

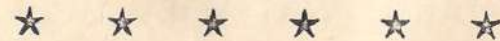


“Come and see if we can find another willy-wagtail,” said Joy.

As they walked through the trees, the children saw many little birds hopping about. But they did not see another willy-wagtail.

They saw a thrush fly down to the ground, to pick up a worm. Just as the thrush was about to pick the worm up, another thrush flew down. It pulled the worm away, and flew high up into a tree.

At last it was time to go home. The children jumped into the back of the car. Mother and baby got in with father. And home they went.



Ian's uncle and auntie were going on a long holiday. They were going in a big ship. So, on the night on which the ship was to sail, Ian and his father and mother went to see it off. They got there before it was time for the ship to sail. It looked so bright. It was all lit up.

Uncle and auntie were up on deck. So Ian and his father and mother went down with them to their cabin, which was on the next deck.

It was not a very big cabin, but it had two brown bunks in it. The top bunk was very high up.

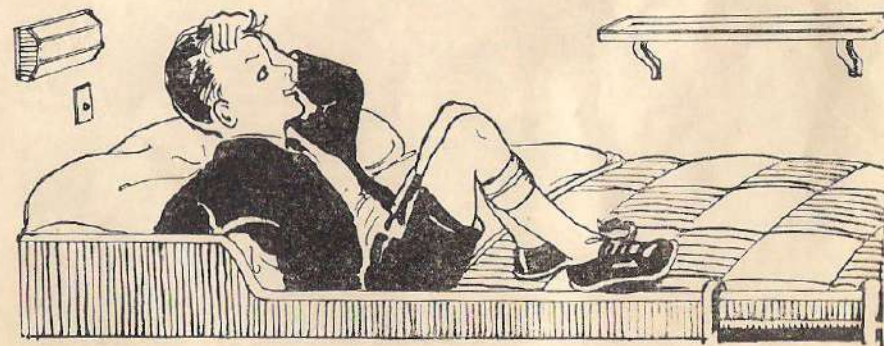
"Uncle, how will you climb up to that top bunk?" asked Ian.

"I shall climb up this ladder," said Ian's uncle. "You can climb up on it if you like."

Ian could not get to the ladder fast enough. Quickly he went up.

"Look how high up I am," he said. "I can see over your heads."

He jumped about on the bunk so much that he hit his head. Bang!



“Would you like to go up to the top deck, Ian?” asked uncle.

“Yes, please, uncle,” said Ian, and he came down from the bunk.

As soon as they reached the deck, Ian ran and looked over the side.

“Look at the crane lifting boxes on to the ship,” he cried.

It was a very big crane, and the boxes that it was lifting were very big boxes.



“How does it work?” asked Ian.

“It has a man to drive it,” said uncle. “He sits in that cabin on the crane. You will be able to see him when it turns this way.”

“Look, he is making it work again,” said Ian, as the crane began lifting one more box. “I can see the man now. He does look small.”

When the crane was over the hold, the man made it go down slowly.

“Now he is making the crane put the box in the hold,” said Ian.

Slowly the box went down. Bang!

“I wish I could drive a crane,” said Ian.

“Would you like to come and see the place where the children play?” asked uncle, when the big hook on the crane had come up again.

“Yes, please, uncle,” said Ian.

They walked along to the stairs. On the way they saw two life-boats.

“I wish I could see inside one of the life-boats,” said Ian.

