

The Holidays

Manny was ready for the holidays. He had been thinking about it for weeks and weeks. While he was sure to get lots of presents, he was more excited about all the gifts that he had bought for his family.	13 28 40
He had worked hard delivering newspapers and had saved his money. For his dad, Manny had bought a new fishing pole to replace his old, broken one. Manny was sure this one would finally help his dad catch a big fish. No more coming home from fishing trips without a fish.	51 65 80 91
For his mother, Manny bought a wool sweater. It was her favorite color, a light blue. Manny had overheard his mother talking about how cold it had been, so he was sure she would like her new, warm sweater.	103 115 130
Manny's sister liked to listen to music, so for her he bought a recording of her favorite group, the Cards. He wasn't sure why she liked this group, but knew she would be happy listening to the record.	143 156 168
Finally, Manny had bought a gift for his younger brother Freddy. He had decided on a basketball. Freddy was just learning how to play, and Manny thought he could use some extra practice. Maybe if he helped Freddy out, Manny thought, his brother could make the team next year at school.	179 193 205 218 219

The New House

When the day came to begin building their new house everyone was	12
very excited. They did not have big machines to dig a hole for the	26
basement, so all the men and boys used a shovel to dig the hole. It took	42
weeks just to dig the hole and haul away all of the dirt. My mother began	58
to think that the house would never get built.	67
Once the men finished digging the hole, the house began to go up	80
like magic. The new pieces of wood were quickly sawed into just the right	94
length to make walls. The pounding of nails never stopped. Soon, a house	107
stood where there once was just a hilltop.	115
My mother grew up in that house. She helped her mother to clean	128
and cook. Cooking was more fun for her than cleaning. That was a good	142
thing because her father and brothers liked to eat a lot after working hard in	157
the fields. It was a good thing for me, too, because she learned to bake	172
cookies, cakes, and pies. When she was little she did all of the cooking. Now	187
I get to eat what she bakes!	194

My Room

My room is my own. In my room I can be the boss. That may not seem	17
very important to you, but it is to me. I am a kid, and kids are not bosses in	36
very many places, so if I can be the boss in my room it is important to me.	54
When you walk into my room you can tell it's a kid's room right	68
away. On the walls I have some very large posters of some of my favorite	83
people. Since I like to sing, some of the posters are pictures of singers. I	98
like those pictures very much, but my dad doesn't. He thinks that most of	112
the popular singers aren't really very good singers. You know how parents	124
can be sometimes. They seem to think that only the singers who were	137
popular when they were kids sing very well. I'm glad I'm the boss in my room.	153
I wouldn't want pictures of my parents' favorite singers on my walls.	165
Now I just wish I could keep my mom and dad out of my room.	180
When they come in they always find something for me to clean up!	193

The Trip

The day came that we were to leave on our trip. Dad put the four suitcases in the trunk. Then, the trouble began when all three of us kids tried to get into the front seat.	15 29 36
"I should sit in front," said Sarah, "because I'm the oldest!"	47
"But I'm the littlest and I can't see out the window when I'm in back!" cried Anthony.	61 64
"I have an idea that will solve this problem," said Dad. "Since there are three of you and the trip will take three hours, you can take turns and each spend an hour in the front seat."	77 93 101
We agreed with the idea and Sarah flipped a coin to see who got the front seat first. Anthony won the coin toss and chose to sit in the front seat first.	116 132 133
As we drove along, we passed many farms and small towns. It was a sunny day and people were outside working and playing. When it was my turn to sit in the front seat, we stopped to have a picnic lunch. Dad had made some good ham and cheese sandwiches. Like always, Anthony complained about his sandwich and wouldn't eat the crust. Dad threw it into the bushes of the picnic area and a group of birds came by and flew away with it. Soon we were back on the road driving toward Boston. From the front seat, I could see much better. As we got closer to the city we saw more houses, buildings, and traffic increased.	147 160 176 186 198 214 227 243 251

