

Berry Beary Kind

Book 1

Happily Helping



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

Berry Beary Kind

–Book 1–

Happily Helping

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The Story of Berry Beary Town

It was a cold and drizzly day in Berry Beary town—almost as grey and cold as Mr. B. 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 Kind family.

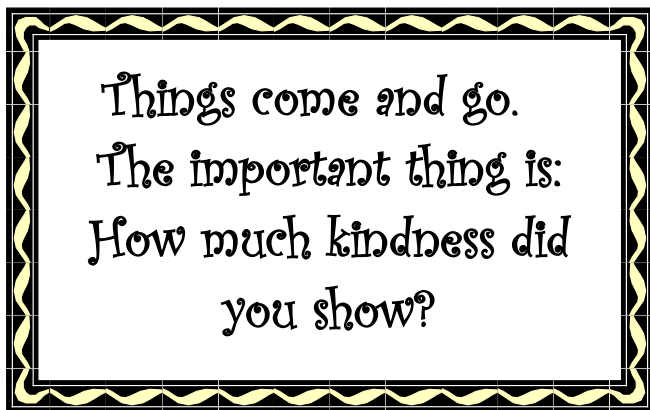
This family was descended from one of the founding families of Berry Beary Town. Many years before, this place had been discovered by the great and noble "Mr. and Mrs. Berry Beary".



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 Kind 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.

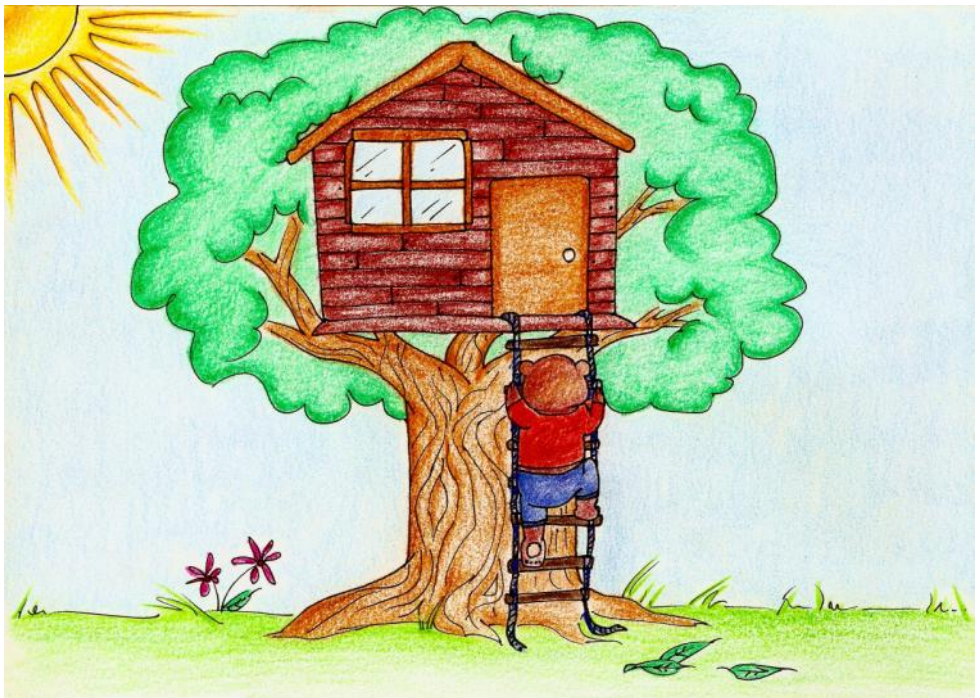
“Yes. I like that. ‘Berry Beary Kind,’” Berry Big Beary said as he mused on the name, and then turned to look down on their cute and cosy cub who was snuggled up in his mother’s arms. “Berry Beary Kind,” he whispered, looking at his cub.

“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. B. 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 the 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.



Then, one day news shocked the town as they heard the mayor had become very ill. All his plans had come to a halt as he lay on his hospital bed. He'd 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.

