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.
"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 Iain.

“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 Iain, 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 Iain.

Slowly the box went down. Bang!

“I wish I could drive a crane,” said Iain.
"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."

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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 lan 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.
They saw all the bears first. It was fun throwing them peanuts. Betty liked a black bear that stood on its two back legs on a rock. Its mouth was open. Betty tried to throw peanuts into its mouth. At first, it was not able to catch the nuts, because she did not throw far enough. It had to climb down and shuffle after them. The bear did catch one nut, but only one. It used its paws to help it to get the others that fell near it.
Two white bears lived next door to the three brown bears. They had a swimming pool. John and Betty kept throwing nuts into the pool. They liked making the bears swim into the water after each one.

Mrs. Hippopotamus and her baby had a deep pool in their cage. Mrs. Hippopotamus was fast asleep in it. She left no room for baby.

"Baby Hippopotamus does not look much like a baby," laughed John.

"No, he does not," said Betty.
Suddenly the lions began roaring more loudly than before.

"Just listen to those lions," said mother. "They are roaring more loudly than ever. It must be nearly feeding time for them."

"I wish we could see them," said John. "When is feeding time?"

"It is soon after three o'clock, I think," said mother.

"Is it three o'clock yet?" asked Betty.

"No," said father, "not yet. If we hurry to their cages now, we shall be in time to see the man feed most of them. Come along!"
Most of the visitors went to see the lions being fed. A man came with a bucket packed with meat. The lions roared still more loudly. While the first one was being fed, the other lions kept on roaring. They roared until they were fed, too. With the meat in their paws, they tore at it with their teeth.

“What big teeth lions have!” said John. “And how very quietly they eat their tea!”
The monkeys liked playing best. One sat with an old yellow jumper on its head. Others jumped about on swings and raced up ladders. One monkey began to tug at a boot tied under a swing. Suddenly the string came off. Down he fell on top of some old peanut shells.

The rabbits had a small house that looked like a castle. It had a high wall round it. One rabbit was asleep in the sun. It looked like a soft toy. Betty let a nut fall over the high wall. It hit the rabbit's nose and rolled off. The animal opened its eyes and ran through a hole into the castle.
Suddenly there was a whistle.

"Did you hear that whistle?" asked John. "It was the train."

They saw it through the trees. A man in the cabin of the engine drove the train. He had to drive round in a ring. His small dog sat on a seat behind the little engine and barked and barked.

Father gave John sixpence to buy two tickets. The children ran off together. They had a long ride.
Riding on the zoo train was fun, but it was more fun riding on Tiny, the big elephant. The children had to climb stairs to get on her back. A man called Captain Tom sat up near Tiny's head.

Tiny slowly rocked as she walked. The boys and girls on her back rocked, too. Bump, bump, bump!

At the end of the ride, a man on the stairs lifted the children off the elephant. Then Captain Tom took Tiny to the hay for her tea. It was her bedtime. She was tired.

"Come and see us another day, children!" shouted Captain Tom.

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It was a bright, sunny morning in spring. Ian’s big front garden was full of flowers. The trees were full of birds and their babies. A willy-wagtail was hopping about in a tin of water. A brown thrush was feeding her babies with worms.

Presently mother came to pick some spring flowers. Ian ran along behind her, with an old tin bucket and a spade. He was going to dig for worms because grandpa and he were going fishing after lunch. The thrush saw him and flew down.

Presently there was a whistle. It blew once. Then it blew again, and yet again. It was the postman.
“Good morning, Mrs. Bell,” he cried, as he came up the street. Ian went running to the gate.

“Good morning, postman,” he said. “You never leave us any letters now. Have you any for us to-day, please? We live at Number Eight.”

“I have one for Number Eight,” said the postman. “It is for you. It has been sent by aeroplane, too. See the blue stamp near the date.”

“It is from auntie,” said Ian.
Ian sat on the arm of a chair near his swing. Mother helped him to read his letter. It said,

"Dear Ian,

To-day is Sunday, and we have been at sea for more than three weeks now. The sun is very hot here. Everybody is trying to get cool. The swimming pool is full of people. A few people are sitting along the sides of it, with feet or legs in the water. I am up on deck, too. I am trying to keep cool by just sitting still. I can see a few sea-gulls. One is on the cover of a life-boat, which is not far from my cabin."
“We had a dance on Friday night, and the captain came as a visitor. All the deck was lit up in orange. Balloons and streamers were tied everywhere. We had bon-bons, too. We all had to wear funny clothes.

