



HOLIDAYS

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Illustrations by Marjorie Howden

The Victorian Readers SECOND BOOK

Education Department, Victoria

FIRST EDITION
1953

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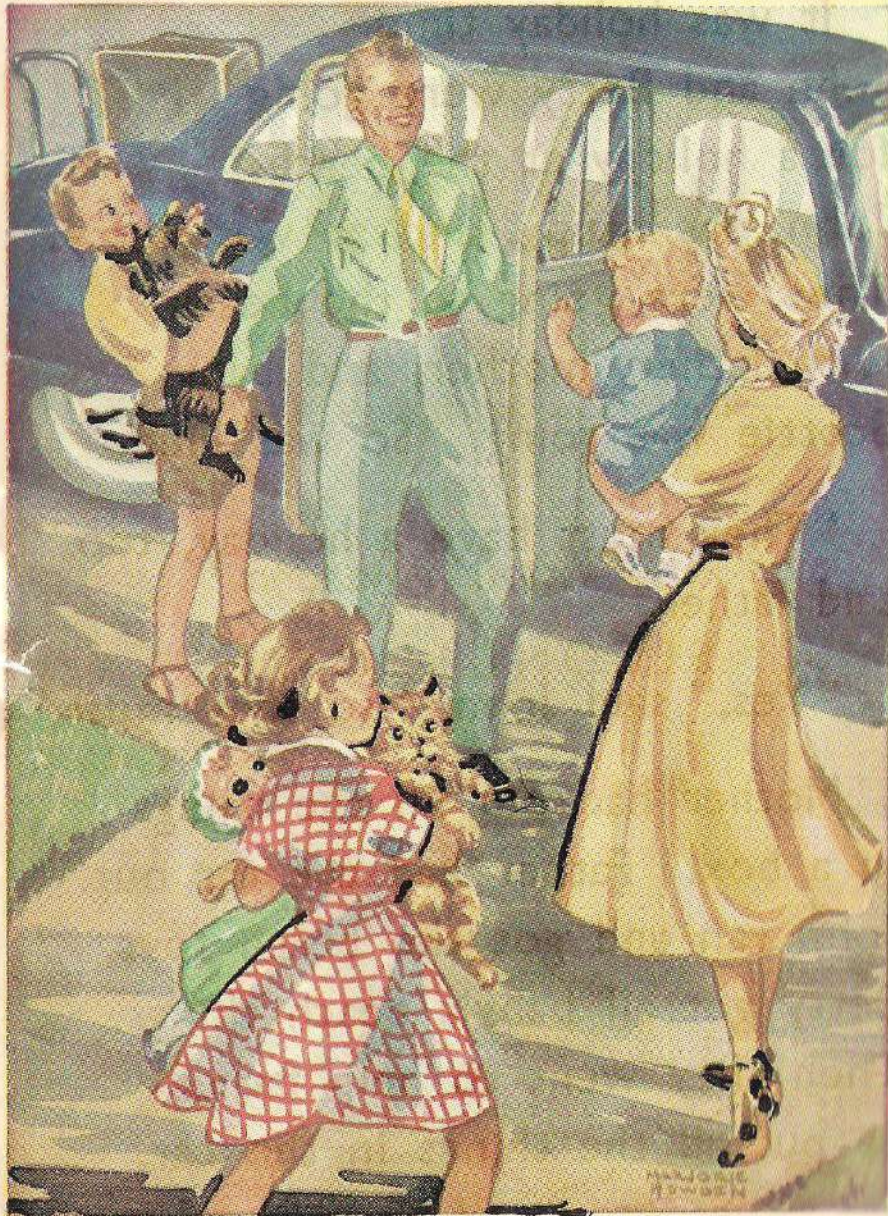
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It was holiday time.
John and Betty were going
for a holiday at the beach.
John was happy, and so was Betty.
They were going to the beach
with father, mother, and baby.
Scottie was going. So was Fluff.

"They must have a holiday, too,"
said father.

"Yes," said John, "so they must."