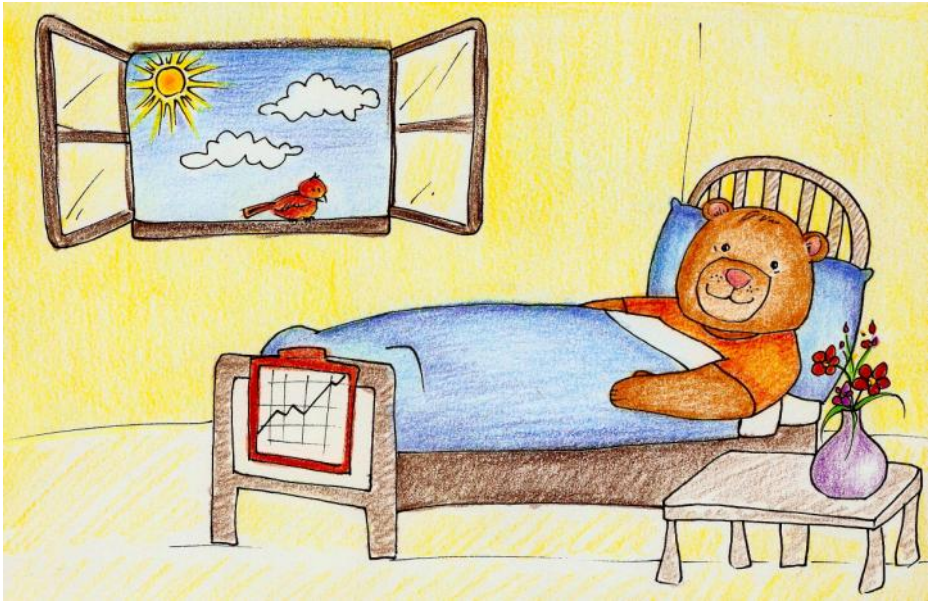
Mr. B. Beary Rich began to see some of the affects of his own lack of love and joy, and all the troubles he had caused to the town through his selfishness and money-taking focus. He wished he'd been kinder. He was now sadder than he'd ever been.

"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 and their 18 year old son, 14 year old daughter, and 7 year old boy.

"We've brought you some flowers," the mother said, and placed them on the table beside Mr. B. Beary Rich.

"I... uh... why... Thank you..." Mr. B. 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 they sang and played on a few small 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. B. Berry Rich.

“I’m so happy you all have come. I thought there was no one who cared. “Come closer,” he motioned to Beary Berry Kind and his parents, “I have something to say.”

They moved a few chairs near his bed and listened quietly as Mr. B. Berry 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.

“Beary Berry Kind” was the response.

Mr. B. Beary Rich continued, “That is a wonderful name. I like that. Would you do me a favour?”

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 you have 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. B. Berry Rich.

“Thank you, you are so kind,” he said.

“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 son, Berry Beary Kind will make a wonderful mayor, we know. Thank you. We are honoured.”

“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 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. B. 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.



The Wonderbears

Berry Beary Kind woke up feeling unwell. His nose was stuffy, his head hurt, and it felt hard to swallow. He was sick. He didn't think there was anything that he could do for anyone. This was a time that he felt he needed someone to do him a favour.

There were lots of jobs that needed to get done. He needed to go pick up Berry Beary Friendly from the airport, who was coming back from a trip. Then there was cooking, as well as taking the trash out to the front so the truck could take it away. All he had strength for was to get a warm drink and lie back down in his bed.

Then he heard a vehicle pull up to his house. It was full of Wonderbears. These were a team of helpful bears who travelled around helping those who helped others. They knew how to encourage the encouragers.

One had cleaning supplies, another had on gardening gloves, another had on an apron and cook book ready to make food for Berry Beary Kind, another was dressed like a chauffeur, ready to drive others to where they needed to go.



Their vehicle was kind of shaped like an ambulance, but in the back it had all sorts of tools and gadgets and equipment needed for all types of jobs to help people. There was also a ladder on the roof that could help perform rescue missions. It truly was “an amazing vehicle”.

Berry Beary Kind was thrilled as can be. He was going to have a great day. “When you are kind to others, they’ll be kind to you,” he thought. And a lot of love was about to be poured out to him. He just rested and read all day. And any calls that came in for help were handled by the Wonderbears, who also went to the airport to get his friend.

They also made good food for him, cleaned up the house and garden, and played with the children who came in the afternoon for a game of soccer. At the end of the day he felt so much better. All that rest and love and care just topped up his “love cup” and he was on his way to fully getting better.

