



A Cherry Picker Just in Time

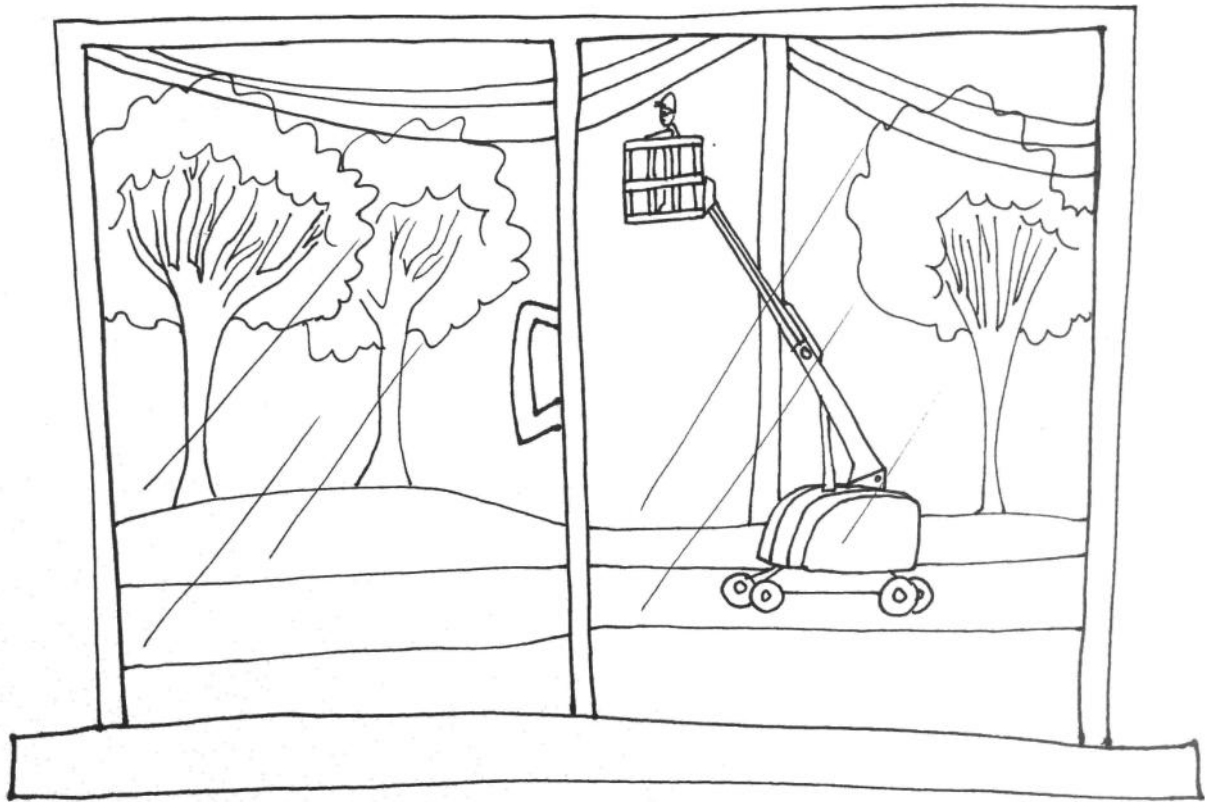
NED—16

A Cherry Picker Just in Time

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Illustrated by Fleur Celeste

Dedicated to my three wonderful boys!