Mother had put all the things
in a box. Father had the car out.
John ran and got the beach toys.
Betty got all baby's beach things.
Then they went to help father
to put all the things in the car.



“Run and find Scottie, John,” said father. “I must put the pram on the car. You find Fluff, Betty, and do not let her get away!”

As soon as they were ready to go, mother came out with baby. She got into the car. Betty came back with Fluff and got into the back with John. She had her doll, too.

“Away we go!” said John.

“Woof, woof, woof!” said Scottie.

“Mia-ow!” said Fluff.



On and on they went.

“Shall we be there soon, father?”
said Betty.

“Yes,” said father. “It is
not far now. You will be able
to see the beach from the top
of this big hill.”

“I can see it now!” said John.

“I can see it, too,” said Betty.
“Are we going to stay there?”

“Yes,” said father. “Our house
is not far away from the beach.
It is a little red holiday house.
We shall stay there. You will be
able to stay on the beach all day.”

“That will be fun,” said Betty.

“Look at the rocks over there!”
said John. “I shall be able to fish
from them. I shall like that.”

“I shall feed the sea-gulls,”
said Betty. “They will come to me
if I feed them.”

“Look at all the sea-gulls
over there,” said John. “They like
to fly over the water.”

“I wish I could fly,” said Betty.
“I wish I could fly over the water.”

“Here is the house,” said father,
as the car came to a stop. “Run
and have a look at it, children.
I must get the things out
of the car. Look after Scottie.”



But Scottie was too fast for them. Before they were able to get him he was off after rabbits.

“Come back, Scottie, come back!” called John, going down the hill after him as fast as he could. But Scottie was not to be seen.

The children looked and looked, but they could not find him. Back to the house they ran.

“Father,” they called, “we cannot find Scottie. He has run away.”

“He will come back,” said father. “Come and feed the sea-gulls.”

Off they went. Scottie did come back. He was home before they were.

The next day was hot and sunny.

"I wish we could take our lunch to the beach to-day," said John.

"We can take lunch," said mother. "I shall go and dress baby now, while you find your beach things. Then you may find Fluff and Scottie and take their milk to them, while I cut lunch. Remember to get your hats."

John and Betty were soon ready. They had their buckets and spades, their big rubber ball, John's ship, and their rubber horse.

As soon as the lunch was cut, father called, "We are ready to go to the beach now. Come on!"

When they came to the beach, the two children ran off to play.

"I am going to make a pond," said John. "I am going to dig and dig. Then I shall get the water to put in it."

While John made his pond, Betty made a castle. She put two shells on top of it. She made a garden with shells, too.

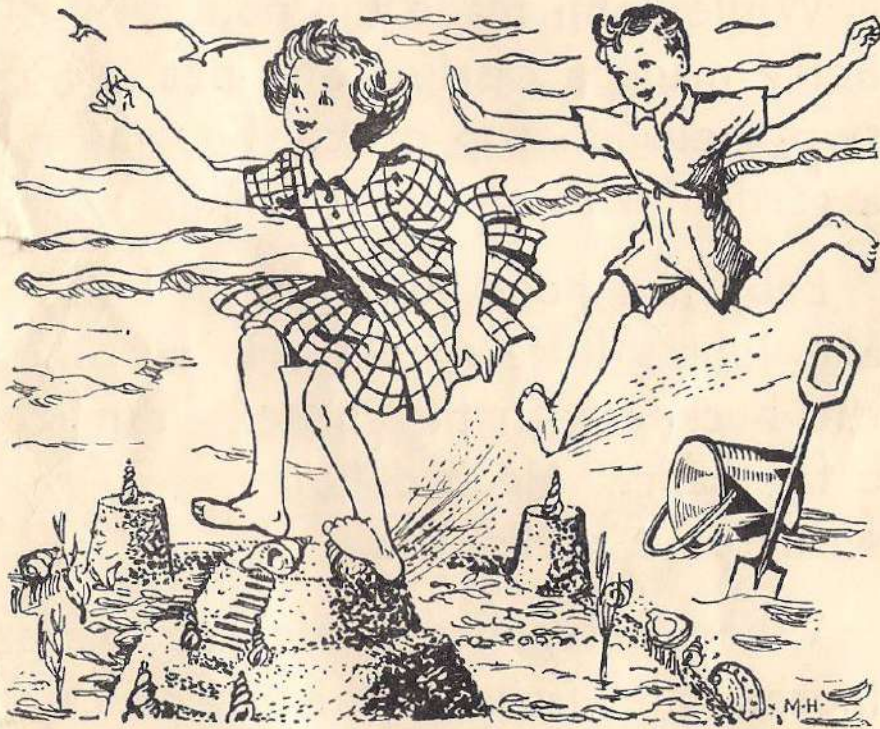
Baby had good fun with a bucket and John's little spade. He hit the bucket with his spade. It made a big bang. He had fun with some shells, too.

