

Berry Beary Kind –Book 1

In a very kind town called, “Berry Beary Town”
Lived a very kind Bear called, “Berry Beary Kind”

Imagine a place where fun things happen every day;

Where everybody is happy and helping each other;

A place that is safe, pleasant and welcoming to all;

Where everyone is friendly and has what they need;

***A place where new and interesting ideas and
solutions can be tried.***

***...Perhaps, if we all do more than imagine, this
dream can become a reality.***

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1--The Story of Berry Beary Town—Part 1

It was a cold and drizzly day in Berry Beary town—almost as grey and cold as Mr. Berry Beary Rich acted as he went about his day.

“Nothing fun ever happens here,” he’d often lament. His thoughts would occasionally take him back to when he was a child and fun things did happen, because, as his mother would say, “You have to bring fun to others first and then fun will come to you too.”

But he was much too busy nowadays. Ever since he became the mayor, there was just problem after problem to fix, in this now sad and cold-hearted town. The only solution, he thought, was to first of all make everything as comfortable as he could for himself.

“If I’m happy, then I can make this town what it should be,” he thought. But that just didn’t work, as the more he focused on getting things for himself, the more problems came into his life and to the town, which of course only made him sadder.

One afternoon he sat counting up the money he’d made that week by charging big fees to those who had disobeyed one of his very many rules, regulations and restrictions.

“Good, another 20,000. This should help me build that summer vacation house that I’ve always wanted. I just can’t enjoy being around town anymore; I need someplace to go and relax. Every time I look around—which I don’t have much time for anyway—it just brings me down. I’ve rarely ever seen a smile, or heard laughter. All people seem to have time for is work.

“Well, in order to keep up with the fees I charge, I guess they do have to work most of the day—and often on the weekends too. But maybe if they work hard, this will keep them from having time to cause trouble. Yet, it’s taken away nearly all joy. I think this summer vacation house I’m going to build will be just what I need. It will help me to get away from the sadness I feel here.”

Berry Beary Rich thought the way to be happy was to make himself happy first. But that wasn’t working. He thought up plan after plan to cheer himself up. Building yet another house was his latest idea.

There was one family, however, who seemed to be nearly unaffected by the selfish mayor’s decisions, nor by the gloom that seemed to hang around the town like a big, invisible storm cloud: The Berry Beary family.

This family was descended from one of the founding families of Berry Beary Town. Many years before, this place had been discovered by the great and noble “Mr. and Mrs. Berry Beary”. They, together with their large family of 12 children, and a few other friends had built the very first houses and farms.

It was hard work for them, but in time it became a nice town that travellers were always glad to stop by and visit. There was so much to see and do; and most of all, the citizens of Berry Beary town were always friendly and generous.

Well, that was a long time ago. Things were different in this town now—much different. But for the Berry Beary family, things hadn’t changed much.

“Things come and go. The important thing is: How much kindness did you show?” was their motto, which was written on a plaque on the wall of the corner store that they ran.

Berry Big Beary and Berry Beary Gentle were always kind hearted and friendly to those they met. Sometimes people came to their store, not because they actually needed something from the shop itself, but they needed a friendly word and a smile, and these were always found in there.

After several years, at last, this kind team had their own little cub. They were elated. “What shall we call him?” Berry Beary Gentle wondered.

“I think he should be called something that tells others the secret to having a happier and better town. Maybe one day he’ll even help to change things from the sad state it’s gotten into, and make this place a great place to be—like our founding ancestors tried to make it,” Berry Big Beary suggested.

“How about calling him, ‘Berry Beary Kind?’” Berry Beary Gentle offered.

“Yes. I like that. ‘Berry Beary Kind’,” Berry Big Beary said as he mused on the name, and then turned to look down on their cute and cozy cub who was snuggled up in his mother’s arms.

“Berry Beary Kind,” he whispered, looking at his cub. “I pray that God will help you to be just as we are naming you now. May you grow up to help many follow in the ways of kindness.”

Berry Beary Gentle and Beary Big Berry looked sober for a moment. They were both thinking of the same thing: Mr. Berry Beary Rich. “Well, dear, we can pray. One day I know things will change for the better if we do,” Beary Big Berry said.

As Berry Beary Kind grew up, his parents did their best to make his days filled with as much joy and fun and creativity as possible. They wanted to impart to him a happy life, and gave him opportunities to learn many helpful skills. His parents believed that one day he really could make a difference in the town.

They read him stories of the good that others did. They went on trips to the countryside together and learned all about plants and farming. Berry Beary Kind loved it out in nature most of all. His father helped to teach him carpentry skills too, and together they built a big strong tree house.

Berry Beary Kind would often have his friends over for back-yard parties where they'd play "Town" as they called it. They would pretend they were in charge of a town, and act out just what they wished their town was like.

In their make-believe town, there was no money or fees to pay; people were always kind and generous, and of course a whole lot of fun would be happening—because the people of the town chose to make it so, and their imaginary mayor inspired people to do the good that they thought of.

Sometimes Berry Beary Gentle and Berry Big Beary would sit on the back porch and watch their son play out in his games what he thought the town

should be like. They'd smile. There was a ray of hope that it just might happen someday.

(Continued in part two.)

2--The Story of Berry Beary Town—Part 2

One day news shocked the town as they heard the mayor of Berry Beary Town had become very ill. All his plans had come to a halt as he lay on his hospital bed.

He had expected that since he was, what he considered himself to be, the most important man of the town, that the nurses and doctors would be treating him with great respect and kindness. But that wasn't the case. These ones that were now having to care for him, in what could be his last days, never smiled and were rather cold-hearted and curt in their interactions.

