

Berry Beary Kind

Book 12

Courtesy and Caring



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

Imaginary Stories

Berry Beary Kind

–Book 12–

Courtesy and Caring

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Berry Beary Queen**

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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.

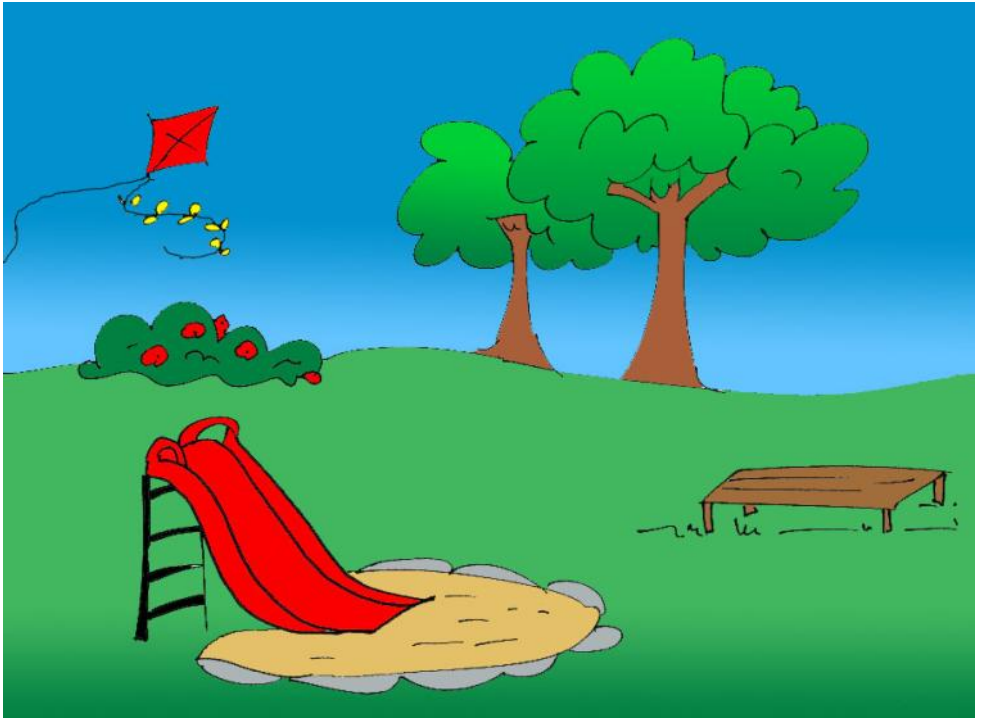
“You see, we all like to be happy and have a good time, but most importantly we like to make sure that the others around us are feeling even happier than we are! We all just love to see how many smiles we can create on others, through doing all we can to show love and kindness,” Berry Beary Kind said.

“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’ Grumpy’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 favour, please?” Berry Beary Kind asked.

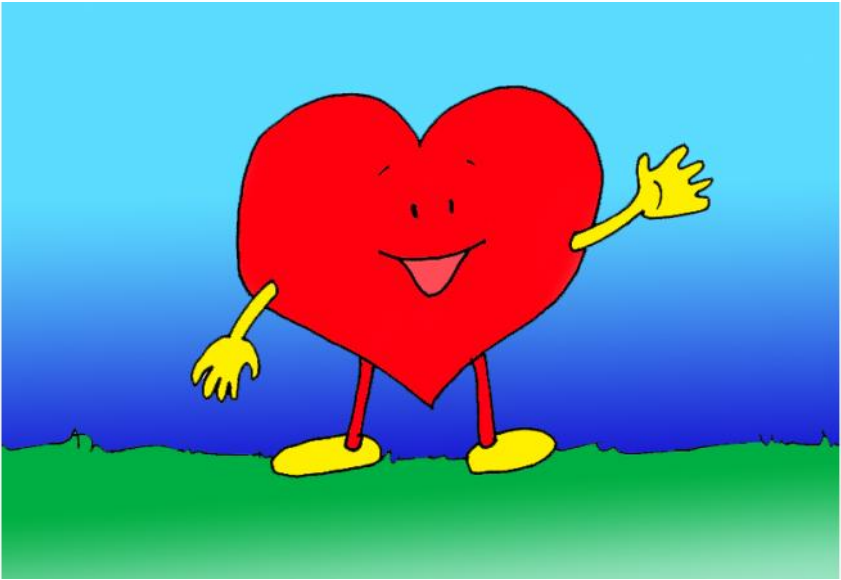
“Sure...okay. I’d like to talk with you tomorrow... and what do you need me to help you with?” Berry Glum ‘n’ Grumpy wondered.