When Betty had made her castle, mother and father came to see it.

Then Betty called to John,
"Come and jump on my castle, John."

"That will be fun," said John.
"Now for a big jump! Ready! Go!"

Down went the castle. Down went
the children, too.



After lunch, Betty said, "I wish
I could go for a swim. I am hot."

"You cannot go now," said mother.
"It is far too soon after lunch.
Go and play on the beach with John
until I call you. We shall all go
for a swim then."

"If you get me your beach ball,"
said father, "I shall blow it up
for you."

Betty got the ball and gave it
to father. He had to blow and blow.

"Thank you, father," said Betty,
as he gave the ball back to her.
"Now John and I can play ball."

They had good fun with it.

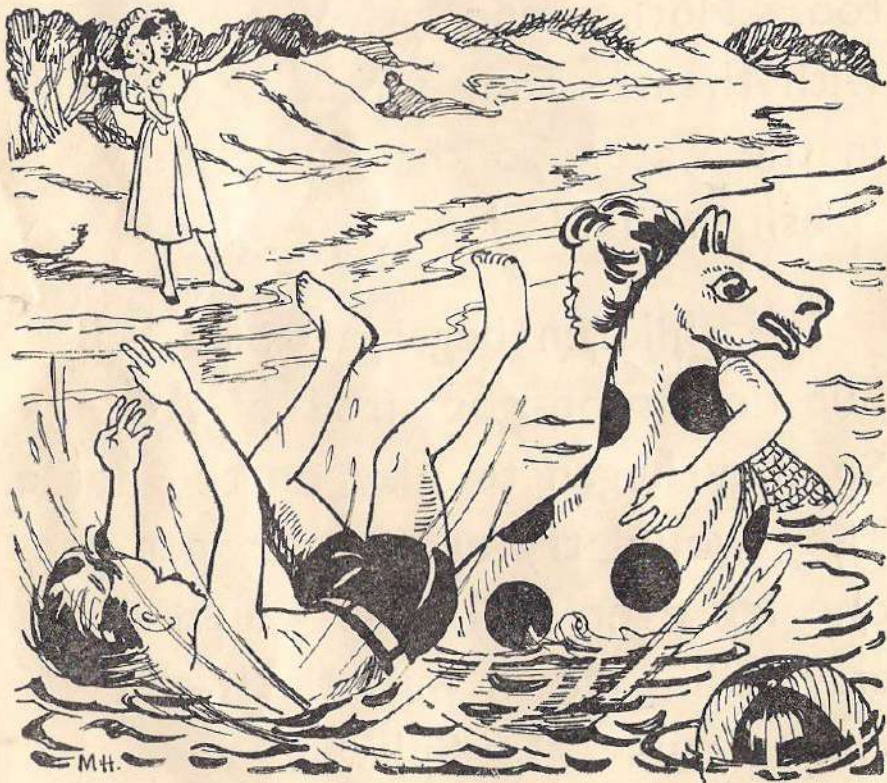


“You may go for a swim now,” called mother at last.

John ran to get the rubber horse. He took it into the water with him. Betty took the ball into the water, too. Mother and father went in with them. They sat baby down in the water, so that he could splash with his legs.