Mr. Berry Beary Rich began to see some of the effects of his own lack of love and joy, and all the troubles he had caused to the town through his selfishness and money-taking focus. He wished he'd been kinder. He was now sadder than he'd ever been.

"Won't even one person come to see me, to pay me a friendly visit?" A tear ran down his cheek. He

tried to remember if he even had any friends. Most of the people he saw each day were those who he was trying to get things from, and trying to get to work harder in order that he might have what he wanted for himself.

But just as he was crying, there was a gentle knock on the door, and in walked a smiling family—a father and mother, their 18-year-old son, their daughter, and little boy.

“We’ve brought you some flowers,” the mother said, and placed them on the table beside Mr. Berry Beary Rich.

“I... uh... why... Thank you...” Mr. Berry Beary Rich stammered in surprise. He’d almost forgotten how to say thank you. It’d been so long since a deed of kindness had been part of his life.

“Can we sing you a song?” Berry Big Beary said, and together the family sang and played on a few small musical instruments they’d brought along.

For the first time in a very long time, there was a small smile beginning to appear on the face of Mr. Berry Beary Rich.

“I’m so happy you all have come. I thought there was no one who cared. Please, come closer. I have something to say.”

They moved a few chairs near his bed and listened quietly as Mr. Berry Beary Rich struggled to speak. “I’ve been so wrong in the way I’ve run this town. It all started when I was your age... what is your name?” he asked and motioned toward Beary Berry Kind.

“Beary Berry Kind” was the response.

Mr. Berry Beary Rich continued,

“That is a wonderful name. I like that. Would you do me a favor?”

Beary Berry Kind nodded.

“I give you permission, that from now on, you can do as I should have done when I started out. I want you to be in charge of Berry Beary Town. I want you to teach them what your family has just taught me today—that showing kindness to others is more important than anything else on Earth. I’ve learned this the hard way.”

“I started out thinking that to be happy I’d need to be rich and important. But now, here I am. No money can heal me. And money can’t bring true friends to visit me. I’m worse off than a poor man. At least they might have a nice family to bring them joy, if they’d been kind and generous.

“I have nothing now but pain and sorrow and a whole heap of regret. I can’t buy back time or a chance to start again. So, since I can’t change what I did in the past, at least with the last part of my life, I can try to make amends in some small way.”

“Sonny,” he said, speaking to Berry Beary Kind, “I give you permission to do what you can for this town. I don’t mind if people forget about me now. They’ve thought about me and the misery I’ve caused through my own selfishness for too long. I want them to start smiling again, and I want you to find the secret to a truly happy and good town.”

Beary Berry Kind looked over at his father. He was smiling and a tear of joy ran down his face. Berry Beary Gentle was bringing a glass of water and a cool cloth to Mr. Berry Berry Rich.

“We’d be happy to do all we can, in your stead, to make the town the friendliest and happiest one around,” Berry Beary Gentle said. “And our oldest son, Berry Beary Kind, will make a wonderful mayor, we know. Thank you. We are honored.”

“I’ll do my best, Sir,” Berry Beary Kind said, a bit overwhelmed with the sudden big responsibility. But he knew he didn’t need to do it alone. He had a great team of friends who had practiced “town” with him plenty. He was sure he could count on them to help turn things around for the better.

Berry Beary Kind took some time alone to pray, and to think about his new job, and wrote down the thoughts that came to him:

The first step to helping others smile, is to give away plenty of yours.

The first step to inspiring others to give and share, is to be very generous yourself.

The first step to get others to help out is to be willing to help whenever others have a need.

Indeed, there was a lot to be done, and it would take a long time until things were the way everyone would like them to be. But day by day, with one smile and deed of kindness at a time; with one new idea or initiative at a time, of something that would make things more pleasant; with one kind word at a time, things would change.

He had to choose to be what he wanted others to be. In time, it would catch on, and the love and friendliness would change things for the better.

Mr. Berry Berry Rich would give him enough money to get him started... until it was no longer needed. For when kindness and care are the priority of each one in the town, that is all that is needed to supply each one with what they'd need.

Everyone caring for everyone else, means everyone has what they need. —Along with the willingness to work. Joy and fun would make even the work a pleasure.

3--Jellina's Bicycle

It was early one morning and the dew was still covering the grassy lawn.

“Hmm, I guess I’ll just have to wait on mowing the lawn till the ground dries out.” Berry Beary Kind thought to himself. But he didn’t have to wait for long to know what to do next. As just then the phone rang.

“Yes, hello?” But there wasn’t anyone on the phone, or so it seemed.

“Hello, is someone there?” he tried asking again. Then he heard a little girl saying, “Oh, hi. My name is Jellina. I’m four years old. And I am stuck.”

“Where are you stuck?” Berry Beary Kind asked. “I’m with my mommy and baby brother. I’m on my bike. But then the wheel got flat and the baby is fussing too. Mommy said maybe you could come and help us to get home,” Jellina said.

“I certainly can. What park are you at? The Pine Needle Crest park? Okay, I’ll come there right away.”

“Hmmm” he thought. What vehicle should I bring?” Then he remembered that he had a child’s seat that goes on a bicycle, as well as a bicycle wagon that attaches. So with his helmet on, and the seat and wagon hooked on securely he headed off to the park.

Jellina was glad to get a special ride on Berry Beary Kind’s bicycle in a seat that she fit in just great. Her bicycle that needed repair was placed in the wagon, and her mom and new baby brother walked alongside them with the stroller.