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.

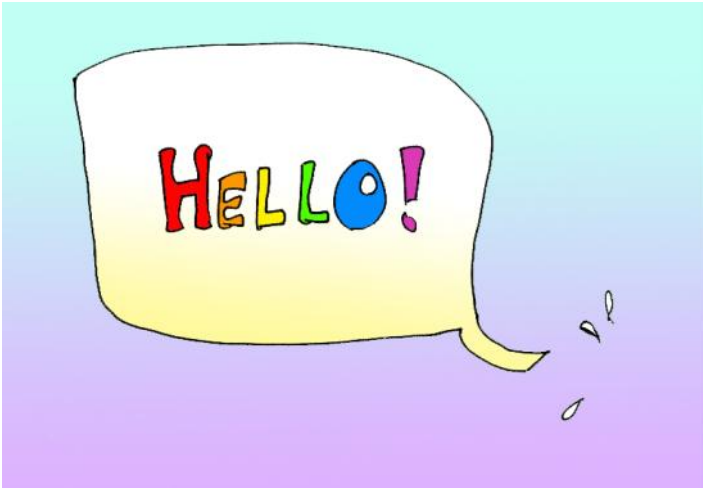


Berry Beary Kind said goodbye, and gave him a little map showing where to find his house for their appointment the next day.

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 realised 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.

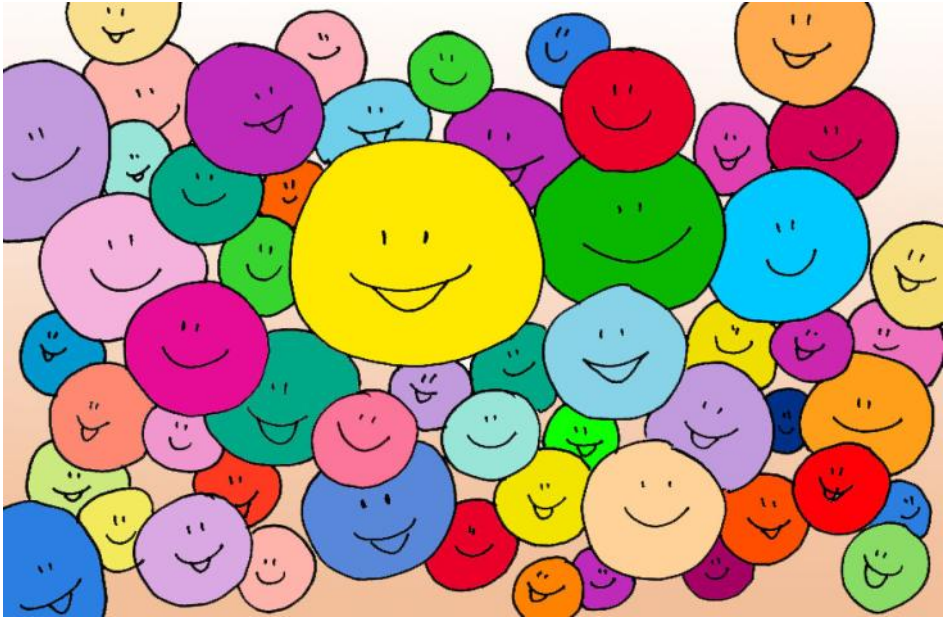
“Well, when I was trying to encourage others and to be a friend, I seemed to forget about my sad feelings. And yes, I think I would like to be called, ‘Berry Beary Friendly’—for that is what I want to be!”