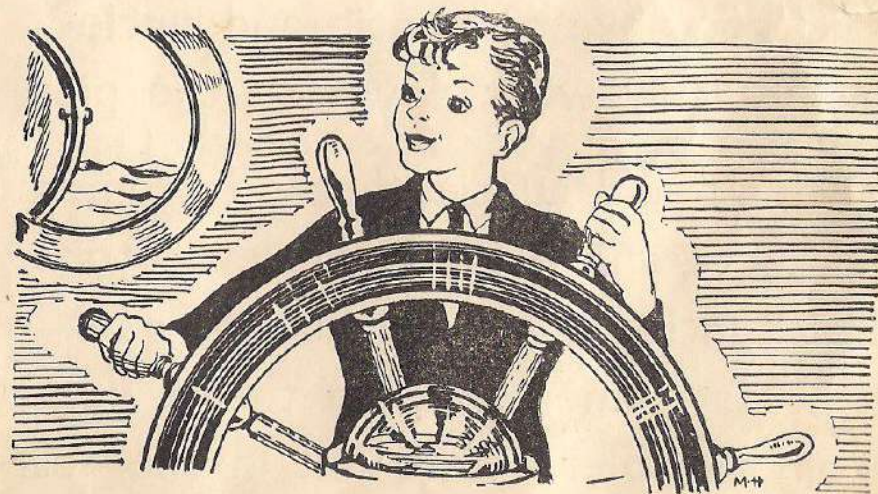
The cover on one life-boat was not tied down at one end. So uncle lifted Ian up. Ian lifted the cover and looked inside.

“It was dark in there,” he said, as uncle lifted him down.

They saw the stairs at the end of the deck, and down they went.

When they reached the room where the toys were, Ian ran off to play. While he was on a slide, he saw a wheel over near one wall. It was just like the wheel used by the captain to steer the ship. Ian ran over and began to turn it.

“I am the captain now,” he cried, as he looked up and down the room. “I shall steer my ship out to sea.”



Uncle could not get Ian to leave the wheel until a man called out, "All visitors must leave the ship now!"

"You must come now," said uncle, and back to the cabin they went.

Again the man called out, "All visitors must leave the ship!" So Ian and his father and mother said good-bye to auntie and uncle and quickly went down on the pier.

Uncle and auntie threw streamers to them, and they caught every one. But auntie and uncle did not get every streamer that Ian threw up from the pier. Two fell in the sea.

At last it was time for the ship to sail.

"Here are the tugs," said father. "They will help to turn the ship."

Slowly the tugs began to pull the ship away from the pier.

"Look at all the streamers," said Ian, as, one by one, they tore and fell into the deep water.

Slowly the ship began to turn.

"Good-bye, auntie," called Ian. "Good-bye, uncle."



Ian came running home from school one afternoon. Peter was with him.

“Mother,” he called, “may I go to the park with Peter and John? They are going to play football with four of the boys from school, and I would like to go, too.”

“Yes, you may go. But come home before it gets dark,” said mother.

Ian put on his football boots and black football jumper. Then he and Peter ran to call for John.

“Be quick, John,” they called.

John came running out. He had a brown and blue football jumper and black boots. The boys ran off.



Just as they reached the park, there was a bark, and Scottie came running up behind them.

“Go home, Scottie,” called John. “I wish I had shut you in.”

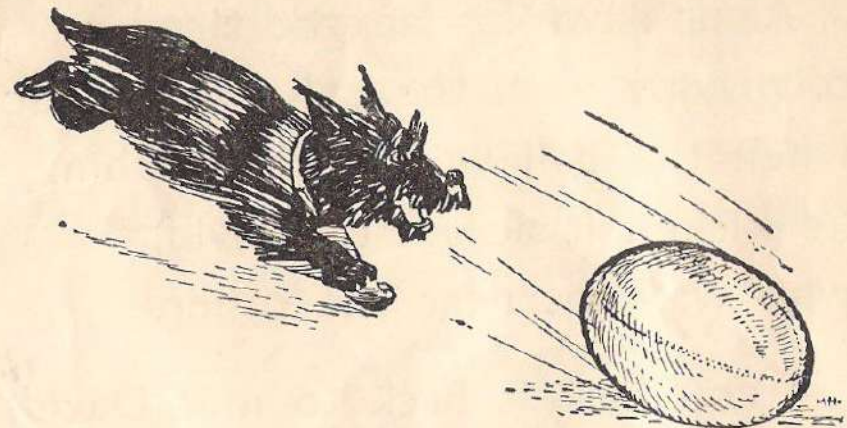
Scottie began to bark and to jump up and down about their legs.

“Let him stay with us,” said Ian.