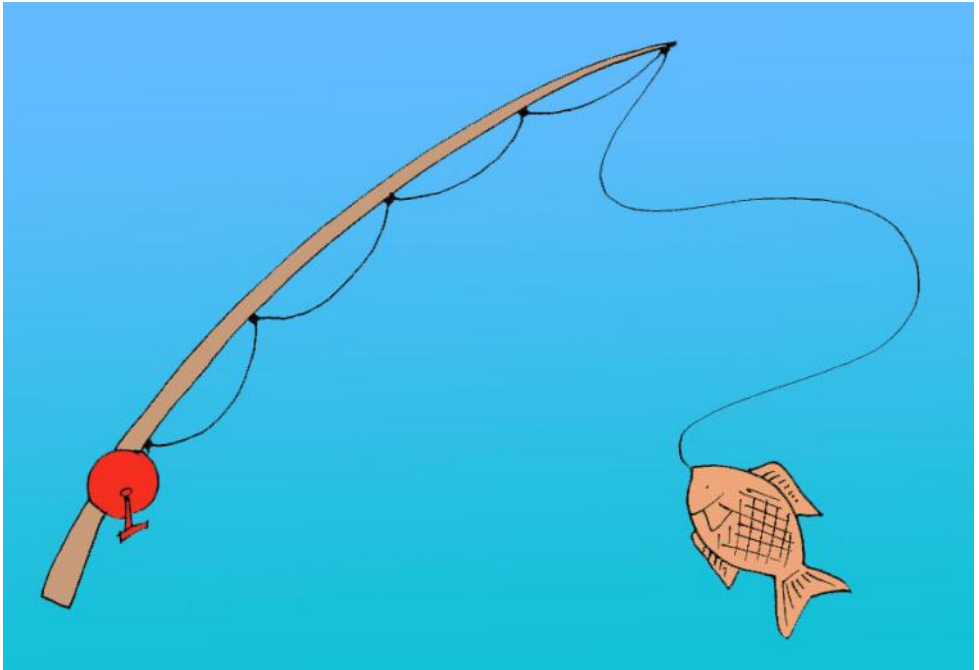


Fishing Fun

Berry Beary Kind was sitting by the lake's edge on his fold out chair, watching his fishing rod that was propped up in the dirt. It had been a long while since he'd actually caught a fish. Some of the young bears from the town had asked to go fishing, and so he had promised to take them early this morning.

It was relaxing to watch the water rippling in the gentle breeze. The children sat near the water holding their own little fishing rods. Berry Beary Kind had taught them how to cast their line and reel it in. It was good to do something that required patience and waiting, “for” as Berry Beary Kind said, “much of life will be spent waiting for this or that to work out, or waiting for a turn. So this activity teaches you a skill that will help you a lot—especially as you grow older.”





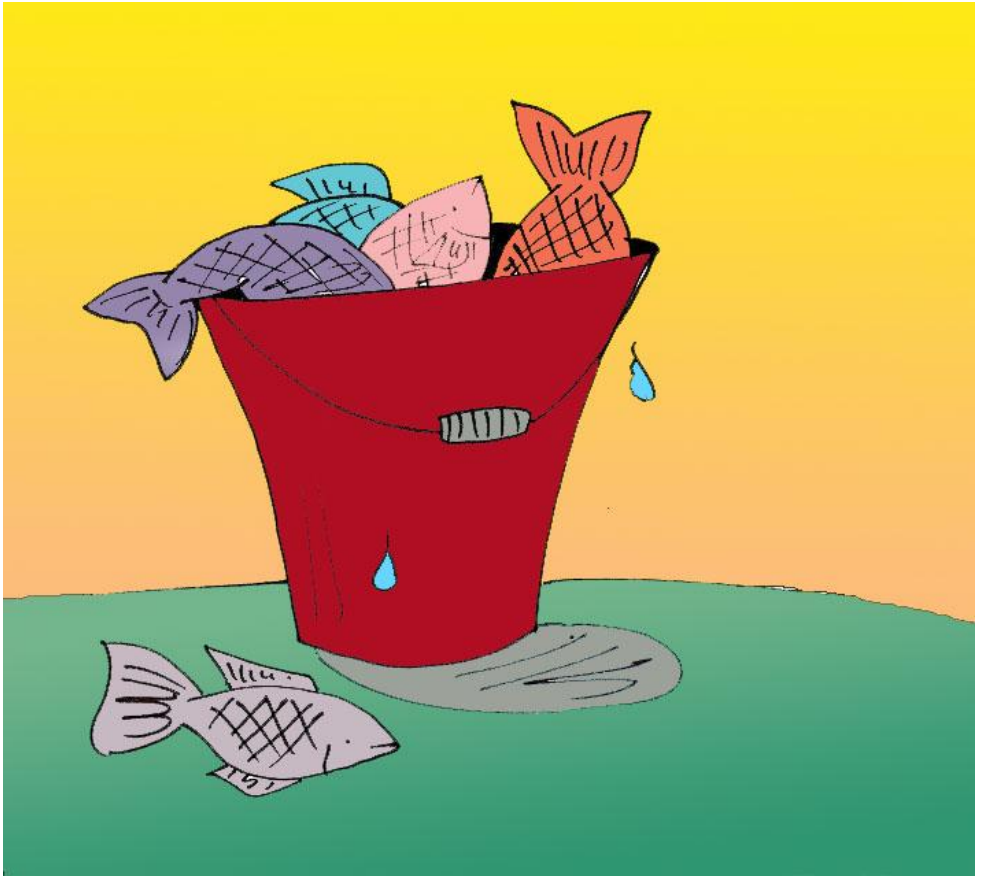
After they had been there for an hour, the team was joined by the parents and brothers and sisters of these young bears, bringing a picnic breakfast.