The children began to play ball, but they soon got tired of that. So they began to play on the horse. They would try and try to get one leg over it, but it would not stay still. Down into the water they would fall. Splash!

At last mother said, "It is time to come out now, children. We must go home before baby gets too tired. If we go soon, there will be time for you to have a slide in the park on the way back."



When they got home, the children were too tired to play. They sat still and began to draw.

"I shall draw, too," said father, and he began to draw a big pig. "Here is the pig's nose, here are its two ears, here is its back, here are its legs, and here is one little eye. John, you cut out a tail while Betty gets a pin."

Soon the tail was ready.

"Let us shut our eyes, and try to pin the tail on the pig's back," said father. "We must not pin it on the nose. We must not pin it over the ears. We must not pin it on the legs."

"You try now, Betty," said John.

So Betty shut her eyes. She put the pin in a funny place. She put it on the pig's nose.

"Look where I have put the tail," said Betty. "What a funny place!"

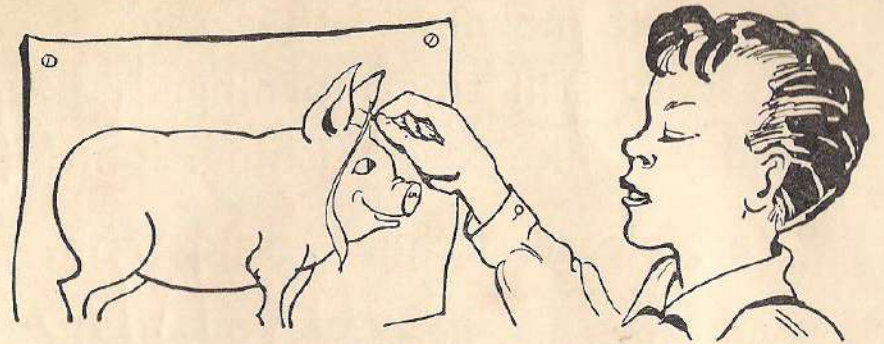
John said, "I have never seen a pig with a tail on its nose."

John shut his eyes and had a turn.

"Look where the tail is, John," laughed Betty. "It is on one ear."

"What a funny place for a tail," laughed John. "What a funny pig! I have never seen one like that."

Father could not find the pig at all, when he had his turn.



"Please, may we try again?" asked John. "This is funny."

"Yes, we can have one more turn before you go to bed," said father.

They were able to have two turns.

"Bedtime now!" called mother.

"Please, father, may we try again another time?" asked the children.

"Yes, we shall have more turns again another day," said father.

"Goodnight, children."

The next morning father said,
“It is very still this morning.
Would you like to go fishing, John?”

“Yes, please, father!” said John.

“We must get ready very quickly,”
said father. “Remember your hat.
It is very hot again this morning.”

They got ready as quickly
as they could. They had hooks,
fishing lines, and sand worms.
Mother gave them two small bags
of nuts. John put his fishing line,
worms, and hooks in a small bucket.

“You take your bucket, John,”
said father. “Then say good-bye.”

Off they went.