As soon as Scottie saw the boys running after the football, he raced after them.

“Woof, woof, woof!” he barked, as he quickly ran up behind them.

“Scottie thinks he can play, too,” cried John. “He is running everywhere. He does look funny.”



Peter, John, and Ian had fun playing football. So did Scottie. He liked to race after the ball. Whenever it was kicked from one end of the ground to the other, he ran after it. Whenever a boy picked the ball up and ran off with it, Scottie raced after him.

Sometimes Scottie got kicked when he ran near the boys' legs. Sometimes the boys fell over him.

After a while, Ian got tired of playing with the other boys. So when the ball was kicked to him he kicked it across to David, who was not near the others.

“You kick it back to me, David,” he cried, as he ran across the park. “Then I shall kick it to you again. Keep it away from the others.”

So David kicked the football to Ian, and Ian kicked it to David.

But they were not able to keep it from the others for very long. Suddenly Scottie raced in front of Ian, who had the ball. Ian fell over him, and the ball rolled away.

Before Ian could get up again, Peter raced across and picked up the football. He kicked it across to the other boys, and they played until it began to get dark.



“We must go home now,” said John. “Come on, Scottie. Here, boy!”

Up ran Scottie, wagging his tail.





It was Saturday. Peter and Ann were very happy. They were going to the circus with auntie, uncle, and grandma. They had never been to a circus before.

Uncle did not have a car. So they were going by bus and tram.

"You may pay the bus fares, Ann," said uncle. "Here is the money."

"May I pay the tram fares, please, uncle?" asked Peter.

Uncle said, "Yes, you may pay the tram fares. I shall give you the money when we get in the tram."

So Ann paid the bus fares, and Peter paid the tram fares.

When they got out of the tram, they could see the big circus tent, with its white wall. There were cages on wheels, behind the tent. Peter ran over to one of the cages, but, just as he reached it, there was a roar. He jumped away.

"Grrr, grrr!" said the lion.

Peter raced back to the others.

"You were quick," said grandma.

"There was a lion in that cage," said Peter, "and it began to roar."

Auntie gave the children money for a ride on the merry-go-round. Round and round, and up and down they went, on the big white horses.



When the merry-go-round stopped again, Peter and Ann ran to ask if they could have another turn.

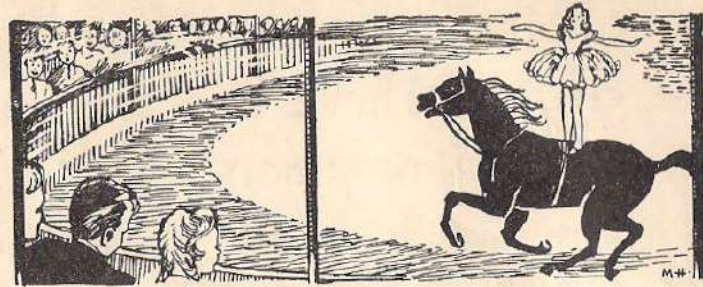
Uncle said, "Not now. The circus is nearly ready to start."

He went to the orange ticket-box in front of the tent, and got their tickets. Then they went in. There was a big ring in the middle of the tent. It had rows and rows of seats round it. Peter and Ann sat in the soft seats in front, with auntie and uncle and grandma. They had just sat down, when a bell began to ring. It was time for the circus to start.

"Here come the ponies," said Ann, as a black pony and six white ponies came into the ring. "They all have bells on their heads. And look, one pony has a dog on its back!"

Next in line came four big bears. Six elephants came after the bears. Two dogs came behind the elephants. Then came the clowns. They looked so funny, with their big red noses.

"What funny clowns!" cried Peter. "They fall over whenever they walk."



The clowns, wagging their heads, walked round after the animals.

Suddenly the drums began to play, and in galloped a pony, with a girl on its back. As it galloped round, the girl jumped off and ran round to the other side of the animal. She jumped on again from that side. Suddenly she stood up on its back.

"She will fall," whispered Ann.