What a fun and refreshing way to start the day.

“There is nothing like the early morning,” Berry Beary Kind would say. “The fresh smell of the morning, the easily heard songs of the birds, the quiet stillness is something I rarely like to miss.”

While they were in the middle of eating and talking together, one young bear pointed excitedly to Berry Beary Kind’s fishing rod that was still set up. The rod was bending forward and the line was wiggling. He’d caught a fish! Yea!

Quickly Berry Beary Kind went over to see what he’d caught and began to slowly reel it in.



“Wow! It’s a big one!” Berry Beary Kind said, and then put it in the bucket he’d brought for the fish they’d catch.

Just then he heard another squeal. One of the young bears who had finished eating quickly and had gone back to fishing had also just caught a fish.

“Amazing! We got two fish in about two minutes! Patience and perseverance paid off,” Berry Beary Kind said.

The young bear took his fish home then as his family left, and Berry Beary Kind gave his fish to the other family and their young bears to enjoy for their dinner.

“Even though your fishing rod didn’t catch this exact fish,” he said to the young bear who’d also been fishing with him, “you helped to fish for it too, as we were all here together helping each other. Please enjoy it!

“And thanks for coming today, it was a wonderful time,” Berry Beary Kind said as he waved good bye to the families that were then heading home with their fresh fish.

As everyone left, Berry Beary Kind sat once again on his fold out chair, enjoying the river and the rising golden sunrays. He smiled, and then laughed as he once again saw his fishing rod bobbing.

“Oh my! That’s never happened before!” Berry Beary Kind exclaimed. “Already another fish!” And it was!

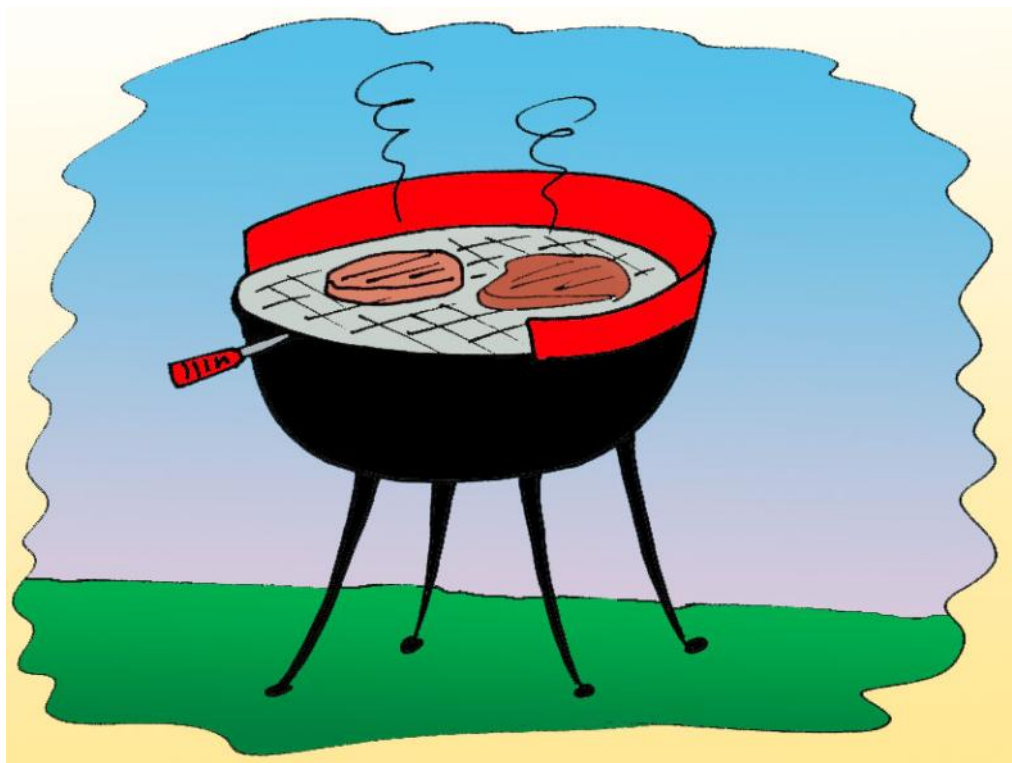
Berry Beary Kind thought, “Well, I guess it has been nearly two hours since I started fishing early this morning, but to get two fish, one after the other, is a first for me indeed.”