“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 get’s 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:

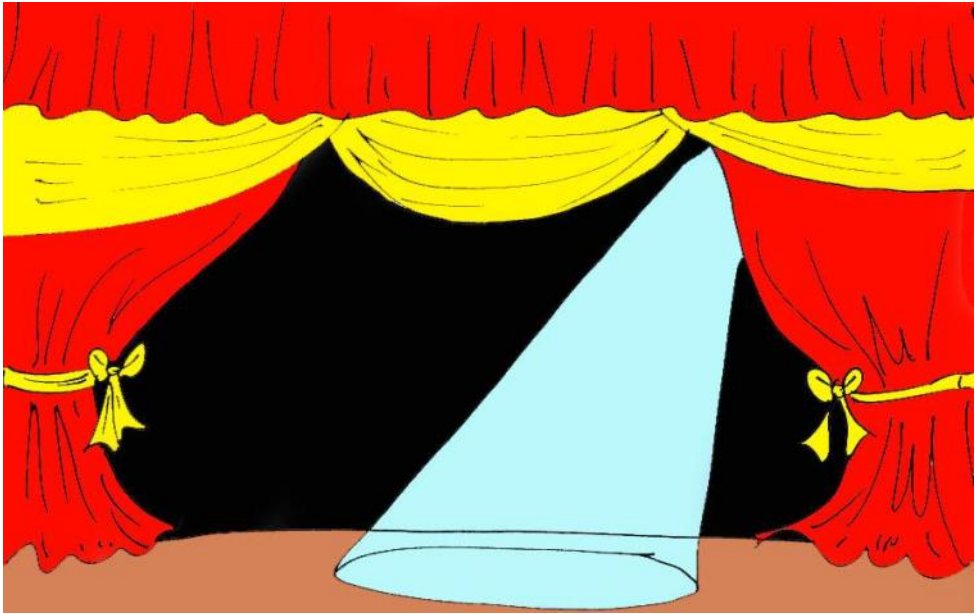
- **Always stop to help someone in need—being too busy to help will eventually make you feel lonely and sad.**
- **Others want to have a chance to talk about their lives and experiences. They often just need someone to listen to them. Be a good listener—listening more than you talk yourself.**
- **When 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 favour, 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 favourite. 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!



Berry Beary King and Berry Beary Queen

The children of the town had all been invited to watch the play. It was being shown in the large theatre room where special performances were held. And at a certain time each year, towards the end of summer, is when the biggest show was put on. It was a time when people had more time to practice and invest in this stage performance. Several folks of the town had practiced together for the show. It was a time to entertain the children.

The lights were dimmed, and the curtains were closed. The actors were behind the curtain getting ready for the opening scene. All was quiet. Then the lights shone on the stage, the curtains were opened, and the music began to play.

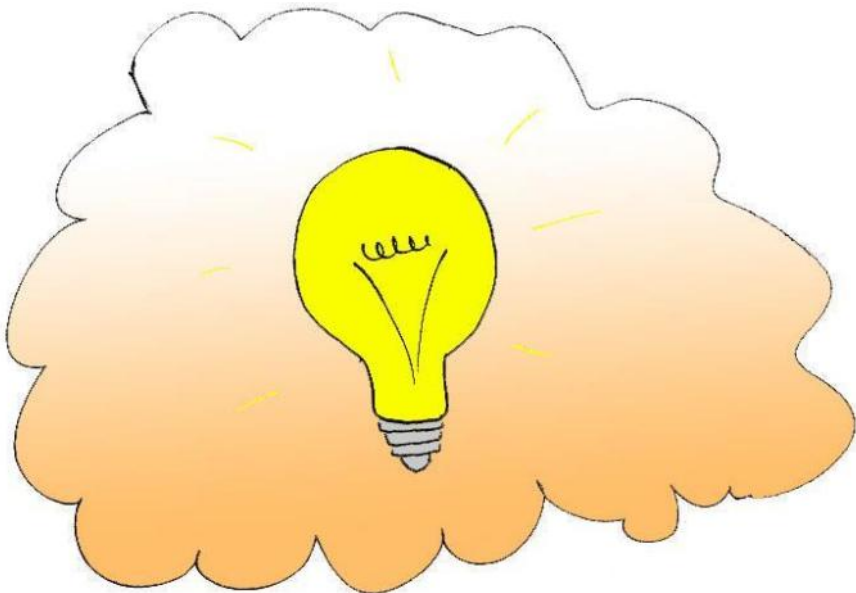
It was a scene of a king and a queen sitting on their thrones, being visited by a messenger. He was dressed in colourful clothes, and bowed low before addressing their majesties.