Music Lessons

I guess you have to take music lessons to learn how to play the horn.	15
But I wish there were an easier way. My music teacher is very nice. She	30
always makes practice fun, but practicing takes time.	38
Time is very important to me. I never seem to have enough. The	51
time after school until supper is very short. That's the time when I'm	64
supposed to practice on my horn. My music teacher says I should practice	77
about ten minutes every day. When it's a nice day and my friends are	91
waiting to play, ten minutes takes forever. Then if I try to sneak out early	106
and my mom catches me I have to practice another ten minutes. Sometimes	119
it seems as if the adults in my world don't want me to play with my friends.	136
I wonder if there is something bad about having a good time? I think	150
I'll ask my parents about that. I know what they will tell me though.	164
They'll tell me that, if all I ever do is play, I won't amount to anything when	181
I grow up. Can that really be true? I don't know, but right now I have to	198
go practice.	200

The Hike

Carlos and Jordan were going hiking in the mountains. Both wanted	11
to hike in the Snowy Mountains. Carlos planned the route for the hike. He	25
spent time reading a hiking guide about trails in this area. The hiking guide	39
described a fifty-mile trail that sounded interesting, but was it too long?	52
After reading about it, neither boy thought so. It would be a good trip.	66
They were ready to go.	71
The trail followed the southern ridge. The steep route was called the	83
Ridge Trail. They saw many good views, so Jordan was glad he had his	97
camera. There was plenty of wildlife. Deer and bear were common, as	109
were eagles. The camping spots were good. There were also many ponds.	121
This made for a nice swim on hot days. Carlos wondered if there were any	136
fish in the small lakes.	141
The trail, however, was steep in sections. At one point it rose 1000	154
feet, traversing the mountain with many switchbacks. Fortunately, they had	164
been working on getting in shape. They had hiked a lot. The high altitude	178
did not bother them because of their training. At night it was cold, but they	193
had good equipment. Their gear would protect them. Their sleeping bags	204
were rated for twenty degrees below zero. The cold temperatures would	215
not stop them. They had a great time.	223

Alex

Alex brought out the photograph album full of family pictures.	10
"Wow," said Tony, "You really have a lot of pictures."	20
"These are pictures of my great grandparents when they were young,"	31
explained Alex. "This is a picture of my great grandfather. When he was eight	45
years old he came to America from Scotland. He worked for a clockmaker and	59
learned how to make all kinds of clocks. When he got older he started his	74
own business making clocks. That clock over on the desk was made by	87
him."	88
"How old is that clock?" asked Tony.	95
"It's over 100 years old. It's made of brass and oak, but best of all, it	111
still gives the correct time."	116
"What about your grandmother?" Tony asked. "Was she from	125
Scotland?"	126
"No," replied Alex. "She was born in America, but both her parents	138
were from Germany. They were farmers and came here to start a new	151
farm. First they moved to the state of New York, but land was too	165
expensive there. Then they moved to Indiana and found land they could	177
afford. They built a farmhouse on 120 acres of land. Their first crop was	191
corn and they had several cows and a hog."	200
Tony was impressed that Alex knew so much about his family	211
history. He decided to learn his own family history.	220

Friend

My family was living in Taiwan for the year. We met many Chinese	13
students there. We made lots of friends. One of my favorite friends was	26
Teddy. That was his English name. I met him on a boat trip. We were	41
both passengers coming back from an island. I was sitting in a seat on the	56
deck. I saw Teddy look at me. He wasn't sure if he wanted to talk to me.	73
Then he walked over. He asked if he could sit down. He was wearing a	88
student uniform like all the students do in Taiwan.	97
"Are you American?" he asked in English.	104
I told him that I was an American. He asked me where I went to	119
school. I told him about the American school in Taiwan. Then he asked	132
me if I took Chinese in school. I was uncomfortable in answering that	145
question because I was doing so poorly in my Chinese class. I finally	158
blurted out that I was taking Chinese but was getting a "D" in it. He	173
laughed and said he had failed English. Together we laughed about our	185
common problem. We continued our conversation speaking a little Chinese	195
and a little English. Our teachers would have loved it.	205