Jellina had really enjoyed the ride, and Berry Beary Kind offered to take her bicycle home and fix it. Jellina thanked Berry Beary Kind. And then got an idea. She whispered something into her mom’s ear. Mommy thought for a minute and then smiled and nodded “yes”.

“We’ll have a surprise ready for you when you come back with the bike!” said Jellina.

And so off he went to get to work on it.

“Hmmm, what could be causing the trouble?” He thought, while inspecting the wheel of the bike on his

work table. “Ah, there is a thorn! I’ll need to patch up the hole.”

He took out his bicycle fix-it kit, and got out the perfect size patch. The wheel was up and running in no time. But before he returned it, he got a very kind idea.

“Why don’t I make it extra special, and fix up anything else on it that needs to be done.” So he oiled the chain and gears, wiped off any mud. Then he put on a few spare reflectors that he discovered he had.

“A bell would be nice. It would make it a bit safer too,” he thought to himself, searching his brain for where one might be. He knew he put it away somewhere.

“Yes, of course!” He finally exclaimed. “It’s somewhere in those boxes in the shed.” After looking around for a while he discovered it. On went the bell. And now it was ready to be returned.

When he walked into Jellina’s house, there she stood, with a bowl in her hands, and a big smile on her face. “These are for you!” She offered him a bowl of delicious berries, picked just that day by her. Blackberries and blue berries!—They had lots of berry bushes in their yard.

“Thank you so much!” said Berry Beary Kind.
“This is my favorite snack ever!”

4--Playing Hopscotch

At first he was a tiny bit discouraged when he noticed the weather wasn't going to work for the games planned at the park that day. But Berry Beary Kind wasn't the kind of fellow to get “under the weather” about things.

With a whistle and song, he went out to this work shed to continue working on building his new remote control wagon. He could program it with an address or direction to travel, and using a remote control let it drive itself over to someone who needed help.

He was thinking of situations that it could really help in. Scenarios like: If he spots someone across the street carrying way too many bags. He could send his wagon to aid them, and it would go with them all the way to their house, carrying their load for them.

This would be great for those times when he was busy helping to do something else and couldn't actually help right at that minute.

Or another time could be when someone had something that needed fixing right away, the wagon

could be like a “things” ambulance. He could get the address of the person who needed some help fixing whatever was small enough to fit in it, and send the wagon there to pick it up and bring it back to his workshop—and send it again when it was fixed.

“Ahh...sob, aaah,” he then heard a cry while his thoughts were busy. He put down what he was doing to go and see. It was Mellani, and she’d slipped on her front porch step, since it was wet in the rain. Mellani had been visiting her grandma who lived next door.

“Up you go,” Berry Beary Kind said as he helped her up and into the house again. “Where were you trying to go?” he asked.

“Well, I’d left my bike outside and remembered that it needed to be under shelter so it didn’t rust.”

Since her grandma was in a wheelchair, he offered to help get a band-aid to put on her scraped knee, after Mellani had washed it. –And to put away the bike for her.

“Thank you so much!” said Grandma and Mellani. “You are so kind.”

“Well, I’m sure it wasn’t too easy for you to also miss the fun games that were planned at the neighboring park. But I can see that you—just like

me—have found something fun to do.”

There was a tile floor and Mellani had placed sticky tape on it and used it to mark off the lines of several different types of hopscotch. It was a nice indoor game to play, if you had the space and way to do it.

“I have an idea!” Berry Beary Kind said. Mellani was interested. He continued. “Since your friends are also having to stay indoors this afternoon, as wet as it is today, why don’t we have an ‘indoor park day’!”

“What is that?” she wondered, and Grandma was curious too.

“Any family who wants to can set up something fun in their house, just like you have. And then we can take turns visiting our different friends and play the action game or activity they have prepared. After a while we move to another friend’s house!”

“That would be great!” And so Mellani began to make a list of friends to phone who might want to take part.

Rockette set up a game of table-tennis (ping-pong).

Sue set up indoor gymnastics with mats and cushions.

Anita and her brother Robbie had a great house for hide and seek. Bob and his twin sister Isabella planned some music games, like musical chairs, freeze dance, as well as practicing the hoola-hoops.

And on went the list. And of course, Mellani's part was hopscotch.

"See! You helped to keep so many kids happy today," Berry Beary Kind said as he phoned Mellani at the end of the day.

"It all started with you choosing to not just sit around and be bored, but think of fun things you could use the day for. And it snowballed into a plan that included many others. We all had fun!"

She thought for a moment and realized that every minute of the day is like a present and could be filled with wonderful things. But if she doesn't open it and try to use the time for something fun, helpful, positive, interesting, or to learn something new, then it's like a gift that was forgotten and unopened.

"I'll be sure to remember this next time something we'd planned doesn't go as we wished. There might be something just as fun for us to do. We just have to determine to not let the change in circumstances get us feeling sad, but rather to be excited to make the best of it.

“Maybe we’ll even come up with something better than we had originally planned!”

5--The Purple Box

Margret was a four year old girl, who always liked to try out what her seven year old brother was doing.

She didn’t care if he told her it was too hard, or was “not for her age”. Just because he could do it, made it all the more fun for her to try it.

She didn’t actually mind whether she could get the hang of whatever it was—climbing, playing a game, doing active tricks, learning an instrument, or whatever—just the fun of being around her brother was enough for her.

Nate, Margret’s brother, wasn’t always too fond of her trying to imitate everything he’d try to do. For one, he was concerned for her safety, and the other reason was sometimes he just liked to be the only one doing it. He felt he needed alone time sometimes.