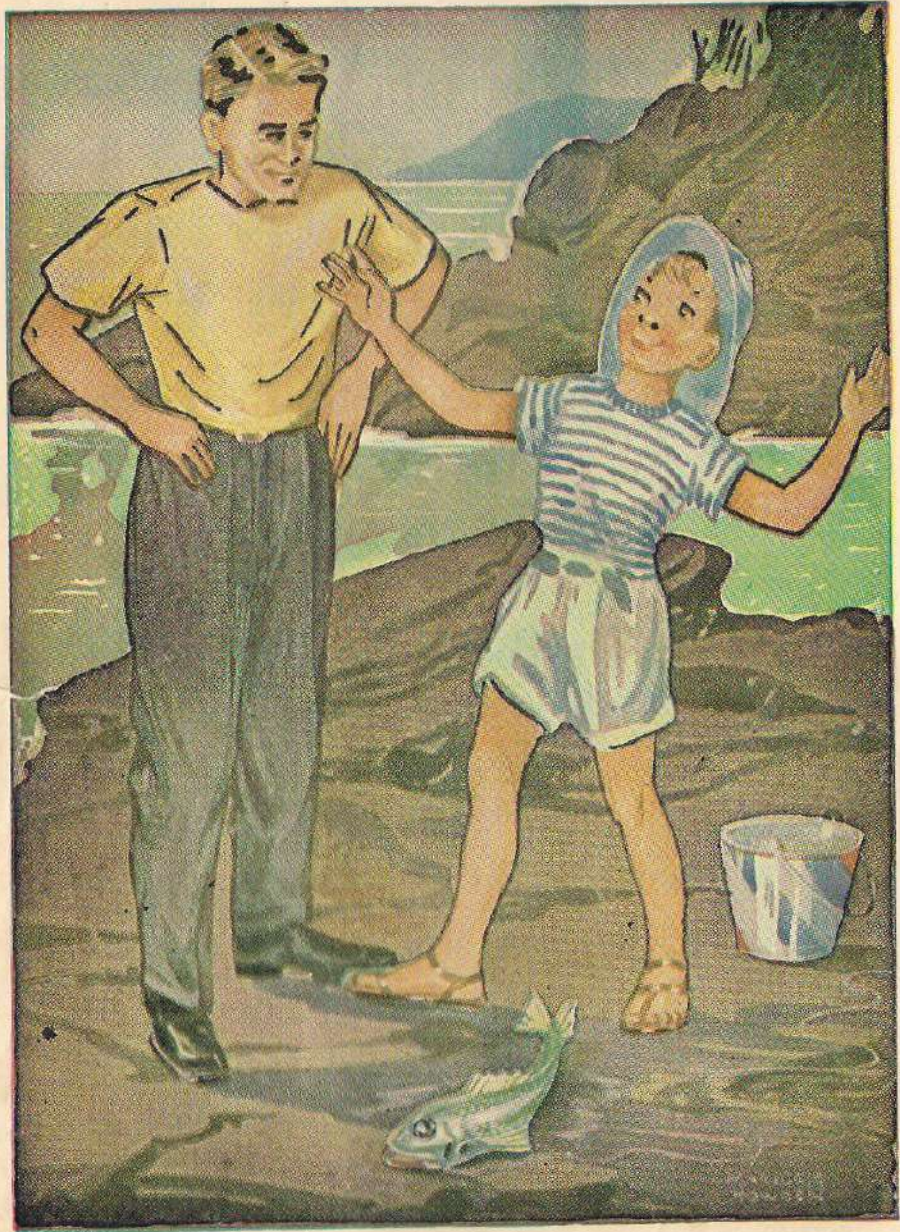
At last they reached the beach.
They walked along in the water
until they came to the rocks. Then
they walked along the rocks quickly
until they reached the last one.

“This is the place for fish,”
said father. “The sea is deep here.
Fish like to swim in deep water.”

They took out their lines quickly
and put sand worms on the hooks.
Then father threw his line far out
into the deep sea. Splash!

John took his line. He threw it,
but it did not go far enough. So
he had to try again. He threw it
far enough next time.





It was not long before there was a pull on John's line.

"I have caught a fish," he cried, and began to pull the line in fast.

When the fish reached the top, he threw it on the rock.

"What a big one!" cried John. "It is too long for my bucket."

Just then father caught a fish. Before long he had four more. Then John caught another two.

"Let us go back now," said father. "You have four big fish, and I have four small ones. Four big ones are enough for us, and four small ones will be enough for Fluff."

It was the very last day of the holiday. Mother, father, John, and Betty packed the things before lunch. Then father packed them all into the back of the car.

After lunch, mother and father took the children to the beach.

"Let us have a race, Betty," said John. "I can race you!"

Away they went along the sand, one after the other.

Scottie liked to play races, too, so he ran off after them. But he got too near their legs. Down on the sand they went, one on top of the other.



When the children got up again, they ran back to mother and father.