“Your royal highnesses,” the messenger began, “The people of Berry Busy Town are in need of patience, of love, of caring for others. I have here several examples written out, to bring to your majesties’ attention.”

And the messenger read some of the ways people were reacting in town, being too busy to help others, or feeling their job getting done was more important than someone else’s.

When the messenger was finished reading, and presenting the situation to the king and queen, he bowed and left the court. The king and queen took a moment quietly to ponder what had been expressed, before speaking.

“It seems something needs to be done,” the king expressed. “And I think I have an idea,” added the queen, with a twinkle in her eyes.

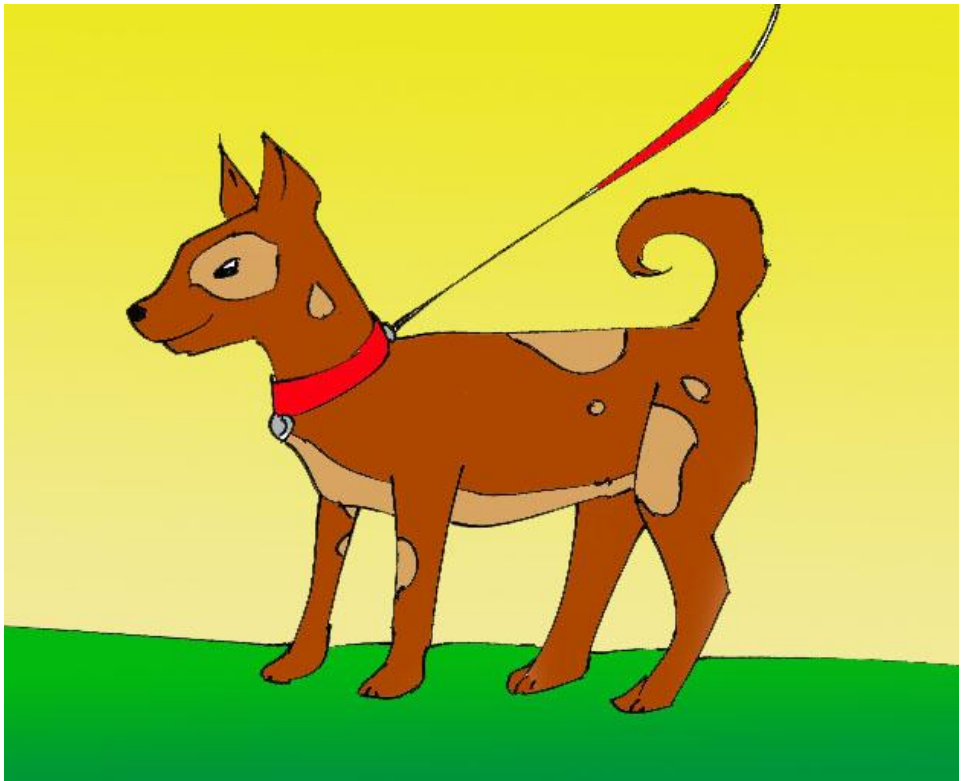


The curtains were closed again for a new scene to be prepared. The children sat wondering what was coming next.