He placed his latest catch in his bucket while he packed up all his gear and chair and walked back to his pickup truck.

He had chosen to do this activity for the young bears that wanted it, and now he’d been given back to.

“It always pays to give to others, when you know it’s what’s best for them at the time,” Berry Beary Kind thought, as he smiled and got in his truck.

Then as he drove along he noticed a sign that said, “Barbeque here tonight, come if you want to—and bring along something to cook and share.”



“Well, I’ve got my fish, maybe I’ll visit that kind home tonight. Sounds like a bit of fun. I’ll tell Berry Beary Friendly about it, maybe he’d like to come along too,” Berry Beary Kind mused.

Sure enough he did! So at 6:00 that evening Berry Beary Kind and Berry Beary Friendly headed on their way to a fun ‘n’ friendly barbeque, with the fish of course, and a small basket of fresh veggies picked from Berry Beary Friendly’s backyard garden.

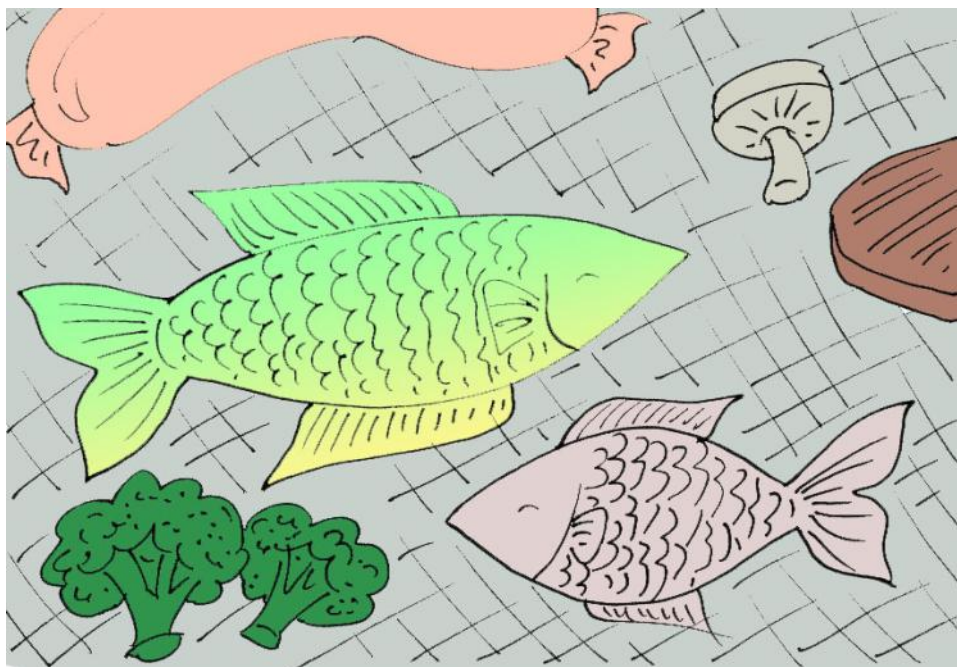
“When something good happens to one of us, it feels good to have friends to share it with—such as this food and this fish,” Berry Beary Kind said.

And that seemed to be the reason for the special barbeque that night too.

“Friends,” the host announced, “thank you all for coming to share our joy. Today we are celebrating that we’ve finished building an additional area on our house—a guest apartment--as well as this new barbeque area and veranda.

“We’re glad to have you to share this time with, and we hope to see you again some other time. Our house is a home of kindness, and we wanted to make it a place for others to visit and enjoy friendship.”

Everyone clapped and cheered.



“I just love it! When I see kindness and love going from person to person, from heart to heart, from house to house, it’s as lovely as spring flowers, and makes me so glad. It’s what makes our town the best,” Berry Beary Kind said to Berry Beary Friendly.

He nodded in agreement and off they went to prepare the food they’d brought, and share it around with others who were also sharing what they’d cooked.