Toll Booth

Dad threw the crust of the sandwich on the ground and a group of	14
birds came by and flew away with it. Soon, we were back on the road	29
driving toward Boston. From the front seat, I could see much better. As	42
we approached the city, we could see more houses and fewer farms. Traffic	55
was so heavy with the cars and trucks that dad had to slow down. Up ahead	71
on the road I could see flashing lights.	79
"What's that flashing light and little house?" Anthony asked.	88
"That's a toll booth," said Dad. "We have to pay 75 cents to use this	103
part of the road." As we drove up to the toll booth, a red light flashed and	120
we came to a halt. Dad gave the man in the booth a dollar and got a quarter	138
back. Soon the red light changed to green and we drove away.	150
We were driving the busy streets of Boston now. Dad asked us not to	164
talk so he could concentrate on reading the street signs. There were lots of	178
tall buildings and people walking the sidewalks. Yellow taxicabs were	188
everywhere and buses were taking people back and forth.	197
Sarah and Anthony and I liked looking out the windows at all the	210
activity. It was hard to keep quiet when there was so much to talk about.	225

Shooting Stars

Emma loved to look at the sky at night and watch the stars. One	14
night when she was outside with her brother she saw a shooting star. The	28
star swept across the dark sky and left a long trail of light. Emma thought it	44
was a wonderful sight. "I wish I could see a shooting star every night," she	59
thought to herself.	62
When Emma found out that her class was going to learn about space,	75
she became excited. She hoped they would talk about shooting stars. Mrs.	87
Carson was the science teacher and she told the class that they would learn	101
about the moon, the planets, and the stars. Emma raised her hand and asked	115
if they would learn about shooting stars. Mrs. Carson said that they would	128
learn about a very special shooting star that would soon appear. Everyone	140
thought that was great!	144
The first week the children heard about the planets that make up the	157
solar system. The next week they learned about how stars are just like our	171
sun. Finally, it was time to talk about shooting stars. Emma told the class	185
about the shooting star she had seen. Mrs. Carson then told the class about	199
one of the greatest shooting stars and said it was called Haley's Comet.	212

TV

We all know what the two letters "TV" means. They mean television.	12
TV has become a big part of our lives. Most kids grow up watching TV.	27
Some people think that many of the words kids learn come from TV.	40
Those same people are afraid that we also learn to do the things we see on TV.	56
	57
Why would anyone be afraid of what children might learn on TV?	69
Can you guess? Well, one reason why people worry is that we see so much fighting and killing on TV. We also know that after you see someone fighting you might also fight. If the hero of a show you are watching fights to get his own way then you might fight to get your own way.	84
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Another reason why people worry about kids watching so much TV is that people who watch a lot of TV read less. You really can't read very much when the TV is on all the time! Reading is much better for you than watching TV. Reading helps you use your imagination. It can teach you about anything and you can always read about something twice if you don't understand it. Reading is just as fun as watching TV. Have you tried it lately?	138
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The Hotel

We drove into the bustling city of Boston. Dad asked us not to talk	14
so he could read the street signs. There were many tall buildings and lots of	29
people walking on the sidewalks. Yellow taxicabs could be seen	39
everywhere. Buses were taking people back and forth.	47
"Here's our hotel," said Dad happily. He stopped the car in front of	60
the large hotel and a man took our suitcases inside the hotel. Another man	74
drove our car away to park it in the ramp. Inside the hotel lobby were lots	90
of people who looked busy.	95
"Do you have a swimming pool?" Anthony asked the lady at the	107
desk.	108
"Yes, we do," she answered, "It's on the fourth floor."	118
"Oh, boy, let's go swimming right now!" said Anthony.	127
"No, I want to walk around the city!" said Sarah.	137
"There will be time for both," Dad said. "Let's go to our rooms and	151
unpack our bags."	154
Our room was on the 10th floor of the hotel. There was one big	168
room with two beds and a smaller room with one bed. Sarah got to have	183
the small room. Dad had one bed and Anthony and I had to share the other	199
one. When we looked out the window we could see the city skyline with all	214
the tall buildings.	217
"I can't wait to walk around Boston," I said. "This looks like a fun	231
city to visit."	234