“Uncle dressed as an old woman. He wore my pink dress. He wanted to wear a hat, so I made him one. I used pink paper and some flowers. You should have seen his face! He made it look ever so old.

“I dressed as a clown. I wore yellow and blue clothes, and a hat like a tent. You should have seen the funny teeth I had in my mouth!”
“Next Friday afternoon, a party for all the children is being held in their room. It should be fun.

“Last week, we called at Colombo. Many dark brown people live there. Before our ship had stopped, we saw eight small boats coming out to it. When they had reached the side of it, the men in those boats began to talk to us. They all began to talk at once. They were trying to sell us things. I got a bag. The men put the things in baskets and sent them up on a long rope. We put enough money in the baskets and sent them down the rope again. That is how we paid the men.
"A number of boys came swimming out to the ship. They did not want to sell us things. They wanted us to throw money. I threw a penny. Splash! Uncle threw five pennies.

"Whenever a penny hit the water, a boy would dive down, and come up with the money in his mouth. Then he would swim round about, ready to dive again. He wanted as many pennies as he could get.

"Yesterday, we saw men in hats that were like buckets upside down. Wear your beach bucket upside down on your head, and you will see how they looked. I sent you a hat yesterday, with black strings on it."
“We shall be leaving the boat soon. In eight days we shall be in England. It will be the middle of autumn there. We have had a most happy holiday on the boat. We shall not like leaving it.

“Uncle says he will remember to send a few stamps to-morrow. Tell mother to write to us soon. I must write grandpa a few lines to-morrow, and tell him our news. He always likes to hear from us.

“Give my love to all at home. Good-bye, dear, With love from Auntie Ann.”
"Our break-up concert will start at two o'clock, mother," said John.

"Grandma and I will try to be at the concert then," said mother.
"But we shall have to hurry. Baby is still asleep in his cot."

"We are to have a break-up party to-morrow because that will be our last school day," said Betty.
"We shall be home for seven weeks."

"There are seven more days yet to Christmas," cried John. "I hope I get an engine or a cricket bat this year. I love playing cricket."

"I want a book and a new doll with dark brown hair," said Betty. "My old doll has no hair at all."
John and Betty had lunch. Then they ran back to school together, to help to get the hall ready.

In one corner of the hall stood a barrel. A green tree grew in it. David’s father had taken the tree to school. The children had made small presents and had taken them to school, to put on the tree. Then they had tied silver string, bells, stars, and tiny pink candles to it. Peter’s silver star was at the top.
The hall was full by two o’clock. The mothers and other visitors sat in rows of seats along three sides of the hall. The children sat on the floor in the middle of it. The biggest boys in John’s grade sat at the back. They were bigger than any of the other children.

Presently everybody was ready. The children in each grade stood up quietly. They sang “Good Afternoon to You” to all the people. Then they sat down again, and Miss Green had a talk to the visitors.

“We do hope that you will like our break-up concert,” she said.
First of all, the children sang carol after carol very quietly. Then four boys from a first grade played the story, “The Three Pigs.” Joy’s brother was the wolf. He had ears, nose, and tail like a wolf. He blew so hard that his face went bright red. Ian’s brother Bob was the pig who had to carry a load of hay. Bob did not carry it far. He kicked a leg of a table. Bump! The load of hay fell to the floor. Bob made his house there.
The children sang another carol. Then there were two puppet plays. A few of the bigger boys came out with puppets and played the story of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff." Peter was Big Billy Goat Gruff. He roared so loudly that the people in a park next door could hear him.

The other puppet play was called "Little Red Riding Hood." Ann was Red Riding Hood. Her puppet had a paper basket on her left arm. The wolf tried to catch her.

The little ones sang a new carol, and then each grade walked across to its own room. Each mother went to the room where her own child was.
Every child had made two gifts, one for mother, and one for father. There were cards, too. The gifts and cards were kept together with rubber bands. One card said,

“A merry Christmas to mother, With love from Ian.”

Betty gave mother a tiny parcel. She whispered, “A merry Christmas and a happy new year, mother.”

“Thank you, dear,” said mother.
On the way home grandma gave the children an orange each to eat.

“I have had such a happy time to-day, children,” she said.

“And so have I,” said mother. “It has been such fun coming to see you all. May I keep the gifts until Christmas and open them then?”

“Only seven more days to go!” shouted John. “Hooray, hooray!”