But the girl did not fall. She stood as still as could be.

The children saw many animals at the circus. There was the lion, which could climb upon a ladder. Then there was the big brown bear, which could dance. Round and round it went, as soon as the band began to play. Every one of the ponies was able to dance, too.

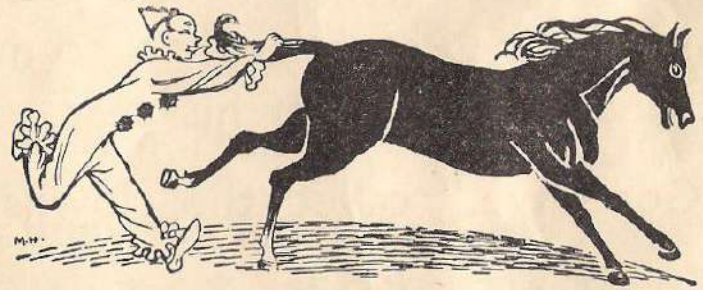
Ann liked the elephant, which put its four feet upon a small tub. But the animal that Peter liked was a white dog with one black eye.

When the band began to play, he got into a barrel and tried to run up the side of it. Each time his feet hit the barrel, it rolled over and over.

But it was the clowns that made everybody happy. They were funny.

Two of them tried to ride a pony. One clown helped the other clown to climb on the pony's back. But, every time he got on, he fell off again. The pony galloped away, with the clowns running after it.

At last one clown caught hold of its tail. He tried to get on its back that way. The pony did not kick, but he fell under it. Everybody laughed.





Before the circus came to an end, the clowns and the animals came out into the ring again. The clowns ran everywhere, making funny faces.

One came across to the front row. He put his funny green paper hat on Peter's head, but it fell down over his face. Everybody laughed and laughed. Peter laughed so much that he nearly fell off his seat.

"Good-bye," called the clowns.



Joy had a new story-book to read, while she was sick in bed. It was a book with a bright blue cover. It was called "My Blue Story-book." Grandma had sent the money for it, and mother had been out to buy it.

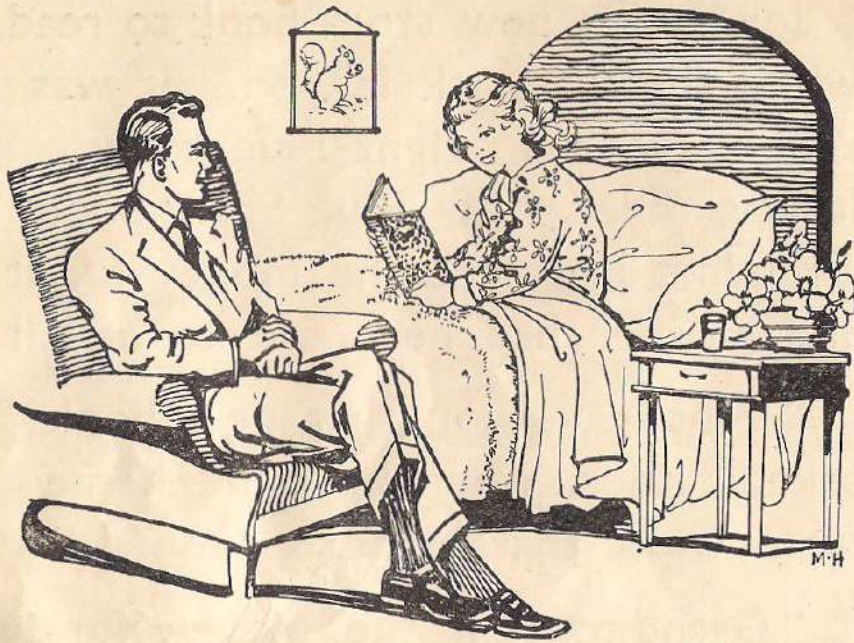
"Who gave you that new book?" asked father, when he came home from work that night.

"Grandma sent the money for it, and mother went along to the shop to get it for me," said Joy.

"Can you read it?" asked father.