When the stage curtains were opened, it was a scene of a busy road, with street vendors, people walking here and there, maids carrying loads of clothing and shopping, boys taking their dogs for a walk, and so forth.

Then there was a blind man, trying to make his way down the street, tapping his way with a cane.

“Can someone please help me to cross the street?” he’d call out. But most people were either too busy to notice, or were hoping someone else would help, so they could keep doing what they were doing.



Finally, a poor beggar, who had to use a crutch to walk, and was sitting there asking the busy town folks for some coins, struggled to his feet. He knew what it felt like to be unable to get around like the others, and how it felt to have most people be too busy to help. So as best as he could, the beggar hobbled over and called out to the blind man.

“I’ll help you across, if I can. You see, I can’t walk well, but at least I can see. And I thank God for that. I am very fortunate.”

And so the two made their way safely to the other side.

“Thank you so very much!” said the blind man to the beggar.

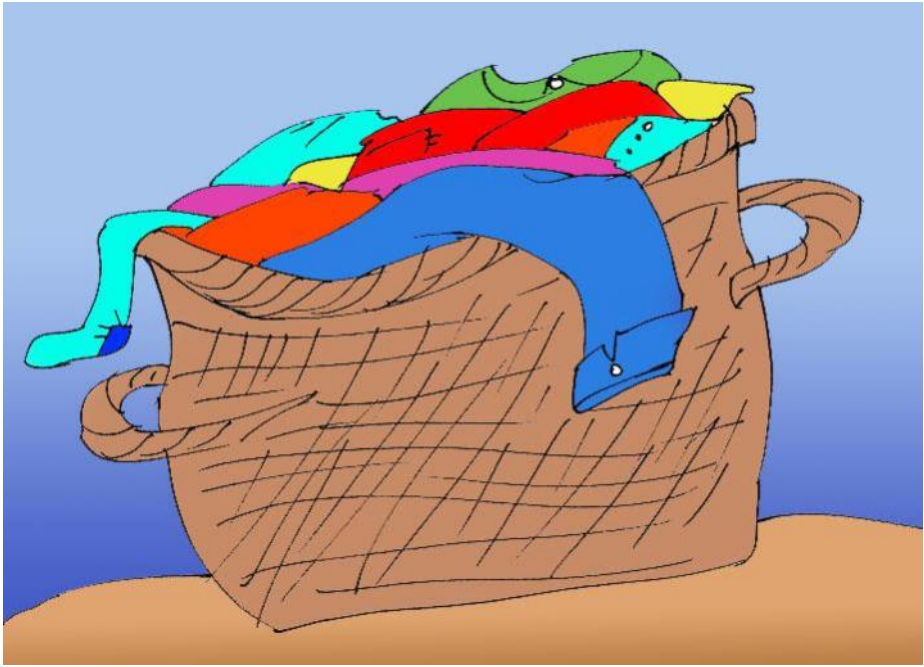
“You’ve been very kind, even though it took a greater effort than it might have taken someone else. What is your name?” he asked.

“Sir Gallant,* is my name. And I try to live up to it,” answered the kind beggar.

“So you do, so you do—you are most gallant. I shall remember you,” replied the blind man, and off he was to make his way down the next road.



(*Gallant: attentive and polite)



Meanwhile a maid was struggling with a heavy load—a basket full of laundry on her head. She was taking it to the washing place. But it was far too much to carry alone. Still it needed to be done, and once again it seemed most folks around were either too busy to notice, or didn't want to take the time. They all had "very important" things to do.

Then it happened. Her load fell and spilled on the side of the road, right in a muddy place. "Oh, dear! At least someone may help me now. It sure is obvious that I can't manage on my own," she must have been thinking, as she looked around. But people just rushed on by, some even stepping over the pile as they kept on their way. When she was nearly done placing everything back in the basket, a kind lady passed near—and stopped! Yes, stopped to see how she was getting on.