One day, when it seemed all she knew how to do was to copy Nate, and he felt the need for time alone, he decided to try something new. But he needed Berry Beary Kind’s help first of all.

And just when he got the idea, he looked out the window, and there he was!

Berry Beary Kind was raking the neighbor's yard, since he was unable to, while his arm was healing from an accident while playing sports.

Nate, with an eager Margret, walked up to him.

"Hello, Nate and Margret," Berry Beary Kind said. "How are you today?"

"We're fine, thank you," Nate responded. "I just wanted to ask for your help for a few minutes."

"Well, sure! What can I do for you?" Berry Beary Kind said, while putting the rake down.

"Do you have any 'fun-things-to-do' ideas and the materials to use to do them? See, it's our time to play now, and Margret needs some ideas. It's hard for me to think of different things for her to do, but maybe you can help. I need to practice some tricks for the talent show next Friday, but what can she do now, while I can't play together with her?"

"Hmmm" thought Berry Beary Kind. "I think I have just the thing. I'll be right back," he said, and was off on his quad to his house just down the road a bit. Within 10 minutes he was back, with a fun-looking purple box.

“Here is where I put things that I think are fun to do, but I just don’t have the time for them. I save them up for when someone needs it. And I think today is just the right time. Look in here, Margret!”

She looked in expecting to see a box filled with items and goodies. But instead all it had in it was one scarf, a sock, a set of old keys, and a mirror.

“What’s this?” she wondered. And while Nate went off to practice his tricks, Beary Berry Kind began to explain.

“Take a look at this scarf!” he said to a very interested girl. “It can be and do so many things. You can ball it up, throw it, and try to catch it again.”

Margret was laughing as she watched him act it out in funny ways.

“Or it can be a blanket for your dolly,” he said while pretending to hold one.

“Or it can be a picnic blanket, to sit on and read books outside.” Beary Berry Kind was demonstrating each idea in fun, animated ways.

“But what about the sock?” Margret asked.

“Ah, the sock. That used to be my favorite sock, but then its match went missing. So now it’s in my idea box. It can be a puppet! ‘Hello.’”

He made the sock “talk” to Margret.

“Or perhaps it can be a bag to go around and collect items of interest in the back yard. Or maybe... why don’t you try to think of an idea?” he suggested to Margret.

“Umm...” she thought. “Oh, I know, I can use it on my hand to be a duster, and wipe off the furniture in the living room!”

“What a clever idea! Now since you are just getting started on the ideas, why don’t you take my special purple box, and use each item in as many ways as you can think of. I’ll come back later on to see what things you thought of.”

Margret was ready to start having fun. And fun she had! When it was time to return the box to Berry Beary Kind, she told him all that she had done with each item.

“Good for you. You were creative, imaginative, and innovative! All big words to say you thought of new ideas with whatever you had on hand.

“Maybe next time you want to borrow this box, there’ll be new things in it!” Berry Beary Kind said, and waved good bye.

“Come Margret!” Nate said happily to his sister.

“Since you gave me time to focus on learning my tricks, while you played on your own for a while, I want you to be my first audience! Would you like that?” Margret nodded.

“I’ll do a special show now, just for you!”

And the two had a fun end to their time of play, laughing and being friends.

6--The Next Purple Box

One day Margret’s mother wasn’t feeling well, and needed some extra rest. Margret was trying to play quietly, but was having a difficult time thinking of what to do. Her older brother was out with dad getting materials to fix up their fence.

Then she remembered the purple box. “I wonder if Berry Beary Kind has any new things in it yet? It would sure help me pass the time in a fun way.”

“Knock knock” there was someone at the door. Margret could see from a side window that it was just who she needed to see. Berry Beary Kind had come to see if her mom needed anything while she was sick.

After helping to bring Margret's mom some warm soup, he asked if there was anything else they needed. That's when Margret asked for the Purple box.

"Ah! The Purple box! I thought you might be needing something fun to keep you busy today. I'll be right back!" Berry Beary Kind said and was gone in an instant.

When the door knock sounded again a very eager Margret went to see. "Mother, it's Berry Beary Kind here again."

"Okay, dear you can let him in," her mother said.

"Here you go!" he said, handing her the box. "I'll let you discover all the things that are inside, and see how many things you can think of doing with each item. Have fun! I'll see you later!"

And off he went, probably on his way to help and encourage someone else. He was always active with kindness!

When Margret brought it to her room and opened it up, she was surprised at what she saw. It would take a lot of thinking to come up with ideas. But that was all part of the game anyway. Part of the fun was the thinking part.

“A white sheet... hmm... oh, I know, it can be a fluffy white cloud, and I can pretend I’m in an airplane. I can put a chair on it, and use a tray and eat a little pretend snack! Hmm, where should I visit? I’ll need a suitcase...” and the game had begun.

Next, she made a tent with it, over some chairs, and then she put it over a little table, pretending it was a fancy banquet table, and set it up with chairs and dolls, and a tea set. She could have thought of more, but she wanted to try something else.

There was an old telephone, a pillow, a piece of colored paper, and a bottle. The games kept her going for a long time. When her brother got home she had fun things to tell and show him. Then they played together with all the things, making up even more games and ideas.

To name a few:

Together they used the old telephone to pretend they were rescue workers receiving calls, and then rushing to help out. They used the pillow to toss and throw back and forth, as if it had been a volley ball. The colored paper was cut into strips and with a bit more colored paper strips added as well, they were woven into a little paper mat. The bottle was filled with water, glitter and little bits of this and that, to be shaken and then watched to see the moving show of the “glitter snow”.