"Did you see us fall over?" said Betty. "Scottie made us fall. He got too near our legs."

"Yes," laughed mother and father. "You looked so funny."

"Woof, woof, woof!" said Scottie.

At last the time came to leave.

"Must we leave now, father?" asked John. "It is still day. Let us stay until it is night."

"Baby would be tired by night," said father. "Come along, John. We must go now, but we shall come again another day."



They got into the car, and off they went.



"It will be baby's birthday next Saturday," said mother. "We must have a party for him."

"He will like that!" said Betty. "John and I can make party hats if you will buy us some yellow, some green, and some blue paper."

"I shall buy the paper when I go to the shops to-day," said mother. "Then you will have time to make the hats before Saturday."

"Buy balloons and bon-bons, too, please," said John. "We must have balloons and bon-bons at a party!"

"Yes," said Betty. "Get yellow, and blue, and red, and green ones."

As soon as the children got up on Saturday, they ran to see baby.

“Happy birthday!” they cried. “Look what we have got for you!”

John gave him a soft yellow duck. Betty gave him a soft blue ball.

Baby liked his birthday toys. He picked them up, one at a time, and threw them over the side of his cot. As fast as the children picked them up, he threw them over the side of the cot again.



After lunch, John and Betty helped mother to put the things on the table. They had nuts, buns, cakes, and green and yellow jelly. Baby was big enough now to have some jelly. They put bon-bons and paper hats on the table, too.

Mother put baby's birthday cake in the middle of the table. It had a green candle in the middle of it.

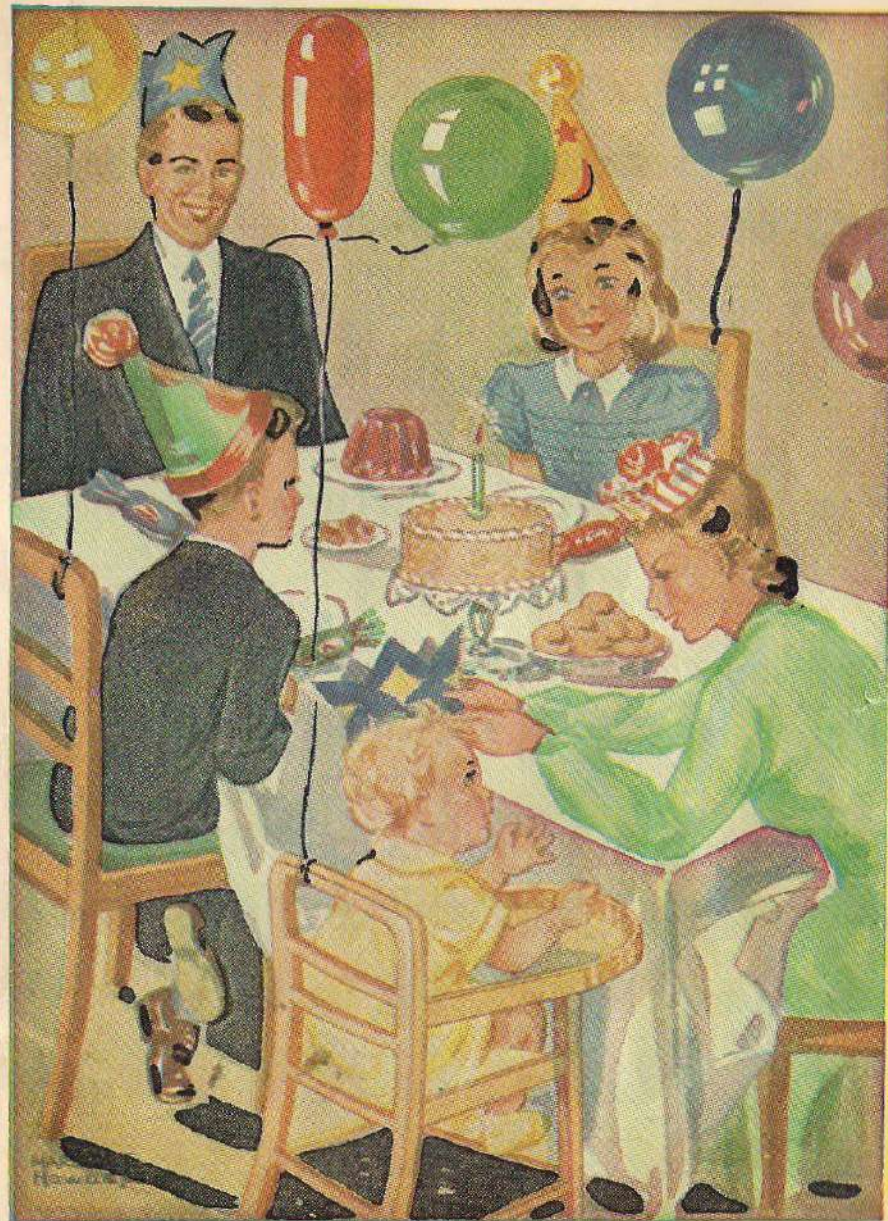
The two children helped father to blow up the balloons. He tied a long string to each one, and then John and Betty tied a balloon to each chair. They tied a red one to baby's chair.