Driver's License

Lakeesha was confident about getting her driver's license. Her	9
sixteenth birthday was only a month away. She had taken a driver's	21
education course at school. She did very well in it. Lakeesha knew all	34
about the different types of road signs. She knew what speed was	46
appropriate for different roads. She knew what to do if it was raining or	60
snowing.	61
Lakeesha had also been practicing. She received her driver's permit	71
when she turned 15. That let her practice driving with an adult. She liked	85
going out with her Dad. He was a good teacher. Her dad showed her how	100
to start the car and to stop it. He talked to her about how to slow up at the	119
intersections. Her father explained to her how to speed up to pass a car. He	134
showed her how to signal at the right time.	143
The hardest thing to learn was parallel parking. At first she wasn't	155
very good at it. But her dad told her everyone had trouble learning how to	170
parallel park. Soon she got the idea. Now she is good at parallel parking.	184
At first Lakeesha thought she would buy her own car. But when she	197
learned how much a car would cost, she changed her mind. Her dad said	211
she could use the family car now and then. He also said if she was going to	228
drive, the family's car insurance would increase a lot. Lakeesha said she	240
would help pay for part of the insurance. She had a part-time job at the	256
local grocery store and had extra money. Her dad said that would be a	270
good idea. She couldn't wait to get her license.	279

Treehouse

Billy and David were playing baseball in their yard. Billy was looking	12
for the ball when he heard his dad hammering. Where was he?, he thought	26
to himself. Billy stopped looking for the ball and started looking for his	39
dad.	40
Dad looked like he was fixing the apple tree. Billy had never seen his	54
dad in the apple tree before. Billy climbed this tree a lot and would often	69
climb way up near the top. Sometimes he would even climb way out on a	84
branch. People never saw him sitting in the tree. He was hidden by the	98
leaves and the branches. He could see them walk by on the sidewalk, but	112
they would never see him. It was a great place to sit.	124
Billy's dad asked him to bring him some wood. Billy brought some	136
plywood pieces and two-by-fours from the garage to his father. Then he sat	151
down to watch his dad sawing and hammering nails. His dad was building	164
a box in the tree. The box looked like a small house. Billy knew then that	180
they would soon have a tree house!	187
Billy helped his dad during the project. He picked up nails that his	200
dad dropped and he ran to the house to get tools. By the end of the day,	217
Billy had a tree house.	222

Being Tired

I get very tired at night. Sometimes I am so tired that I don't know	15
what I should be doing. I walk around the house until I see something to do.	31
Then I stop and do that for a while. Soon my mom will ask me why I am	49
doing that. I have to tell her that I don't know. Then I walk some more	65
until I find something else that looks interesting. Then I begin to fool	78
around with that. After I have walked around like this doing different	90
things I feel lost. About then my mom or dad will begin to get mad at me	107
and ask me why I don't go to bed. That usually sounds like a great idea	123
because I am so tired. I will then head for my bedroom, but on the way I	140
will find something else that looks interesting. I begin to fool around again	153
until my mom or dad sees me. Then I'm in trouble.	164
I'll bet you wonder if I ever get to bed. Sometimes even I wonder how	179
I get to bed. Sometimes I fall asleep in a chair or on the floor and then my	197
dad will carry me to my bed. I'm glad he helps me go to bed.	212

The Vacation

Jenny was going on vacation. This excited her. This year would be	12
different. Usually her family camped, but not this time. They were going	24
to the city. This would be new. There were many things to see. She even	39
made a list. First was the amusement park. It had many new rides. She	53
wanted to ride the Rocket. The Haunted House was also on the list.	66
Friends said it was really scary. The roller coaster was also a must.	79
The zoo was next on the list. It had many new animals. She wanted	93
to see kangaroos. The Siberian tiger was also on the list. She was also	107
excited about the whales. And there were beautiful parrots. The animals	118
were from all over the world. She would get lots of pictures. Her camera	132
would be busy. She would need lots of film.	141
Last was the new skyscraper. She would go to the top. There was a	155
great view from the top. She hoped for a nice day. So much to do! Jenny	171
could hardly wait.	174

A Long Day

Anthony got tired of walking and Dad had to give him a piggyback	13
ride. Finally, we got to the bay where the Boston Tea Party had been.	27
There were lots of ships in the bay. We were all getting hungry, so Dad	42
took us into a small shop. They had all kinds of fish lying on ice. We each	59
ate some shrimp.	62
"I want to go swimming," Anthony repeated.	69
"Me, too," said Sarah. "This has been fun, but let's go back to the	83
hotel."	84
"Okay," Dad agreed, "I think we've had enough walking for one	95
day."	96
This time, we rode the bus. When we got off, we still had to walk	111
two blocks to the hotel. While Anthony and Sarah went swimming, I fell	124
asleep. What a long day it had been! When I woke up, I was starving, and	140
so was everyone else. We decided that hamburgers, a shake and french	152
fries sounded good to all of us. We were able to find a place just two	168
blocks from our hotel that had what we wanted. While we ate, we talked	182
about what we had seen that day. Tomorrow, Dad said we were going to	196
see a baseball game at Fenway Park.	203