7--Winners Are Grinners

Today was going to be fun. It was to be the contest of all sorts of bicycles, tricycles, unicycles, tandem bikes, and any other sort of invented pedal and wheel vehicle.

There would be trick shows, speed races, displays, and all sorts of fun. Berry Beary Kind had on his helmet, and biking suit. He was going to bring his wagon that hooked on, too.

There was also a basket that he could attach to the front end to carry things, and a bag that could be put in the middle of the frame. There was also a small child's seat that he hooked on to the back of his bike. He was going to show how much he could carry and transport with just one bicycle.

However, when he arrived at the contest location, it was empty! His was the only bicycle around. "Hmmm? Did I miss something?" He wondered.

He checked the map again. No, this was right. This is the right place. But when he looked closer at the map page it said that it was supposed to be on Sunday. But this was Saturday.

"Oh! I got the days wrong! At least I didn't miss it. I still can look forward to it tomorrow. Oh, well.

Maybe there's a reason for this. I'll just start on my way home."

When he got home, there was a group of children waiting outside of his door for him to return.

Berry Beary Kind. We're so glad to see you. Can you help us fix up our bicycles? Please? We also want to go to the contest, but our bicycles aren't working. They have things that are broken about them."

"Well, come on in," he said. "Why don't you sit down in the living room and have a fresh piece of fruit and some water, while you each tell me what needs fixing on your bikes."

So they did. And then they had fun learning and watching and helping too. It wasn't all easy, but as they worked together they got all the bikes up and working.

"Ah!" thought Berry Beary Kind, "I see now why it was good it wasn't today. These children wouldn't have been able to participate. I'm glad we can all go and do it together now. Fun!"

And fun it was. And everyone who attended went home with some sort of prize or medal, because all tried their best and made it fun for those who came to watch. It was a great day on wheels!

8--An Incredible Beary

“Just in time!” Berry Beary Kind said as he turned the stove down low before his pot of chicken and veggie soup boiled over. “I guess I like to be someone who makes it there in time when people need me too,” he thought.

Then he pondered about what it took to be the kind of helper that people needed. He took out his pen and paper and wrote down some notes that he was going to post on his wall, to remind him, and also to encourage those who visited him, to help others all they could.

Number 1: Be ready to stop and go. To stop what you are doing, and to go do something else.

Number 2: Showing love is better than just saying it.

Number 3: Think, “What would God like me to do, in this situation?”

Number 4: You’ll probably get another chance to do what you want to do, but may not have another chance to help that person who needs help right now.

Number 5: Be happy and friendly. Everyone will appreciate it and love you for it.

Just as he posted it up, there was a knock on the door. It was Berry Beary Incredible. He was always coming up with new and amazing inventions, and could do so many tricks.

“Hi, how are you?” Berry Beary Kind asked as he greeted him at the door.

“Want to see my latest design? I’ve been working on making a machine that will take goods and supplies from the market up to the village at the top of the hill. That way they won’t have to travel so far to go shopping and get the things they need for their children and families.”

“Sure, I’d love to see it.”

And so off they went.

It was something like a cable car, or ski lift. Only that it was smaller and was just for carrying food and supplies. The villager would write a note of the things that they needed and put it in, and send the box cable car down.

They would wind a handle around and around. It would spin a wheel, and the box that was attached to the rope would go down to the market. After it was loaded up, they would turn the wheel again and bring it back.

“That’s great!” said Berry Beary Kind. “You are always looking for ways to make things easier for others.”

“How about a ride with me in my circus van?” said Berry Beary Incredible. And so off they went. When they arrived at a park, he said, “This is where I’m going to practice some of my acts. I plan to do a show in a few days. Maybe we can do a special showing here for any children that need extra special encouragement. They could get to see the show first!”

And so it was planned! And a great time was had. Berry Beary Incredible had them laughing and singing, and even helping him do some of his tricks. They had a great time.

9--A Friendly Plan, for a Berry Friendly Town

It seemed pretty impossible—trying to build a wagon, using only bits and pieces of wood they’d found at the beach, and a set of old wheels from a broken and discarded scooter. But the Friendly family, who were on vacation in Berry Beary Town, were a fun team.

They wanted to make something together, and had decided on a wagon.

Four-year-old Mackie had suggested it, and the rest of the Friendly family agreed it was a great idea.

They had been off to a good start, but now it just seemed things weren't working out.

Father Friendly went for a walk down the beach along with Mackie and seven year old Lisa to see what they would discover. Jogging along was a smiling and waving Berry Beary Kind. They stopped to chat for a while.

"I live not too far from here," Berry Beary Kind told Father Friendly. "I'm headed there now, actually. You can follow me in your car, if you like, and bring your supplies. I might have just what you need to complete the wagon. I've got all sorts of tools and scraps and bits and pieces that I've collected, in my work shop."

The children and all the Friendly family were delighted! Within 20 minutes they found themselves walking into a very interesting and gadget-filled work shop, in Berry Beary Kind's shed.

Together they laid out all the supplies they had already found—some boards, a few wheels, a piece of rope, and some scrap wire.

"Hmm, let's see. What's missing?" Berry Beary Kind asked aloud.

The children started to get some ideas.

“I think we need some nails or screws, and a tool to put them into the wood with,” offered Mackie.

“Also some more wheels,” added Liza.

“Perhaps a few more boards to form the sides of the wagon, so nothing falls out of it?” Father Friendly suggested.

“I’d like to paint it red” said Mother Friendly, and the other’s agreed.

“I think I’ve got those things” said Berry Beary Kind, and started to look around and hand the items to the very eager children.