The lady was a mother, with a little child she was pulling in a wagon. There were three other children walking beside. “We can help, children, can’t we?” she asked her team.

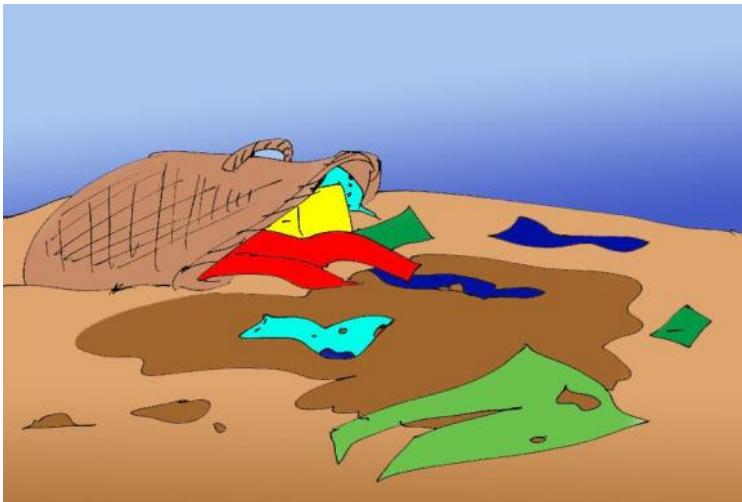
The mother picked up the littlest one and offered the wagon to the maid to put her load on and pull it the rest of the way. But the older children thought it fun, and they decided to do the pulling, while the younger girl held the maid’s hand and offered a kind word, “You look pretty today,” she said, to a very surprised maid.

“That’s so kind of you to say! Thank you little girl,” the maid answered.

Then the team of helpers and the maid, and the mother who was carrying the toddler, arrived at the washers.

“Here you go, ma’am,” the older boys said, unloading the basket from the wagon.

“You’ve all been so very kind to me. Thank you very, very much!” the grateful maid said. “And what is your name, ma’am?” she asked the mother.



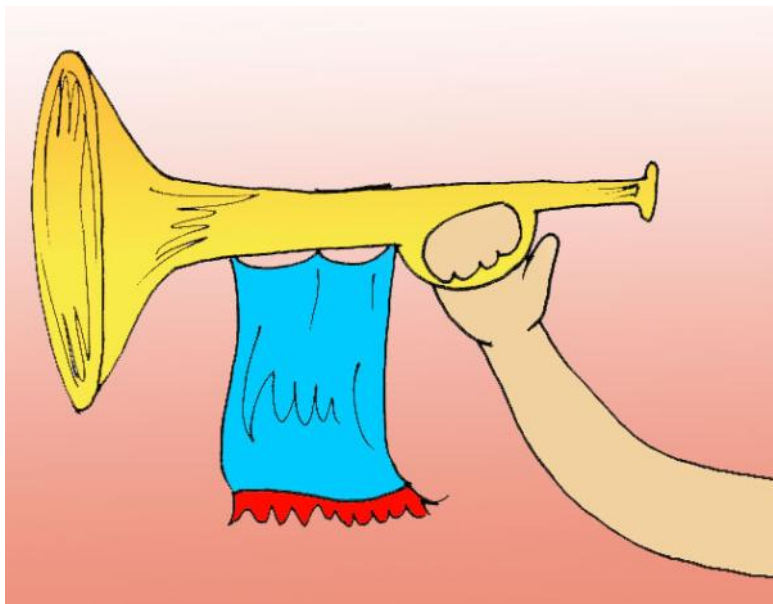
“Lady-Love is my name,” and bid the maid farewell, as she placed the child once again in the wagon, and carried on down the road.

“Someone who probably needed help herself, stopped to give me a helping hand,” smiled the maid.

The curtains were once again drawn, to prepare the final scene. When they were opened it was of the town square, and people all standing, gathered around, as a royal trumpet was announcing the coming of the king and queen.