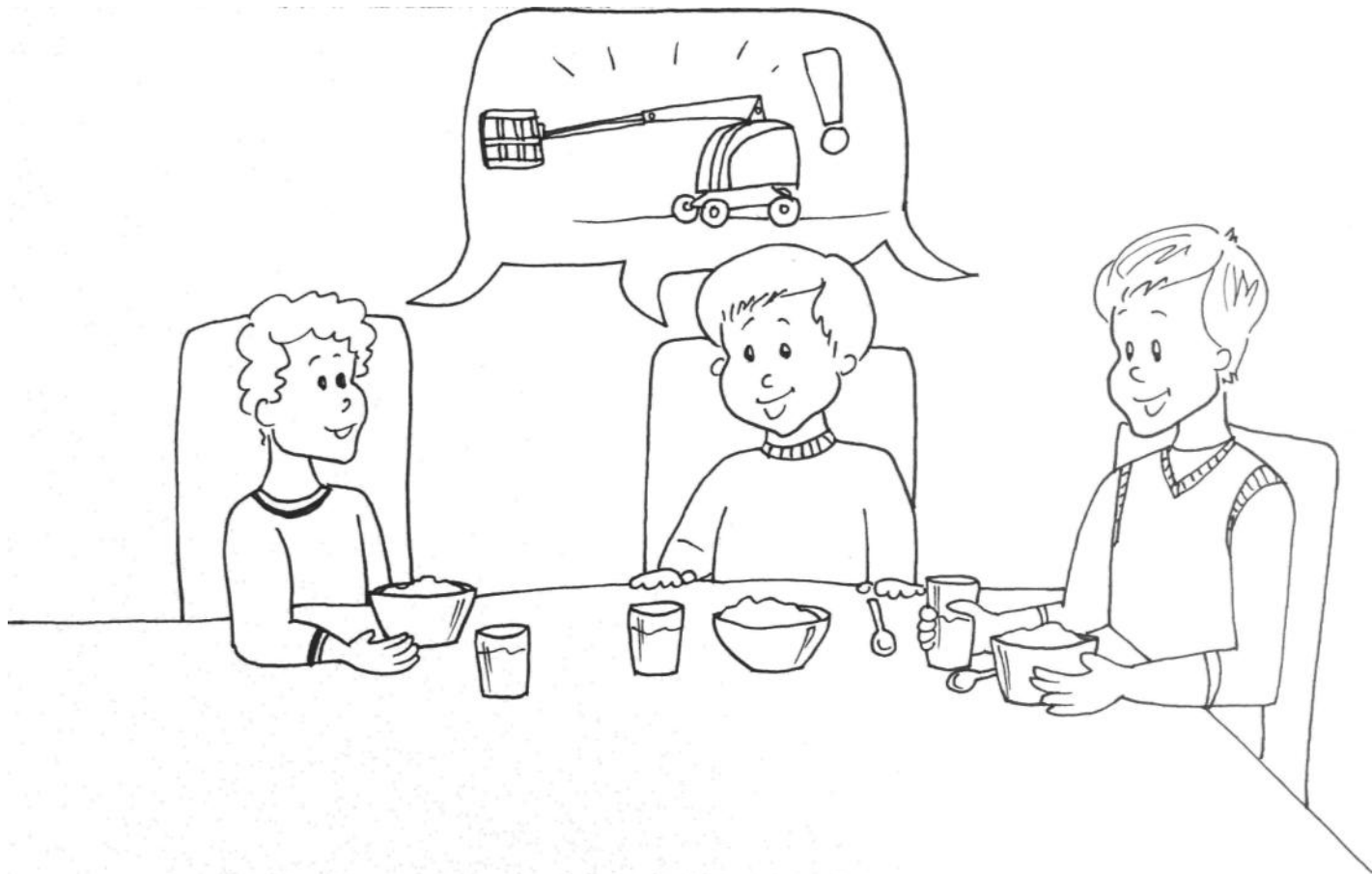


It had been stormy weather lately, and when it got like this, often the electricity would go off.

That morning the cold wind blew outside while the family was eating their breakfast.

When Ned and Tony glanced over to the window, they saw a cherry picker driving down the road. It stopped not too far away.

Teddy heard them exclaim, and got interested.



“Can we go see it, please? Can we watch what the men are doing?”

The boys were bursting with excitement, nearly forgetting they were having breakfast.

