly grasped the handles of the sled. With each bump, her body bounced up and she had to reposition herself so she wouldn't fall off the sled as it sped down the snow-covered hill. Even though Nikki could barely see where she was going, her mouth opened wide in a huge smile, letting snowflakes land on her tongue.	12 24 37 52 64 76 80
Finally, the sled slowed down at the bottom of the hill. Nikki remained aboard the sled until it coasted to a complete stop. She rolled to the right, and her body landed on the soft, snowy ground. She rolled completely on her back and looked up at the cold, clear evening sky.	92 105 119 132
"Wow! That was awesome!" she exclaimed. "I have to do it again!"	144
"Look out!" yelled a voice. "Get out of the way!"	154
Without thinking, Nikki rolled her body toward her sled. She felt some snow fall on her neck between her cap and jacket as she heard another sled pass by.	165 179 183
"That was close!" Nikki thought to herself. "Mandy! Watch where you're going! You almost ran into me!" she cried.	193 202
"I'm sorry," explained Nikki's friend Mandy, "but I couldn't see where I was going! I didn't open my eyes until it was almost too late! That sure was fun, though. Are you ready to climb back up the hill and do it again?"	213 228 244 245
"Of course!" replied Nikki. "Let's go!"	251
They climbed the huge hill together in the clear, freezing night. The weather was calm, and the stars were shining ever so brightly. Snow was clinging tightly to the branches of the evergreen trees that lined the sled run. The snow crunched under their feet. The beauty of the night nearly overwhelmed the girls until they got to the top of the hill. Then they jumped on their sleds and flew off to the bottom again.	263 275 288 301 315 327

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The twins went to the museum. Their father took them to see the dinosaurs. "Garth, Jessie, this is the museum," Father said. "Do you know what you find in a museum?"	13 24 31
Garth walked through the door and saw a very large animal. "I see an elephant!"	44 46
Jessie walked a little further and saw many pretty rocks and jewels. "I can see lots of very pretty stones."	58 66
"Very good, Garth and Jessie. You can find many different things in a museum. Today I am going to show you dinosaurs," Father said.	78 90
"What's a dinosaur?" the twins asked.	96
"Dinosaurs are animals that lived many, many years ago. Let's see if we can find any."	107 112
The twins quickly walked to the dinosaur hall. They saw many different dinosaurs there. "I only see bones," Garth said.	123 132
"The dinosaurs are gone now. Their bones are the only parts left, and they have turned to stone," Father said.	144 152
The three of them walked through the museum looking at the bones of dinosaurs. Some dinosaurs were as little as a mouse. Some were as large as a car. Some were even bigger than a house! The twins spent the whole day learning about dinosaurs. The day was very fun.	164 177 191 202
The twins noticed that some dinosaurs looked like the animals on the earth today. They saw a large dinosaur that looked like a duck. Another looked like a hairy elephant. Some looked like alligators and crocodiles. One looked like a bird, and one reminded them of a shark.	213 226 237 250
"I'm glad I didn't live when the dinosaurs did. I'm sure I would have been lunch for a dinosaur," said Jessie.	264 271
"Not me. I would have run away from them and hid in a cave," said Garth.	286 287
Jessie roared like a dinosaur and ran after Garth. They looked through the rest of the dinosaur exhibit.	298 305
The twins will always remember their trip to see the dinosaurs.	316

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A young polar bear was out for an evening stroll with his mother and twin brother. He saw a small seal pup out on the ice and went to investigate.	14 29 30
As the young bear raced out to the ice to check out the seal, the seal heard the bear's paws hitting the snow-covered ice and dove into the water through a hole in the ice. The seal did not want to be around when the bear arrived. The bear saw the seal slip into the water. Too bad. He just wanted to make a friend.	45 58 74 88 96
The young bear turned around and started to walk back to his family. He walked and walked, but it was getting dark now. The cub could not trace his tracks on the ice and began walking in the wrong direction. Getting lost in the middle of the winter was no fun at all for the young polar bear. He was scared when he found himself all alone on the frigid ice.	108 121 135 151 164 167
He sat on the snow and started to cry. His cries sounded like growls. He missed his family so much. Although the young bear did not know it, his cries could be heard for many miles. It was not long before he could see two white animals walking happily toward him on the ice.	180 193 208 221
It was his mom and his brother! He was saved! He started running toward his family as fast as his soft paws would allow. He was almost back to his family when he realized he should probably stop running. But he was too late. He slid right by them. The polar bear family chuckled silently as the young bear glided past them. Young polar bears can be so silly.	234 248 260 274 285 290