"Yes," said Joy. "Sit by my bed, and I shall read you a story now."

Father sat in a chair by the bed, and Joy began to read this story.



Once upon a time, there lived, in a little house, a little old man, a little old woman, a little girl, a black and white cat, and a mouse. Only the little black and white cat had seen where the mouse lived. Only he had been to her house.

One day, the little old man said to the little old woman, "I must plant a turnip seed this morning."

"Where will you plant it?" asked the little old woman.

"I shall plant it in my garden," said the little old man, and out he went, with his little spade.

He made a hole in the ground, and put the seed in the hole. Then he went inside again.

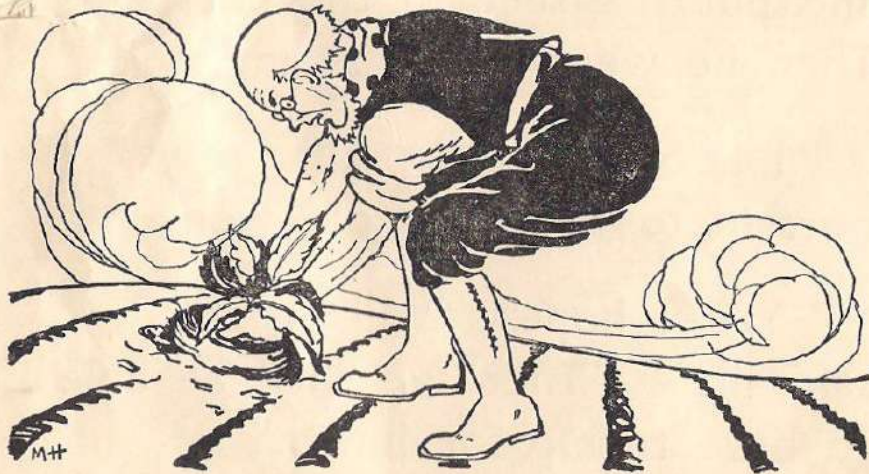
"I hope the seed will grow," he said to the little old woman.

"Yes, I hope it will grow," said she. "Then we shall be able to have turnip for lunch."

The seed did grow. It grew and grew and grew, until at last it grew into a very big turnip.

One day, the little old man said to the little old woman, "To-day I am going to pull up the turnip."

So he went out into his garden. He took hold of the turnip leaves and pulled. He pulled and pulled, but he could not pull the turnip up.



So he shouted to the old woman, "Please come and help me to pull up the turnip. It is too hard for me."

So the old woman left her work and came running out of the house. She put her arms round the old man. He took hold of the turnip leaves. Together they pulled and pulled and pulled, but they could not pull the turnip out of the ground.

They shouted to the little girl, who was playing inside by the fire, "Please come and help us to pull up the turnip. It is too hard for us."

So the little girl left the fire and came running out of the house.

She held on to the old woman, who had her arms round the old man. He took hold of the turnip leaves. Together they pulled and pulled and pulled, but they could not pull the turnip out of the ground.



They shouted to the little cat, who was asleep inside by the fire, "Please come and help us to pull up the turnip. It is too hard for us."

So the cat got up from the fire and came running out of the house.

He held on to the little girl with his soft front paws. She put her arms round the little old woman, who held on to the little old man. He took hold of the turnip leaves. Together they pulled and pulled and pulled, but they could not pull the turnip out of the ground.

So the black and white cat went to find the mouse, who was asleep at home. Only the cat had seen the place where the mouse lived.

"Come and help us to pull up the turnip. It is too hard for us."

So the mouse left her hole under the floor and came running.



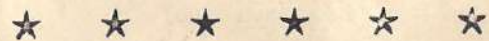
The mouse put her two front paws round the cat. The cat held on to the little girl. The little girl held on to the little old woman. The little old woman held on to the little old man. The little old man held on to the turnip leaves. Together they pulled and pulled and pulled, until, at last, up came the turnip. It was the very biggest turnip they had ever seen.

The little old man fell on top of the little old woman. The little old woman fell on top of the little girl. The little girl fell on top of the cat.