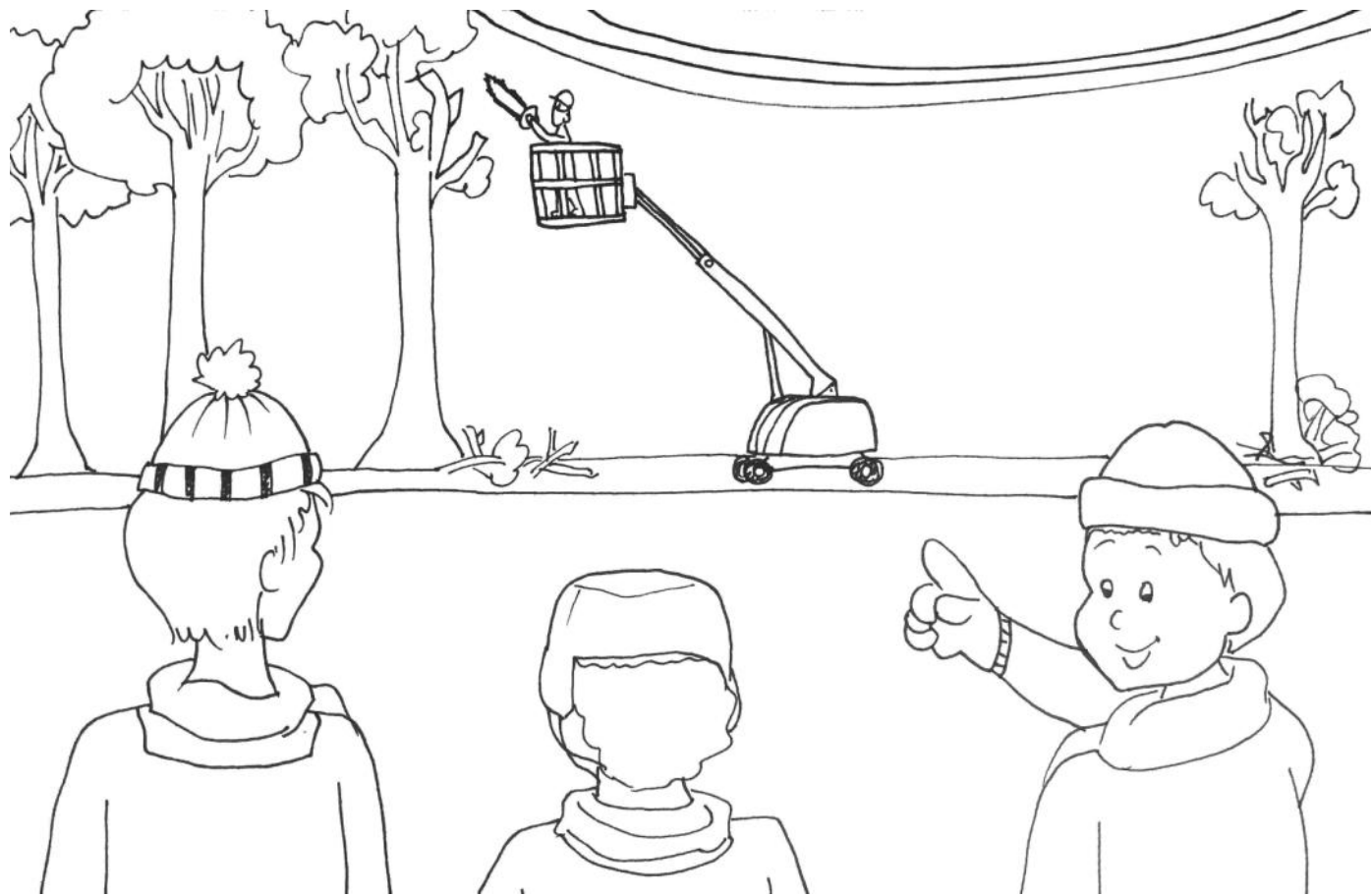
“Sure, let’s take walk down the sidewalk. But after your food is done. And we’ll need to put on our hats and coats. It’s cooold outside!” their mother said.



The boys were finished in no time, and wasted none either getting ready for their chilly walk. They didn't want to miss one second of this adventure, if they could help it.

With warm jackets on they walked out to a place they could clearly and safely watch what was going on.

The long arm of the cherry picker was extended way up high, and it appeared the man in the bucket of the cherry picker was holding a chainsaw.



He had on safety glasses, a helmet, gloves and ear muffers. The sound of the chainsaw would be loud for him. The wind was blowing the leaves and branches of the tree he was nearby in his cherry picker.

“What’s he trying to do?” Tony asked.

“I think he’s cutting the tree branches that are getting too near the power lines. He’s helping to make things more safe and secure for those living here. If one of these stormy nights the wind blows hard enough, it might knock a branch down on the wires and put our out lights for while, until it gets fixed.”



After a while, Ned said,

“Speaking of wind, I’m getting rather cold out here, can we please go back now?”

After watching for a few last minutes, the job of the man in the cherry picker was done anyway— at least there where they were watching.

The bucket was lowered, and the man got out. The boys waved a “good-bye” and headed back to the house.



Later in the day, Daddy had to go out, but when he came back he held a bag with something interesting in it.

“Can you guess what I have in here?” Daddy said, showing the boys a bag.

Wondering if it was some new toy vehicle, they tried to reach for it, but Daddy was taller and for fun held it up high. The boys laughed as they tried to jump up to get it.

“I think we need a cherry picker to get that bag!” Tony said. “Yes!” replied Ned, as they continued jumping.

