



Enthusiastic Help

“Whoa! I don’t know how to stop it!” cried Farmer Beary. The sink in his shed was overflowing. The drain had gotten jammed, all the while the tap broke in the “on” position and was pouring out water. Now the sink was running over with dirty water, all over the floor of his shed.

Suddenly, in walked Berry Beary Kind. It was perfect timing. “Could these be a help to you?” he called out, handing Farmer Beary a wrench and a pair of pliers.

Sometimes in the jolting moment of something-gone-wrong it was hard to think straight. Sometimes the solution was simple, but hard to notice because of the calamity of the moment.

Farmer Beary quickly grabbed the offered tools and first using one and then the other was able to get what was left of the tap to turn off.

Whew! The crises was stalled, for now at least.

Wading through the wet mess, Berry Beary Kind looked around to quickly spot what might be at risk of damage on the floor. He saw a wooden crate filled with hay. It was the freshly collected eggs from the many chickens that morning.

Berry Beary Kind picked it up and placed it gently on the table. A roll of wire was also on the floor. It could get rusty. Berry Beary Kind shook it off and wiped it the best he could with a rag that was hanging near the sink, and placed it on the window sill to dry off.

Besides a pair of socks soaking in the puddle, not too much else was really wet. Those he hung up to dry on a laundry line strung up in the shed.

Meanwhile, with the rushing water having been stopped, Farmer Beary could think more calmly. "First I'll go and turn off the water tap that leads to the shed, so the tap can be fixed soon. Then I'll use the plunger to try to unblock the drain. When the water has drained, I'll unscrew the part of the pipe that is under the sink that gotten filled with this and that. I'll get it all cleared out."

It was good to have a friend there for him in his moment of distress. Although he did have those very tools also, not too far from the sink, he just couldn't think about it at the time. "Thanks for helping me out!" Farmer Beary said to Berry Beary Kind.

"Glad I came by right at this time. I was just dropping by to see how things were going, and to see if you needed any help to load up the fresh produce for the market that takes place early tomorrow morning. I know it's always a big job, and you like to have things all ready the afternoon before," Berry Beary Kind said.

Farmer Beary was thankful all over again for a friend that gave his time to help others.

“I guess you just never know who we’ll need you, and what you’ll encounter when you go out to help others,” Farmer Beary said. “It’s good to have you here. With this sink in need of fixing, all at the same time when the fresh produce needed to be packed up and loaded, it was a bit much for me to manage all at once.”

Berry Beary Kind thought for a moment, wondering how to be the best help. Then he made a quick call on his phone.

“Don’t worry about the sink. I’ll have it taken care of, and any other things that are in need of fixing. For now, let’s go and work on preparing the produce for the market,” said Berry Beary Kind.

Farmer Beary wondered what Berry Beary Kind had in mind for “fixing up things” around his farm, the sink included. But he got to work and would let himself be surprised later on. It was fun having someone else take care of things every now and then.

After two and a half hours, all the crates and boxes, baskets and needed accessories, such as fold out tables, shopping bags and a food weighing scale, were all loaded into Farmer Beary’s truck and trailer.

“All set to go! And ready in record timing!” Farmer Beary said. He thanked Berry Beary Kind, and was walking him to his vehicle, when he noticed a van just pulling up the long driveway.

Berry Beary Kind gave a smile with a twinkle in his eye said, “I think everything is going to work out just fine.”

Just as Berry Beary Kind was pulling out, a colourful and fun looking van pulled up to park. Out piled a van load of jolly and laughing Wonderbears!

They looked ready, from head to toe, for doing anything that needed doing; fixing anything that needed fixing, inside the house, or out around the farm. There were not only ready, but eager. Not only eager, but happily so.

Big bear hugs were exchanged, hearty back pats, and numerous handshakes all around.

So for the remainder of the afternoon, and into the evening—and first thing in the morning—this helpful team worked tirelessly to tend to every broken tap, each weakening fence, each squeaking door, washed every dish and cleaned every floor they could find. Crops were watered, wood was chopped, garden beds weeded, animal pens cleaned and fixed up, and more.

By the time Farmer Beary had to leave for the market the next day, the Wonderbears, who slept in tents around their van, were ready to leave as well.

They had just finished their last things around the farm, and would eat a piece of fruit or two for their breakfast as they drove away—ready to be of some help somewhere else.

Before they left, Farmer Beary thanked them heartily for all their cheerful, enthusiastic help, and gave them a bag of fresh veggies, a jar of honey, and a freshly baked pie. It was a marvellous surprise to have the Wonderbears helping out, and was just what he needed to perk him up and give him the encouragement for a long day at the market. It felt like a load was taken off his mind, with so many things being taken care of, so quickly.

Off Farmer Beary whistled, as he got into his truck, on his way to be a help to others now, with the good fresh supplies that the town folks depended on.

When Farmer Beary saw Berry Beary Kind at the market later on in the day, he asked, “How did you know that having the Wonderbears visit me was just the thing that I’d really appreciate?”

Berry Beary Kind was at Farmer Beary’s stall with his younger brother, picking out the foods they’d like to use that week. He looked up.

“Aha! Well, it was the Wonderbears actually that suggested it. They’ve been in town for the past few days, and wondered who they could help, who really needed the help the most. One of them asked if any help was needed at your farm.

When I visited you that day, I was there to help, and also to see if there were things the Wonderbears could help with. And, so there was! I simply phoned to let them know that the light was green, and it would be great if they could come on over.

“ I think many of them have worked on farms, and so they knew pretty much what types of things often needed tending to and fixing up. I’m glad to hear that it was a great help to you! I’m very pleased indeed!” Berry Beary Kind explained.

Farmer Beary replied, “And thanks to you, for visiting me to check on the situation, I’ve had a great day so far, and don’t feel half as tired as I might have been, if I had to do all that on my own. Now I can use my time this afternoon building the tree house I’ve wanted to for so long.”

“A treehouse?” Berry Beary Kind asked, wondering what that plan was for.

“Yes, a treehouse for children to play in when they come for a visit. It’s just part of the plan. But I’m creating a play area on the farm so that families that wish to learn more about farming can drop by and enjoy a pleasant time.

The older ones might even like to help out a bit around the farm. I will appreciate the help, and they will enjoy the change of scenery.

It’s something I can do for the children and young people of Berry Beary Town,” Farmer Beary expressed.”

“But you already do so much for us all,” Berry Beary Kind said.

“Yes, but there’s always new ideas and ways to expand to make things yet a bit better. Just one new little step at a time is all we can do, and it’s what we should do,” said Farmer Beary, as he continued helping other customers, and waved good-bye to Berry Beary Kind.

He was glad that because he had been helped, it was helping him to make something new, something nice, for others. It was always fun to have a new project to work on—and not to be too tired to do it—thanks to others who gave of their time and strength to help out.

Berry Beary Kind Series:
www.nurture-inspire-teach.com