Since Berry Beary Kind was often fixing things up for town folks, he often had bits of this and that from his jobs. There was a set of wheels from an old trolley, in a box in the corner. There was a big piece of board that used to be part of a large wooden box, it could be cut to make the boards for the sides.

The paint he had plenty of—a large can of red paint he still had from his last project of painting the playhouse for the Happy Family who lived just down the street. And of course, screws and nails, a hammer and screw driver, along with bolts, nuts and all the little things needed to attach the wheels, were in his tool kit.

It wasn't long till the wagon started to take shape. With everyone working together, and Berry Beary Kind helping by offering what was needed, in about an hour-and-a-half it was rolling!

The children helped to paint it, and it looked great. Berry Beary Kind said they could keep it in his shed till it dried, and come back the next day to get it. So off the Friendly Family went to have their beach picnic and barbeque. They would come back the next day.

"Thank you so much!" each one told Berry Beary Kind. "And to show our appreciation, if you'd like to join us for dinner on the beach tonight, please be our guest!"

"I would love to!" Berry Beary Kind responded. And then he surprised the Friendly Family by showing up with a box of percussion and other types of instruments. Some made of wood, others with interesting items like shells or pot lids. There was a ukulele, a harmonica and a flute as well.

The Friendly Family were good at making up songs and keeping a beat. That night they called themselves "The Beary Beach Band".

Some songs were so lively they thought even the fish in the sea could hear them!

“Good night,” they said, as the stars were starting to peek out, and Berry Beary Kind said good bye and headed home.

“We’ll see you tomorrow!” said Mackie, remembering to get their wagon.

Early the next morning, Mackie and Liza hopped on their bikes for a morning ride, while Father and Mother Friendly jogged beside. Berry Beary Kind had drawn them a simple map so they could easily find his house.

“Knock! Knock!” they sounded on the door.

“Hello! I see you are here bright and early to pick up the wagon!” Berry Beary Kind said to the cheery team.

Mackie wanted to be the first one to pull it—after all it had been his idea. It rolled just great!

Then the two children took turns pulling it down the sidewalk, while Father and Mother Friendly helped them with the bikes.

“Do you know why I’m glad we made a wagon?” Mackie asked his family.

They were curious to hear what he had to say.

“Well, when we go home, I want to help people around town more. I’d like to be a bit like ‘Berry Beary Kind’, ready to help, and make things happier in our town. To make it more like its name, ‘Berry Friendly Town’.”

“Yes!” added Liza, starting to get ideas already. “We could help to pull home the shopping for our neighbor, Miss Grey, who’s getting older and has a hard time carrying her bags.”

“That’s a great idea,” Mother Friendly encouraged.

“I know!” Mackie piped up. “We could use it to collect trash that is left around the park or down the street. It would look so much better then!”

“You are getting such a fun plan!” said Father Friendly. “What a nice way to end our vacation! With a new family project to look forward to, as we head home. I can hardly wait to get started.”

10--Merry Berry Bella

Berry Bella put on her prettiest dress. It was green with white lace on the edges and a big yellow ribbon for a belt. She added a crown of freshly picked flowers from her garden to her hair.

Today was the day that she and her brother Berry Beary Kind would perform for the elderly folks that lived in a cottage near the lake.

“Music is a way to cheer folks up,” Berry Bella would say.

She would play the flute and harp, while her brother would sing and use his accordion.

He was dressed up too, in his best light blue suit and red bowtie.

On some Sundays, they chose to be a team and would go to places all around, singing and making hearts glad with their cheery songs. Many of them were songs that Berry Bella wrote herself.

After each performance they’d ask each other, “Where shall we go to next, a fortnight from now?”

There were always so many ideas and invitations from people to have them revisit. Sometimes it was hard to choose.

“I always feel so happy when I see the smiles we help to give to people,” Berry Bella said as she and her brother drove to the cottage for their performance.

The clapping started even before they began their first song. Everyone was glad to have this Berry Beary team there that day. In fact they looked forward to it so much that they chose to spend the afternoon of the day before getting things all decorated for this special event.

There were streamers and balloons on the ceiling; flowers on the tables; and a special snack prepared for all to enjoy—especially their musical guests.

The first song was a tune that came to Beary Bella one day as she woke up one sunny spring morning, and heard the birds singing merrily. She called it, “Merry Melody.”

When she played it for her brother a day or so later, on her flute, it made him think of a little poem his mother, Berry Beary Gentle used to say. He worked on it a bit and soon together, with these words and the new tune, a cheery song was made.

“We’ll start off with ‘Merry Melody,’” Beary Bella announced to the waiting audience.

Her flute began the melodic intro, then was joined by the harmonizing notes of Berry Beary Kind’s accordion, and his voice began:

“Sunlight rays dance in my room,
Like a smile that replaces gloom.
I’ll bring that bit of cheer with me,
To help someone else feel happy.”

The songs and applause continued for half an hour or more, and then the snack and chat time followed.

It was more than just the songs that were welcomed, but the friendship of this pair. For they must have been about the friendliest ones around.

At the end when it was time for the team to leave, they asked if anyone had any last requests for them to sing.

“Please sing, ‘Happy Birthday’! –For today is Mr. Abel’s birthday!”

Indeed it was. Mr. Abel was a kind and gentle man, soft spoken, and would never have tried to get the attention focused on to him alone. But now it was his turn to be appreciated.

The singing team stood up and sang the best “Happy Birthday” those folks thought they’d ever heard. It sure was lively.