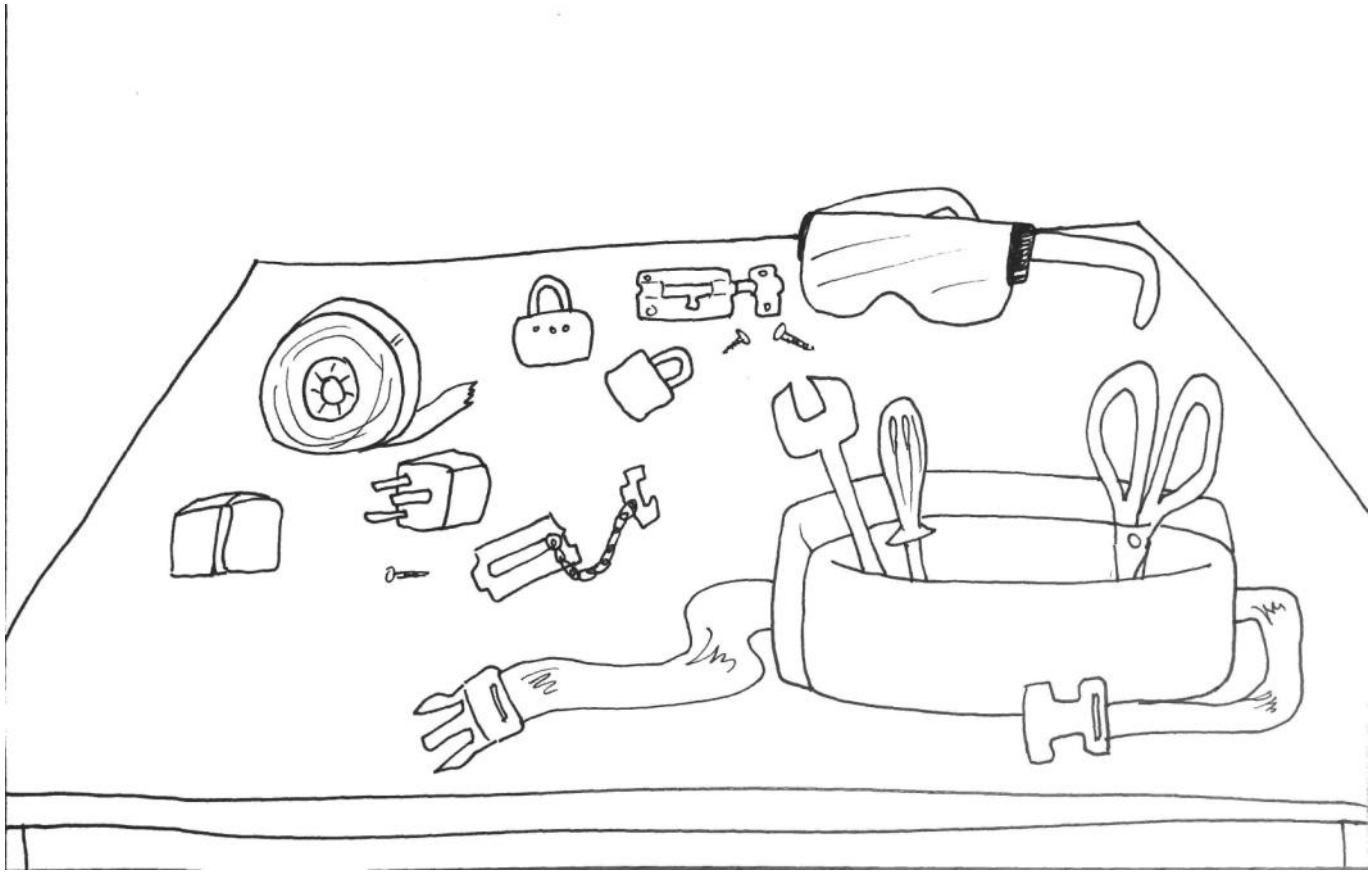


“Well, before I show you what’s in here, I have a question for you. Why was the man in the cherry picker?”

The boys answered about the power lines, and the branches and the whole situation with storms.