The cat fell on top of the mouse. On top of them all was the turnip.

And the turnip, which was the very biggest turnip they had ever seen, was a very good turnip. They all had it for lunch.



“Run and post this letter for me, please, Joy,” said mother one day.

Joy ran down to the pillar-box. Just as she was about to post the letter, she saw a man drive up in a red van. It was the postman.

“Please may I put my letter in your bag?” asked Joy, as he came to open the pillar-box.

“Yes,” said the postman, “and then you may hold the bag while I open the pillar-box.”



The postman opened the door of the pillar-box. Joy held the bag very still, and every letter fell into it. The postman tied a string at the top. Then he shut the door.

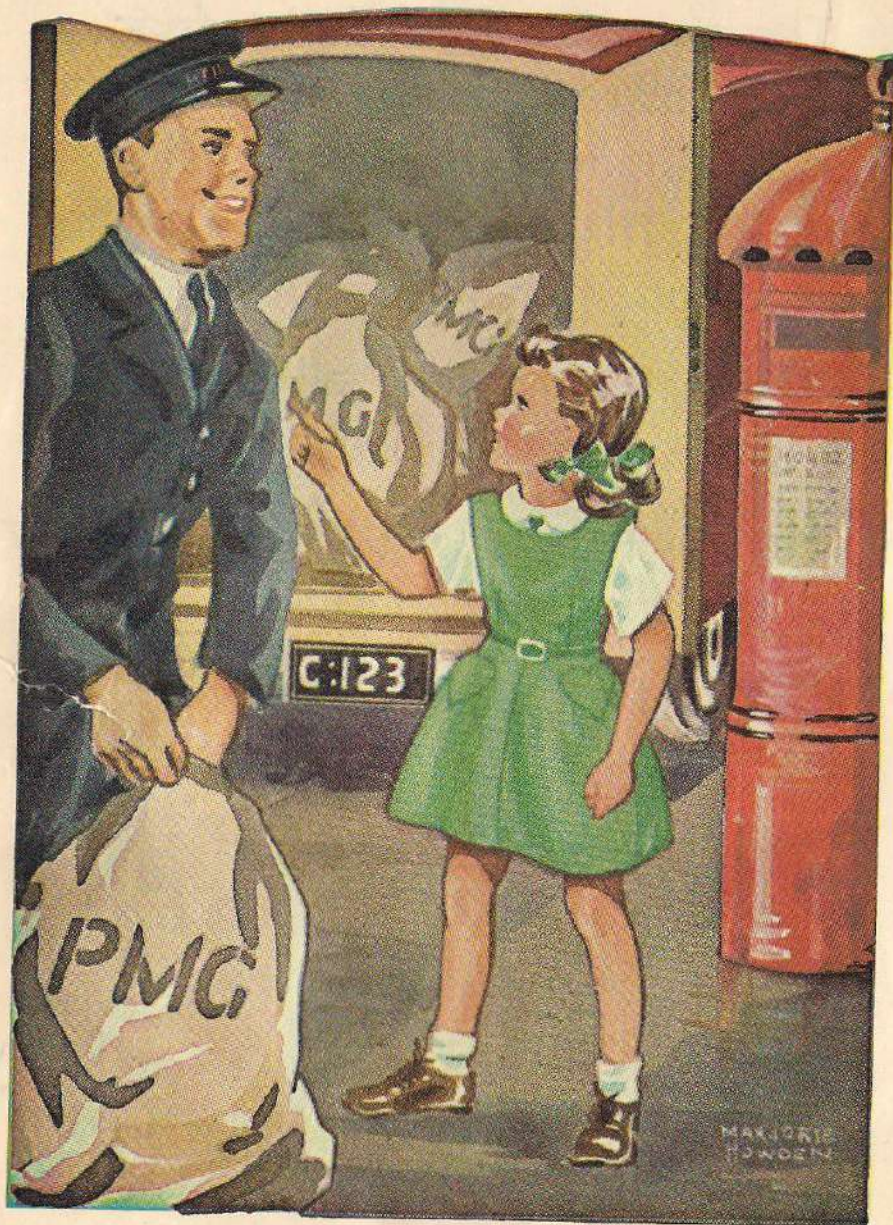
“Now I must take all the letters to the post office,” he said.