When it was time for the party, they all sat down at the table and put on their paper party hats. Mother put a blue hat on baby, but he pulled it off and threw it on the floor. He tore it. He nearly tore mother's hat, too.

She sat him in his high chair. When he saw the balloon, he put out his arms for it. But John pulled the string off the chair, and down went the balloon on to the floor.

When baby saw it go, he put out his arms to get it, and nearly fell out of his high chair.

John caught him just in time.



When John had tied baby's balloon to his chair again, they had tea. John and Betty had so many cakes and buns, and so much jelly, that mother said they would be sick.

When they had all had enough tea, John said, "We have not lit the candle on the birthday cake."

So father lit it, and they sang to baby. They sang "Happy Birthday to You." Betty helped baby to blow the candle out. But she laughed so much that she had to blow many times before it went out.

"Good boy!" said father.

"Good boy!" said John and Betty.

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The next day was Sunday. It was bright and sunny. John and Betty had to go to Sunday school in the morning. Father took them in the car. When Sunday school was over, he came to get them.

In the afternoon, father said, "I think we shall go for a drive this afternoon. It is so bright and sunny. Where would you like to go, mother?"

"I think the children would like to go for a drive into the hills," said mother.

"Yes, that would be fun!" said John and Betty.

"May I ask Joy to come with us?"
said Betty.

"May I ask Ian?" said John.

"Yes, but be quick," said father.

John and Betty were very quick.
When father and mother were ready
to go, Joy and Ian were ready, too.
Soon they were up in the hills.

"Look at all the autumn leaves
on the trees," said Joy. "They are
yellow, orange, red, and brown.
I have never seen so many."

"I like orange autumn leaves,"
said John. "They look so bright."

"I like red ones best," said Ian.
"I do not like brown ones at all."

"Let us stop here," said mother.

Father pulled up near the trees.
Out jumped John. Joy jumped
before he could get out of her way.
Down they went on the ground.

"Look at all the autumn leaves
on the ground," cried Betty.
She began to shuffle through them.

The others soon began to shuffle
after her. Through the leaves
they went, again and again—
shuffle, shuffle, shuffle.



Then Ian began throwing leaves over Betty. So she threw some over him. Before very long they were all throwing leaves over each other. Baby fell over each time he threw some. Soon leaves were flying everywhere.

The children all had good fun, and mother laughed when she saw autumn leaves flying here, there, and everywhere.



“Come over here,” said father, “but come quietly.”

The four children walked over to him as quietly as they could.

“Look under there,” he whispered. The children looked. Hopping about under some trees, just near them, was a little bird with bright eyes. Its tail was wagging all the time it was hopping about.

“It is a little willy-wagtail,” whispered Ian. “Look at its tail. It never stops wagging.”

He began to walk quietly over to the bird. But soon it saw him, and went flying through the trees.