

NED—22

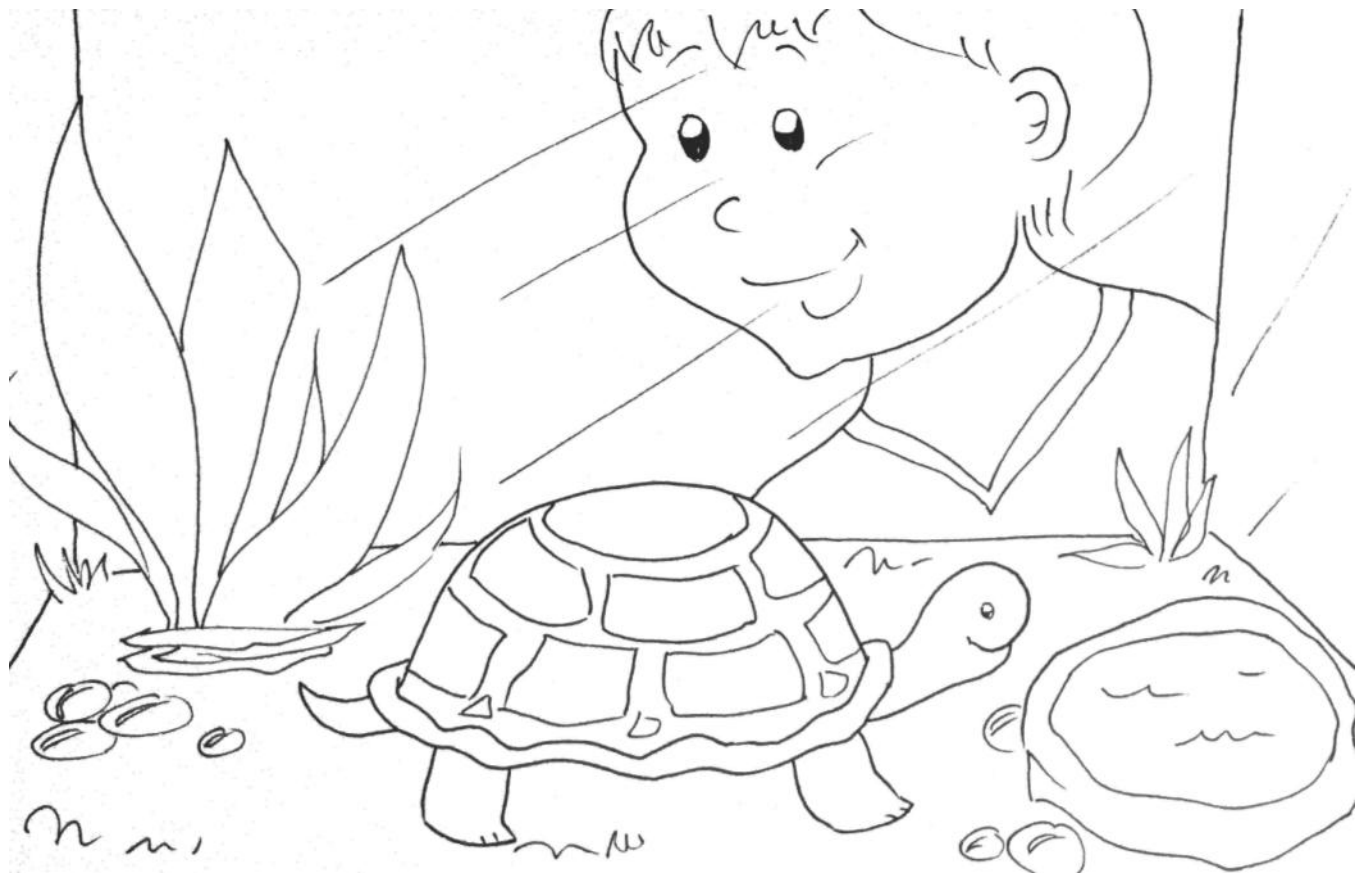
A Pet Called Terty

A Pet Called Tarty

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Dedicated to my three wonderful boys!



Ned had a little pet and his name was Torty. It was a green tortoise. Ned, Tony, Teddy, Mother and daddy needed to go on a trip for one week. Ned was sitting down feeling a little sad one day. Mother came and sat beside him. “What’s the matter, Ned?”

Ned said, “I don’t want to leave Torty. Can I bring him? I’m afraid he won’t be cared for so well.”

“Well,” said Mother, “Which would be better for Torty? To be here in this special area we made for him and have someone else caring for him, or take him out of his nice place and try to carry him in a box while we travel?”



“We might drop the box or maybe it might get lost, or maybe he might not like being inside of it. Where do you think Torty would be happiest?”

Ned thought for a minute. “I have an idea,” he said. “Since Torty would be happier here, we can give our friend Sam our email address. Since he will be taking care of Torty, he can take pictures and little videos of Torty. He can send them to us on email, and then we can see them.”

“That’s a great idea!” said Mother. “You will be able to see him even when we are on our trip.”



So Ned went to Torty and prayed for him that he would be safe and sound. He wrote down on a piece of paper all the things that Sam needed to do to take good care of him – what kind of food to give him, and water. He wrote down his family’s email address. Sam had a good camera.

Sam said, “Oh yes, I’ll take a picture and video of Torty every day and send it to you on email and then you can see them. I’ll take good care of him.”