Miss Gayle had secretly prepared a box of gifts for Mr. Abel and was planning to present it to him that day, and decided that it was the best time right then.

“Here in this box are gifts and treats, cards and notes, given by each of us here, and some that aren’t here but who wanted to show you, dear Mr. Abel, their love and appreciation for all you have given and done.”

Mr. Abel was surprised by all this sudden attention. He didn’t know what to say. He reached out and accepted the gift box, which was filled with many gifts inside.

“I’ll explore this later,” he said with a happy look, touched by the love shown back to him, in return for all he’d done for others.

He thanked each one sincerely for whatever they added to the box.

“Thank you! Thank you all so much,” Mr. Abel said.

“And now, there’s an announcement by the chef,” Miss Gayle said, as attention turned to hear what he had to say.

Berry Beary Cook said, “In honor of Mr. Abel’s very special day today, there is going to be a surprise dinner. It will be served an hour earlier than usual, and,” he said with a smile, “please come dressed to dine near the lake. I’ll see you then.”

There was to be a special picnic and barbeque, boat rides, and more live music playing—this time by Beary Merry Song and his band.

Everyone was looking forward to it.

Berry Beary Kind and his sister Beary Bella were also invited to join in the fun.

“It sure pays to give!” Berry Beary Kind said in a whisper to his sister.

“Sure does!” she responded.

And a fun evening was enjoyed by all. The Wonder bears even made a surprise visit and served snacks, told jokes and did a short, impromptu entertaining show.

Berry Beary Brave took them all on a glass-bottom boat ride on the calm lake, and those that wanted to swim would just dive off the boat into the water.

At the end of the special evening, Mr. Abel had an announcement to make:

“You’ve all been such good friends to me, and that has been the best gift ever, throughout the year. I’m looking forward to another year living and working with you, and doing all I can to help make Berry Beary Town the happiest and most friendly place around.”

As Berry Beary Kind and Beary Bella drove away they smiled thinking what a fun day it had been.

“When I heard what Mr., Abel said towards the end,” Bella said, “it made me realize how important not only kindness is—for he has truly been kind and generous—but also how equally important it is to encourage and show appreciation to those that do. It keeps them going and doing and showing love. Everyone benefits from loving appreciation and heartfelt thanks.”

11--The Workman’s Fun-Place Building Team

Berry Beary Kind’s cousin Berry Beary Workman was visiting him. He lived in a village not too far away. He was here for three weeks to help construct the new building that was for “rainy day fun”.

It was a place for parents and children, uncles and aunts, Grandmas and Granddads to meet when it was too cold or rainy to play outside.

It would have large windows, to let in as much light and sights of nature as possible. There would be speakers to play fun music, or soft music, according to the mood and nature of the activities going on that day.

There was a snack corner, an indoor basketball court, a tennis court, a trampoline, an indoor swimming pool. There was even a room with beds for those who wanted to rest.

Tables would be set up for playing board games or doing arts and crafts type of activities. A library and reading corner was to be set up with books and rugs and soft cozy chairs and good lighting. A room for climbing tricks and gymnastics would be there too.

But before all that could be added, the structure and building had to be in place. And that is what Berry Beary Workman was here for. They had a team of 12 working to get the job done. Each one knew well how to build, and each one had their special talents too.

They would each help to oversee the part of the building job that they were best at. Cement mixing and laying, frame building, walls, roofing, glass and windows, electrical wiring, painting, and more. Then there was the set-up inside of the furniture, light fixtures, supplies and so forth.

It was a big job, but they were all looking forward to the final product—a place of fun to take their families to.

At last the job was done! It seemed like nearly the whole town came to the opening day celebration. Berry Beary Workman gave the opening speech:

“We are glad to present to you the ‘Rainy day Fun’ building! We hope it provides just that. And remember—fresh air and sunshine are best. Never settle for an indoor activity, if the weather is good. That really is the best. But should it be too rainy or cold, then you can still have fun and get good exercise. And here is a great place to do it. We hope you all enjoy it. Play it safe!”

Berry Beary Workman ended his speech, and everyone clapped and cheered, and began the celebrations.

There were snacks served, games played indoors and outdoors, and even a dance party held that night. The townspeople knew that it was going to be a place of fun. But they remembered Berry Beary Workman’s wise words to them: “Outdoor play is best!” and “Play it safe!” Those words would help them stay happy and healthy!

12--The Story of Berry Beary Friendly

Berry Glum ‘n’ Grumpy was sitting off to the side. Even though everyone else at the park party was eating, laughing, playing games, and having a great time, Berry Glum ‘n’ Grumpy just couldn’t seem to find anything to smile about.

Berry Beary Kind spotted him, knowing that he was new in town, and wanted to say hello.

“Hello, there,” Berry Beary Kind said, introducing himself to Berry Glum ‘n’ Grumpy—although he didn’t know that was his name.

Berry Glum ‘n’ Grumpy hardly could look up, and said a low, “Hi”.

Berry Beary Kind went to get some of the fruit salad that was being served, and offered it to him.

“You know, I think you’ll like it here in our town,” Berry Beary Kind began to say.

“Really?” Berry Glum ‘n’ Grumpy looked up, with a bit of hope.

“You see, we all like to be happy and have a good time, but most importantly we like to make sure that the others around us are feeling even happier than we are!

“We all just love to see how many smiles we can create on others, through doing all we can to show love and kindness,” Berry Beary Kind said.

“I’ve never lived in a place like that before... I think I would feel better if I had a friend. You see, I just don’t know how to make friends, and it makes me sad. I see that others around always seem to have friends. What can I do?” Berry Glum ‘n’ Grumpy asked.