He opened the door of his van and threw the bag inside.

“Does the man at the post office send the letters away?” asked Joy.

“Yes,” said the postman, “he stamps the date on them all, and then he sends them away.”

“I hope he remembers to stamp the date on my letter,” said Joy.



“How far does your letter have to go?” asked the postman.

“It has to go to my auntie in England,” said Joy.

“Letters go to England by ship or by aeroplane,” said the postman.

“My letter will go by aeroplane,” said Joy.

“Letters that go by aeroplane go much more quickly than those that go by ship,” said the postman. “They take only about a week to get to England. Those that go by ship take four or five weeks.”

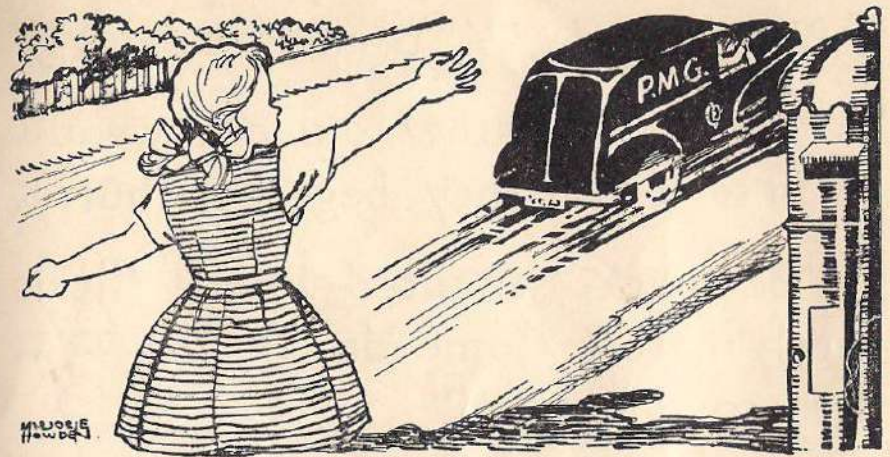
“Five weeks is a long time,” whispered Joy.

“Most letters do not have to go across the sea,” said the postman, “so they go by van or by train.”

Joy said, “They go by aeroplane sometimes. We always send letters to grandpa by aeroplane. He lives a very, very long way away, but he does not live across the sea.”

The postman said, “Many letters go by aeroplane, but most are sent by train if they have far to go. Most parcels go by train, too.”

“Yes,” said Joy. “We always post a parcel to grandpa on his birthday and at Christmas. The post office never sends it by aeroplane. It always has to go by train.”



The postman got into his van.

“I must drive to the post office at once and give the man there your letter,” he said. “Good-bye.”

He drove off down the street.

Joy stood there until he drove the red van into another street. Then she raced home to tell mother all about it.



Betty cried, "A tram is coming!"

Mother and father did not want to miss it, so they began to hurry.

"Be quick," shouted John. "It is nearly here. Come on, hurry! It is coming fast!"

The tram stopped at the corner. Mother and father did not miss it. They got to the corner just in time. The children did not want to miss the tram, because they were going to the zoo for the afternoon. They took their places in the tram.

"John can pay the fares to-day, because Betty paid last time," said father. "Remember to ask for four tickets to the zoo, John."

The tram took them to the gates of the zoo. Father got the tickets at the office. They went inside.

"Best peanuts, sixpence a bag!" cried a man just inside the gates.

The children had sixpence each to buy peanuts. The man gave them a bag each. John began to eat his.

"Keep some of those peanuts for the monkeys," said Betty.

"I want to eat them," said John. "The monkeys get more than I do. Listen to the merry-go-round."

"I cannot hear it," said Betty, "but I can hear the band. Listen!"

"I can hear it, too," said John.