The Old Tree

The huge tree stump in the park made a great hiding place for us.	14
We found it one day in the park when we were playing hide and seek. It	30
was about eight feet tall and the center was hollow. It was hard to climb	45
and crawl up the side but I made it. Joey followed me up and we both	61
slipped down inside the trunk. The two of us sat there quietly while our	75
friends tried to find us. We sat there a long time and began to feel	90
cramped. Tired of feeling cramped, we decided to climb out.	100
Joey started climbing first, but couldn't get any higher than a couple	112
of feet. There weren't any branches to hold onto on the inside of the tree.	127
There wasn't anything for him to grab, only the steep, slippery inside of the	141
tree trunk. I tried next to climb up but also got nowhere. We were really	156
trapped inside that tree trunk. We started yelling and soon we saw Peter,	169
above us, looking over the edge. He could see we needed help and left to	184
get his dad. We would have to wait a little longer to get out of our	200
predicament.	201
We waited and waited, but no one came. We shouted for help, but	214
still no one came. Then, above us, we saw Peter's dad looking down at us.	229
Help was here at last. He reached down to each of us and lifted us out of	246
the tree. Then Peter's dad made us promise we would never go into the	260
tree trunk again. We thanked him and made the promise.	270

The Big Spider

Freddy saw a big spider. It was the biggest one he had ever seen! It	15
was hanging from the bush. The baby didn't like the spider and started to	29
cry. Freddy picked up the baby and carried her away. He set her down	43
again, and then grabbed a large stick. He crept toward the spider with the	57
stick in his hand. Freddy wanted to kill it before it could bite the baby. He	73
was very afraid because he thought the spider might jump and he would	86
miss.	87
Freddy hit the spider on the back as hard as he could with the stick.	102
Without stopping to look, he hit it again and again. Carol was surprised	115
when she saw Freddy swinging the stick. She ran to where the baby was	129
lying. The baby was smiling. Freddy stopped hitting the spider. He turned	141
to Carol and smiled. The spider was gone.	149
Carol smiled, too. She and Freddy had come here to the woods to	162
enjoy a quiet picnic. On a hot day, the woods were the coolest place to be.	178
The spider had spoiled their quiet moment, but now she was happy. Carol	191
was glad Freddy had been so brave and had protected the baby. They both	205
felt very lucky.	208

How To Groom A Dog

To groom a dog, you should begin by getting them wet with a hose,	14
or in a tub of water. Then you get out all of your supplies. These items	30
would be scissors, comb, brush, dog shampoo, hose, nail clipper, blow	41
dryer, towel, rubbing alcohol, and cotton balls. You are now ready to start	54
grooming.	55
It would be a good idea to go outside and do this on the pavement or	71
in the yard. After you get the dog wet, comb or brush them thoroughly. Now	86
start trimming the dog. When you trim around their nails, you want to trim	100
the long hair covering their nails, but not too short. When you trim their	114
ears, you want to cut about an inch below the ear. Finish the rest of the	130
trimming and don't forget their stomach.	136
Then you drench your dog again so you can scrub. When you do this	150
you scrub everywhere. Make sure you wash under the ears and stomach.	162
After this, rinse thoroughly and run your fingers through their hair for any	175
snarls. Repeat for conditioner. Then take a blow dryer and towel and dry	188
for about ten minutes. If you want, you can take cotton balls and pour rubbing	203
alcohol on them. Take the dog's ear and flip it over to the pink part. Rub	219
the cotton balls gently across the ear. Keep doing this until there is no dirt.	234
When you finish with cleaning the ears, take the nail clipper and clip their	248
nails until you get to the quick or pink part of the nail. If you cut too far,	266
the nails will bleed. You have now finished grooming a dog.	277