Everyone had a great time and had more than enough to eat!

Berry Beary Kind drove Berry Beary Friendly home, and then went to his house.





“I better get a good sleep tonight so I can be ready for the early morning running at the track tomorrow with Berry Beary Fit. Gotta keep in good shape you know, so I can help as many as I can—and work off all that good food we ate tonight!” Berry Beary Kind said with a chuckle.

As he tucked into his bed he had one last thing to do. He pulled out his well-used Bible and read a chapter from the book of 1 Corinthians, chapter 13.

Then off his light went as he drifted to sleep thinking on the last words of the chapter, “... but the greatest of these is charity.”

Double Fun

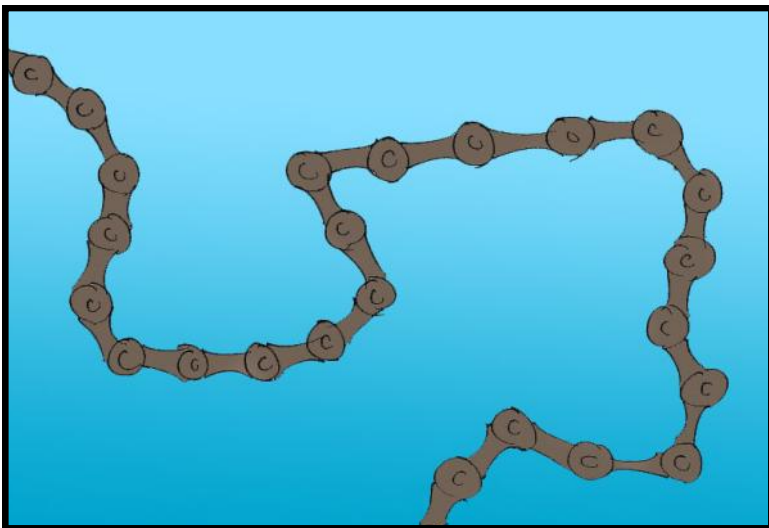
Berry Big Beary had just finished fixing the tire and chain on Berry Beary Kind's bicycle. "There you go son. It should be good to go now!" he said to his then young Berry Beary Kind.

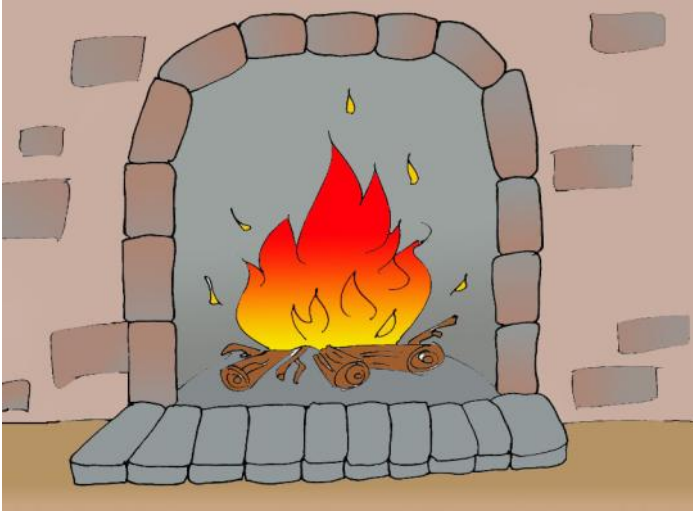
"Thanks dad!" the six-year-old Berry Beary Kind said and eagerly hopped on to give it a go.

Berry Big Beary put his arm around his wife. "You know, Berry Beary Gentle, dear, I think that boy is going to do something special when he grows up. He has lots to learn still, and has his moments of difficulty, but I just know he'll grow into a fine, strong, true 'Berry Beary Kind'."

Berry Beary Kind's mother nodded and smiled. "I think you are right," she said picking up a little Berry Bella who was tugging on her.

"And you too, my little one. All these things that you are learning today are going to help you one day when it's your turn to help others.





“You’ll remember what it was like to be young, and all the things that both were difficult and the things that you liked, and you’ll be able to help others and find joy through doing so.”

Berry Beary Gentle said aloud as she rocked her little one in a hug.

Just then a cry was heard. Berry Beary Kind had fallen off his bicycle and everyone ran over to help him. Perhaps that’s where he gained some of his skills in caring for others, because he’d been shown care when he was in need.

Berry Beary Kind was fine and was soon up riding again, and Berry Bella was up for a swing.

Knock! Knock!