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Some people believe all swans are gentle and beautiful. Some people will go so far as to say that if the eagle is the king of all birds, then the swan is the angel.	10 28 34
Swans are stately with their white feathers. Swans are graceful with their long necks. But I met a swan that wasn't beautiful or graceful, and it certainly was not gentle. I met a swan that was fiercer than a dragon and more mischievous than a troll. I met a swan that had the temper of a bull and the manners of a grizzly bear.	45 59 74 89 98
One summer this swan haunted my backyard. It stayed in a cave down by the river. This swan was not graceful and white like other swans. Her tattered feathers were gray in color. Her long neck was bent slightly because of her horrible disposition.	110 123 135 142
It is because of this swan that I had no friends that summer. The swan guarded my house, you see. She patrolled the yard like a soldier and chased away anyone who might have wanted to visit me.	156 169 180
"What made the swan so angry and mean?" I asked my grandfather, who was trapped in the house with me during the summer.	191 203
He told me that the swan hadn't always been dirty and dangerous. It was once polite and tame. Now it despised humans because of some children who stole her silver egg.	215 228 234
"Do you think," I questioned him, "that if I found the egg, the swan would let us out of the house?"	248 255
My grandfather wasn't too sure, but he told me I should still try my hardest to find the egg. I searched everywhere and finally found the egg. It was buried behind a cement stone in the furthest and darkest corner of the basement. The egg was slightly tarnished, but it wasn't broken. "How did it get there?" we wondered as we stepped outside.	269 281 294 306 318
When the swan saw her egg, silver tears fell from her eyes. I set the egg on the lawn and she quickly took it away.	332 343
We never saw the swan again, but others have claimed to have seen her happily floating down the river with her gosling.	355 365

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There was a great oak tree that stood on the corner of Colorado Street. All the local kids knew and loved the oak tree. They met there on evenings after school and on humid summer nights. The great oak was the headquarters for their clubs and the safe place for their games of tag and hide-and-seek. As long as the tree stood on the corner of Colorado Street, the children would have a place to meet and dream.	13 27 39 52 68 80
One day a man in a shiny black car drove down Colorado Street. He saw the children laughing on the corner, but his gaze was locked on the towering oak. The man's name was Mr. Gregory Greed, and he'd just had a wonderful idea. He immediately picked up his cell phone and made a call.	93 107 119 132 135
"We'll have to widen Colorado Street," he said to the person on the other end of the line. "Of course we'll have to cut down all the trees. That big one on the corner of Colorado Street will bring in a pile of cash." With a tiny smile, Mr. Greed turned off his phone and drove to his office across town.	148 163 178 192 196
The children on Colorado Street were shocked when they heard that Mr. Greed wanted to cut down all the trees and widen the road in front of their houses. They called an emergency meeting under the great oak right away.	206 221 232 236
"We can't let them cut down the trees," said a girl who was in sixth grade. "There must be something we can do."	251 259
"I know," said a boy. "We'll have everyone on Colorado Street write a letter to Mr. Greed. We'll tell him we don't want our trees cut down."	271 286
Another child nodded. "We'll make signs," he said. "We'll protest. We can't let them cut down our trees, especially this one," he said as he placed his hand on the oak.	296 311 317
The children wrote their letters and made their signs. They worked day and night to save the trees. Eventually, Mr. Greed saw that he couldn't beat the kids, so he gave up and decided not to cut down the trees.	328 341 356 357

There was a great oak tree that stood on the corner of Colorado Street. All the local kids knew and loved the oak tree. They met there on evenings after school and on humid summer nights. The great oak was the headquarters for their clubs and the safe place for their games of tag and hide-and-seek. As long as the tree stood on the corner of Colorado Street, the children would have a place to meet and dream.