A place had been prepared for them to sit, where all could see and hear them. And a fancy carpet was laid on the ground for them to walk on as they made their way to their seats. When all was quiet, the king began to address the citizens of Berry Busy Town.

“Today is a day to honour some amazing people!” the king announced.

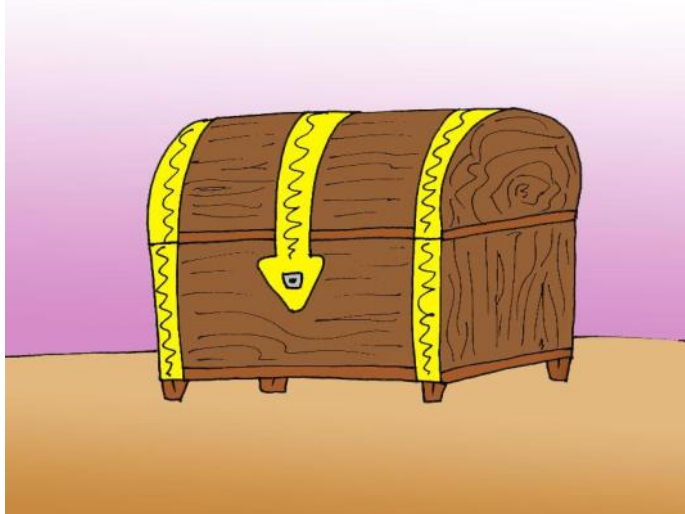


Everyone wondered who it would be, each one thinking no doubt about what great jobs they had been doing—Were they not good at their jobs, and did them well, never letting anything hinder or distract them? “Surely it will be me,” many must have thought.

Just then the beggar had finally made his way through the crowd, and into a place where he could see the king and queen. It took him longer than most folks, as it was a struggle to take each step. And of course no one wanted to miss a second with the king and queen, so no one helped him. But he had made it in good timing.

A few frowns were shown his way as no one really wanted a poor and dirty beggar near them either. But their attention was back on the king again.

The king said he’d call out the names of those to be honoured and given a reward, and they were to step forward, and the queen would give it to them. There was a chest near the queen, filled with what, no one knew. But they were soon to find out.





“Could Sir Gallant draw near please!” the request was heard. No one knew who it was, because no one had taken the time to talk and ask that beggarly man what his name was.

A very surprised man hobbled with his crutches up to the throne. The queen put a ribbon and medal of honour around his neck. A chair was given so he could sit, while the king told everyone about how kind Sir Gallant was, helping others in need—such as a blind man to cross the street.

“I was that blind man!” said the king.

The crowd was shocked, and dismayed. Indeed they had been too busy to notice or to help—and had missed the reward.

“From now on,” the king announced, “He is to be no longer a beggar—but a man of high esteem.” And the queen pulled out from the chest several new sets of clothes, a special wagon was brought, made especially for him to get around easier in.



A bag of gold coins was entrusted to him.

And the king continued,

“Because you have been kind to others, you will have a place to work—and this money is for you to invest in helping others. All who wish to join you may do so. You will be known as the kindest man in town, and your job is to teach others to be the same, and to help in all the ways you can.”

Sir Gallant was in awe, and a large smile was on his face. It seemed too good to be true!

“Mummy! There’s the king and the queen!” A child’s voice seemed to ring out above all the chatter, of folks talking about what was just awarded to the former “beggar”.

“Let’s quietly listen and see what’s going on, and what they want to tell us all,” Mother instructed her children. They too had just arrived, as it took them longer to walk, with all that needed to be cared for, with their baby and family.