“Hmm...Well, I’ll tell you a secret, something that has worked for everyone else that gave it a try.” Berry Beary Kind now had Berry Glum ‘n’ Grump’s full attention.

“More than anything else, he just wanted to feel loved by friends. But without knowing the secret, he was having a hard time.

“How about you come over to my house for tea tomorrow afternoon, and I’ll tell you the secret to having friends—the good kind, the right kind, the kind that love you. And for now, can I ask you to do me a favor, please?” Berry Beary Kind asked.

“Sure...okay. I’d like to talk with you tomorrow... and what do you need me to help you with?” Berry Glum ‘n’ Grumpy wondered.

Berry Beary Kind answered, “Park parties like this don’t happen every day, you know. We all have things that we need to do to keep this town running well, and making sure that each one living here is well cared for.

“I would be sad to see you miss out on some of the fun going on here. So, here’s what I’d like you to do: For the next ten minutes, why don’t you walk around and find someone to introduce yourself to—maybe someone who looks like they are a little lonely and would enjoy some company.”

Berry Glum ‘n’ Grumpy felt a little shy just thinking of talking to those he didn’t know yet, but decided to give it a try. After all, joining in on the fun did seem nicer than just watching it happen, while sadly sitting on the sidelines.

Berry Beary Kind said goodbye, and gave him a little map showing where to find his house for their appointment the next day.

It wasn’t long however before Berry Glum ‘n’ Grumpy was having a great time talking and laughing with others. He just had needed a little encouragement to not just wait for others to be a friend to him, but to go out and be one for someone else.

And he didn't just walk around and talk with others for ten minutes either, but had a great time for the rest of the party—as long as he kept remembering to look for someone to BE a friend to. He pushed away his glum and grumpy feelings by getting to know others around.

By the end of the party he was feeling great. There were many great folks in this town, and he realized that living in Berry Beary Town would be a lot nicer than he thought it would be—wonderful, in fact.

The next afternoon came fast, and Berry Beary Kind heard a knock at his door.

“Coming!” he said, while putting out the last cup on the table for their tea.

Berry Glum ‘n’ Grumpy was at the door, but he wasn't that anymore. He had a cheery smile on.

“Please come in, and sit down,” Berry Beary Kind invited him and showed him to the table.

“Tea?” he asked, and then offered other snacks as well.

Berry Beary Kind's guest received what was offered, and then looked up expectantly to hear the secret that was promised.

“I have a feeling that you have discovered most of it already,” Berry Beary Kind said, and then continued. “But before we talk further, I’d like to propose a new name for you! I think I would like to call you, ‘Berry Beary Friendly’. I don’t think you are going to have any trouble having friends in this town. I saw you yesterday at the party. How did you feel, after we talked?” Berry Beary Kind asked.

“Well, when I was trying to encourage others and to be a friend, I seemed to forget about my sad feelings. And yes, I think I would like to be called, ‘Berry Beary Friendly’—for that is what I want to be!”

“Yes!” Berry Beary Kind exclaimed, “You certainly did discover a very important part of having friends—reaching out to cheer others, and forgetting about your lacks, or imperfections. I have an idea!”

Berry Beary Friendly—for he was to be called that from then on—looked up with interest.

“How would you like to publish an article in our town’s paper—only the good stuff gets put in there, you know! Here’s a notepad and pen for you to use. You can go around for the next week and interview whoever you’d like to, in this town, asking them for their tips on making and being a good friend. At the end of the week you can look over your notes, and if you like, I can help you type them up,” Berry Beary Kind offered.

“Hmm... I do like that idea. It would be a great way for me to meet and get to know people as well. And at the same time I would get some tips on friendship.

“I think I’d like to be the friendliest one around! That would be a lot of fun! But there’s lots I need to learn first, and since many of the town’s folks seem to know how, I can learn from them in this way,” Berry Beary Friendly accepted the offer.

So, he did just that for the next week, and all the kind and friendly folks in Berry Beary Town were very happy to oblige him some of their time on such an important topic as friendship—the right kind!

When Berry Beary Friendly sat with Berry Beary Kind out in his garden the following week, looking over the tips that folks had shared with him, Berry Beary Kind smiled.

He not only saw that Berry Beary Friendly was so much happier, but was glad in heart to hear all the ways those in his town were showing love and being friends to each other. That’s what made their town what it was.

The article was typed up and listed the points given by those in Berry Beary Town. Here are some things it said:

- Always stop to help someone in need—being too busy to help will eventually make you feel lonely and sad.
- Others want to have a chance to talk about their lives and experiences. They often just need someone to listen to them. Be a good listener—listening more than you talk yourself.
- When you let others have first choice, then it shows that you care, and they will like to be around you.
- Choose, and keep choosing, to let others have the best and to be first—preferring others to get just what makes them happy. They’ll love you for it, and will usually return the favor, or it will change them and make them more generous too.
- The best way to have friends is to be kind to others.
- When you are lonely, try to do something for someone that you think they will like—even if it’s not your favorite. Just seeing someone else feel happy will make you feel better.
- If you want to make friends, say nice words and notice the good in them.

Berry Beary Friendly continued to visit Berry Beary Kind each week for a chat, or to type up some new article in the paper.

Sometimes they just went out for a walk around town together, seeing if there was anyone in need.

They became good friends—and not only that, but after putting all those tips into practice, Berry Beary Friendly became known as just that to all the town's folks.

Those who had been somewhat lonely before, now had a new friend. He was a friend to all, and always had a word of cheer to say to anyone he met. He was known as one of the friendliest guys around!