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Another child nodded. "We'll make signs," he said. "We'll protest. We can't let them cut down our trees, especially this one," he said as he placed his hand on the oak.

The children wrote their letters and made their signs. They worked day and night to save the trees. Eventually, Mr. Greed saw that he couldn't beat the kids, so he gave up and decided not to cut down the trees.

Tim carefully walked along the sidewalk and whispered to himself,	10
"Step on a crack and break my mother's back. Step on a crack and	24
break my mother's back."	28
He was concentrating so hard, placing each foot inside the sidewalk	39
squares that he didn't notice Mrs. Anderson until he bumped into her.	51
"Ooof!" he exclaimed.	54
"Pardon me," replied Mrs. Anderson. "Please watch where you are	64
going, Timmy."	66
"I'm just taking a walk," said Tim. "Why are you sitting there? The	79
sidewalk isn't for sitting."	83
"I'm pulling weeds," explained Mrs. Anderson. "They grow between	92
the sidewalk cracks, and I like to keep it looking nice. I heard you	106
talking to yourself, Timmy. Do you know that I used to say the same	120
thing when I was your age?"	126
"Did you ever step on a crack?" asked Tim. "I don't want to break	140
my mom's back. She already has a sprained ankle from playing ball	152
with me. I don't want her to break her back too!"	163
Mrs. Anderson looked at Tim with a smile. "Yes, Timmy. We all	175
step on the sidewalk cracks. You do too, when you're not thinking about	188
that rhyme. It's fun to say the rhyme, but you have to remember it's only	203
a superstition. There's no way your mother's back and your steps on	215
the cracks are related. In fact, the only person I know who has ever	229
broken his back is Mr. Peterson from across the street. Remember	240
when he fell off his roof last winter?"	248
Tim thought hard, and then he remembered the accident. Mr.	258
Peterson was famous in the city for his display of Christmas	269
decorations. Every year he attracted crowds of people to Timmy's street	280
with his lovely show. Last year, as he placed the last reindeer on his	294
roof, he fell. He slid off the icy roof and landed on the only part of his	311
yard without snow—the shoveled sidewalk!	317
"I wonder if Mr. Peterson fell on a crack," thought Tim.	328

Tim carefully walked along the sidewalk and whispered to himself, "Step on a crack and break my mother's back. Step on a crack and break my mother's back."

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"Pardon me," replied Mrs. Anderson. "Please watch where you are going, Timmy."

"I'm just taking a walk," said Tim. "Why are you sitting there? The sidewalk isn't for sitting."

"I'm pulling weeds," explained Mrs. Anderson. "They grow between the sidewalk cracks, and I like to keep it looking nice. I heard you talking to yourself, Timmy. Do you know that I used to say the same thing when I was your age?"

"Did you ever step on a crack?" asked Tim. "I don't want to break my mom's back. She already has a sprained ankle from playing ball with me. I don't want her to break her back too!"

Mrs. Anderson looked at Tim with a smile. "Yes, Timmy. We all step on the sidewalk cracks. You do too, when you're not thinking about that rhyme. It's fun to say the rhyme, but you have to remember it's only a superstition. There's no way your mother's back and your steps on the cracks are related. In fact, the only person I know who has ever broken his back is Mr. Peterson from across the street. Remember when he fell off his roof last winter?"

Tim thought hard, and then he remembered the accident. Mr. Peterson was famous in the city for his display of Christmas decorations. Every year he attracted crowds of people to Timmy's street with his lovely show. Last year, as he placed the last reindeer on his roof, he fell. He slid off the icy roof and landed on the only part of his yard without snow—the shoveled sidewalk!

"I wonder if Mr. Peterson fell on a crack," thought Tim.