The sudden knocking startled Berry Beary Kind as he woke from the little nap he’d drifted into while sitting by his fireplace this cold and stormy day. He smiled and shook his head. He’d been dreaming of his childhood.

“Time does pass quickly, and here I am all grown, and many need me,” he thought as he went to see who was at the door.

It was Jellina, her brother and mother. “Oh, hello,” he said and welcomed them in quickly from the rain.

“Come sit here near the fireplace and tell me what you have to say,” Berry Beary Kind offered.

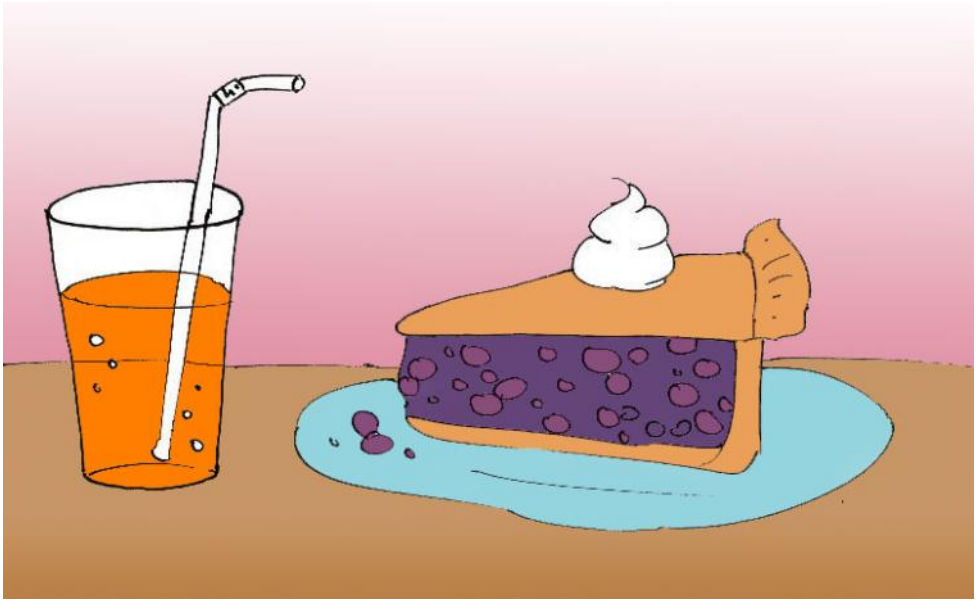
“We were on our way to the Fun-Place, you know the one that was built for fun times with our families on rainy days,” Jellina began, “and our car stopped working, right here near your house.”

Her mother added, “We hope you don’t mind this sudden, surprise visit.”

“I don’t mind at all,” Berry Beary Kind said. “Glad to have someone else to share this warm room with.”

He then spread out a thick warm blanket on the floor and brought a large box of toys for Jellina’s brother to sit there and play. He laughed and smiled when he saw the toys.





Jellina sat by the fire while Berry Beary Kind chose a nice storybook to read to her.

“I brought a snack that we were planning on eating at the Fun-Place, I could serve it up for us all right here, if you like,” Jellina’s mother said.

Berry Beary Kind thought that was a great idea, and so a delicious piece of blueberry pie was served along with some freshly made orange juice.

Jellina listened to the story read by Berry Beary Kind while her mother played on the floor with her brother. Then Jellina took a turn to play with her brother while Berry Beary Kind and her mother sang songs together with a guitar and harmonica.

Berry Beary Kind then took her little brother on his shoulders for rides around his house. He liked looking around new places.



Berry Beary Kind said, “If you like, I could drive you all to the Fun-Place, and then pick you up again afterwards to take you home. And when the storm clears I can have someone come and take a look at your car and get it going again.”