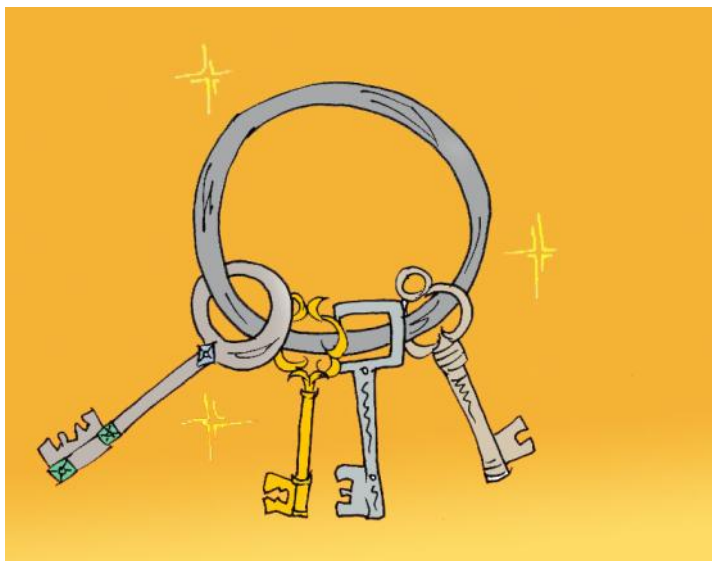
It was the queen's turn to speak.

"I spent a day dressed as a maid, and needed help. Not one person came to help me—that is until Lady-Love and her lovely children saw my plight, and came to my aid," the queen said.

Lady-Love could hardly believe her ears, and she blushed a little. "Please come forward!" the queen said.

The children and their mother took steps towards the thrones. But they didn't have to walk too far, as the queen got off her throne and walked to greet them.

She gave them each a hug and said, "Thank you so much. You are such a good example for all to follow. And because of your kindness, and so all will know that we appreciate kindness and helping others, more than any other skill or trait, here are a set of keys. —Keys to a nice country cottage. It's a house big enough for your family, and there is lots of country space for the children to run and explore and enjoy," the queen said.



“I ... I don’t know what to say...” Lady-Love stammered. “Uh... thank you so much, your Majesty!” and the children gave the queen another hug and thanked her as well.

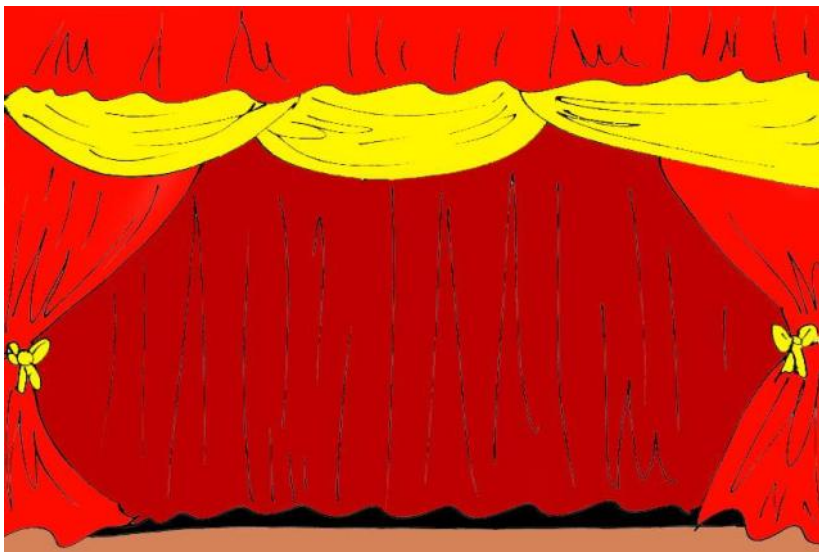
When the queen was seated once again, the king addressed the crowd. “And from this point on I declare that this town shall be no longer called ‘Berry Busy Town’, but instead: ‘Kind Heart Town’!”

All the townsfolk cheered! They liked that, and liked what their town was going to be like, once everyone learned that love was the most important thing!

The curtains were drawn, the play was over. All the children applauded!

Berry Beary Kind stood up to close in a short speech: “I’m glad our town is continuing to work together to make it the kindest town we can be. Thank you for all you do to make it so.”

Everyone left, with smiles and a renewed joy to help one another.



*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.*