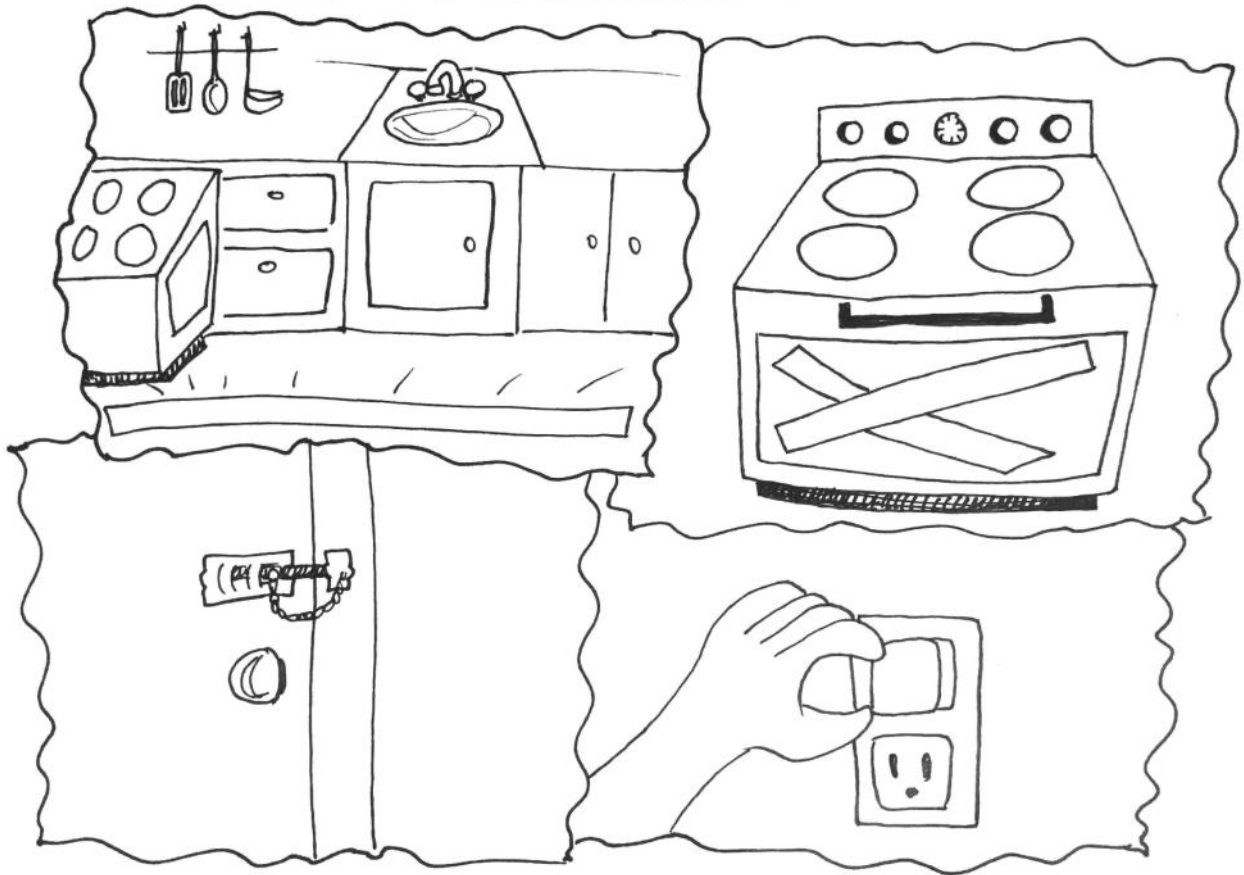
“So it was to prevent something from happening. It wasn’t fixing a problem that was wrong, but helping to stop something from happening that wouldn’t be good.”

“Okay, so there’s a clue,” Daddy said with a smile, while sitting down.



The boys came over to look. In the bag was a roll of red tape, some electrical socket plugs, some door locks, and a few odds and ends of handyman supplies.

“I think it’s time to get on our handyman pouches, put on our hardhats and protective glasses, and get to work on securing things around the house, to make it safer,” said Daddy, calling his team into action.



The boys and Daddy spent a fun time looking around the house and marking with the red tape things that were “off limits” for them to touch, and were dangerous.

They even put a line of tape in the kitchen on the floor to show where the stove area was, so care would be taken not to run there without looking and making sure it was safe.

The electrical sockets were covered with the plastic plugs, and other odds and ends of safety hazards were fixed.



“Great job, team!” said a pleased daddy.

“Now the next step is to follow the guidelines that we marked around the house, as well as follow other safety tips we’ve talked about.”

Happy to have a safer house, the boys put their hats and pouches away, put on their outdoor running shoes. They were off for a good play outside with daddy, now that the sun had just started to shine again!