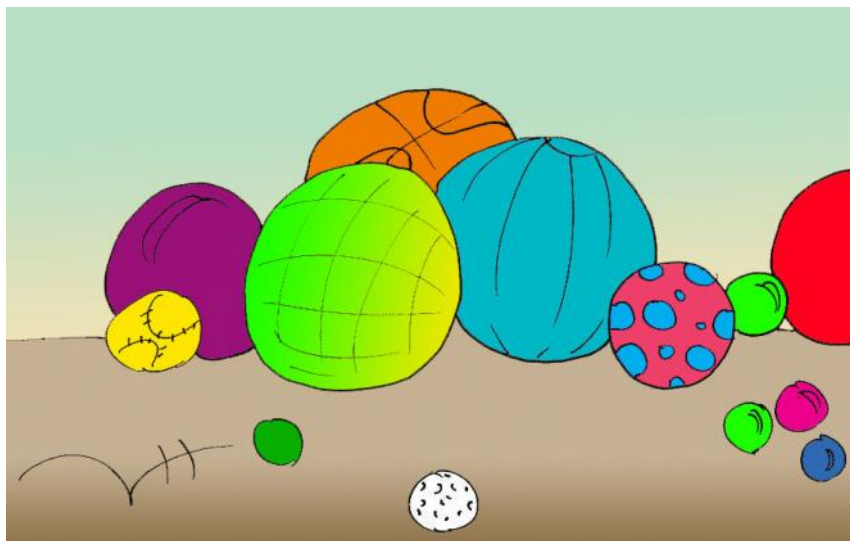
The little team of visitors smiled and thanked Berry Beary Kind repeatedly. Even the little brother gave Berry Beary Kind a hug and wave of thanks.

So into the van they went, and were soon happily playing at the Fun-Place.

“You know, mummy,” Jellina said during a pause in a game, “I thought it was a bad thing at first when our car stopped working and it seemed we wouldn’t make it here today. But it only made two fun things happened instead.”

“So you had fun at Berry Beary Kind’s house?” her mother asked.

“Oh, yes! And then we still got to come here too. It’s been a double fun day!” Jellina exclaimed, and then was off to join in the next game, while her brother was pointing excitedly to go into the room of balls!



Big balls, little balls, coloured balls, bouncy balls, and balls of all types to play with. It really was a fun day after all.

Beep! Beep!

Berry Beary Kind's alarm went off after the agreed upon one-and-a-half hours, and he was to return to the Fun-Place to pick up Jellina's family and take them home.

But just as he was leaving the house, he thought to call Berry Beary Fix-it, to see if he'd have time to check the car that wasn't working. Berry Beary Fix-it said he'd be glad to come, but was in the middle of checking on one of the town's solar-powered buses, as the windscreen wipers stopped working. Berry Beary Fix-it would be at Berry Beary Kind's house as soon as he could.

Berry Beary Kind headed off to the Fun-Place and played with the families there a bit before taking Jellina's family home. Everyone liked to have Berry Beary Kind around. Playing games with someone that makes sure you have fun makes for a great time.

As Jellina looked out the van’s window while they neared their house she saw something that surprised her. “Mummy, Mummy! There’s our car! It’s at our house!”

Mother looked puzzled, but Berry Beary Kind saw that down the road a tow-truck was driving away.

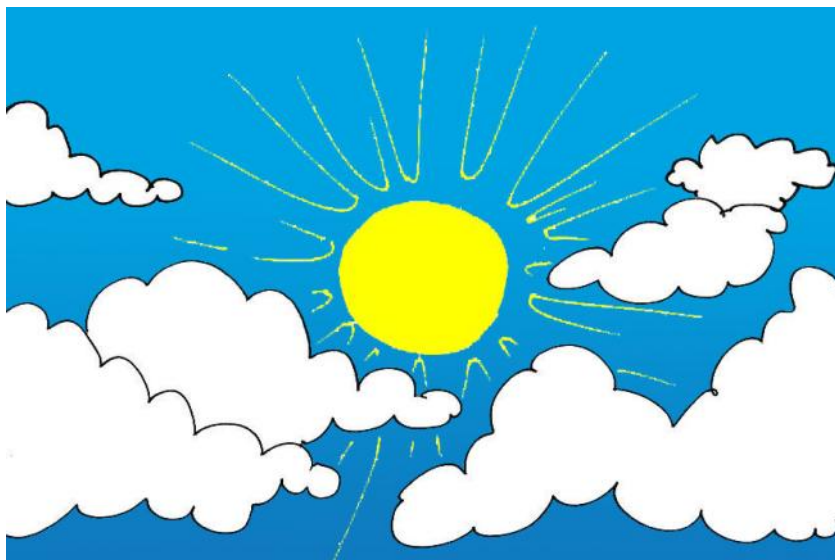
“Ah!” he said. “I called Berry Beary Fix-it to have a look at your car. I guess he’s towed it here for now, so it’s here with you.”

When they got out of the van they noticed a note on the car.

“I’ll be back in the morning to take a look at it. -- Berry Beary Fix-it.”

The sun had begun to shine now as well, and the storm clouds were blowing away. A patch of blue sky could be seen, getting bigger by the minute.

It had been a wonderful day—because wonderful folks were willing to show kindness and care anytime and anywhere, and have fun doing it.



*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.*