Ned, Tony, Teddy, Mother and Daddy then went on the trip and Sam and his family looked after their house.



Sam took care of Torty and fed him every day and he was a safe and well-cared for tortoise. Sam took pictures of him, and his mother helped to email the videos and pictures of him to Ned's family. Ned and his brothers and parents too, got to see Torty in this way while they were gone.

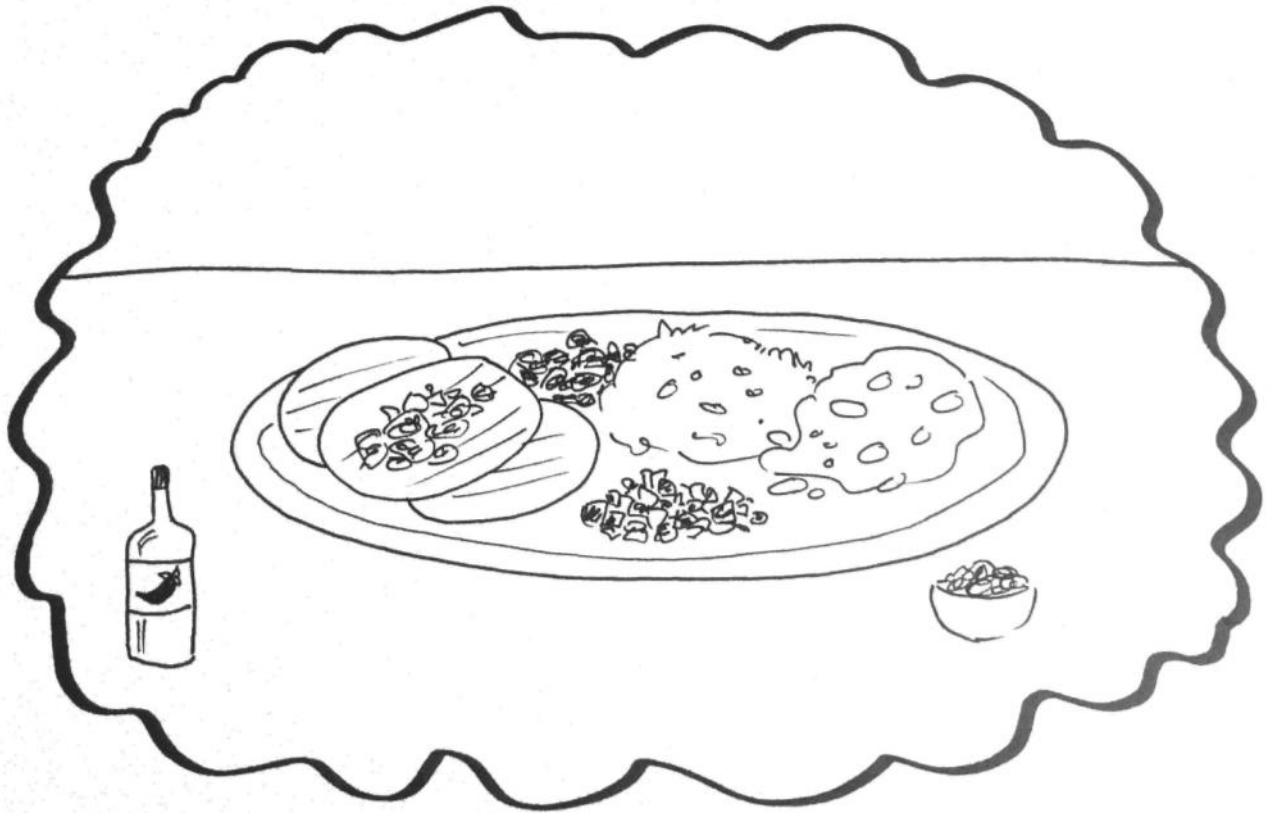
When the family returned home again, Sam said, "Come, Ned, I have a surprise to show you. It's something about Torty!" They came into the room and he said, "Close your eyes. Okay, surprise!"



There was a box, and when Ned opened the box and guess what was in it? Another tortoise!

Sam said, “We got you and your family another one! Now both tortoise friends can be together and they won’t be lonely. Now you can have two pet tortoises, and they can have fun together.”

“Oh, thanks!” Ned said, and gave Sam a big hug. “Thank you for taking care of Torty. Thank you for the pictures and the videos that you sent to me on the computer, and thank you for the new surprise of a friend for Torty. What should we call her?”



“Hmmm. I was thinking,” Sam said, “of calling her Tia. It could be Torty and Tia!”

“Ha! Ha!” said Ned. “That’s funny! That’s just like ‘tortilla’! Maybe we can have some tortillas for dinner one day!”

When he asked his Mother later if they could have some, she said, “Sure! How about we have tortilla’s tomorrow night to celebrate that we are all home again and had a safe and fun trip. We’ll invite Sam’s family to join us, as a way to thank them for the things they did for us so we could travel.”

Yay! Tony and Ned started to jump up and down. They were so happy that they could have a special celebration.



The next afternoon, Ned, Tony, and Teddy put on some colorful, bright clothes, and set the table nicely.

Sam's dad played some Spanish songs on the guitar and everyone got up and did some dancing. Then they sat down and ate their tortillas.

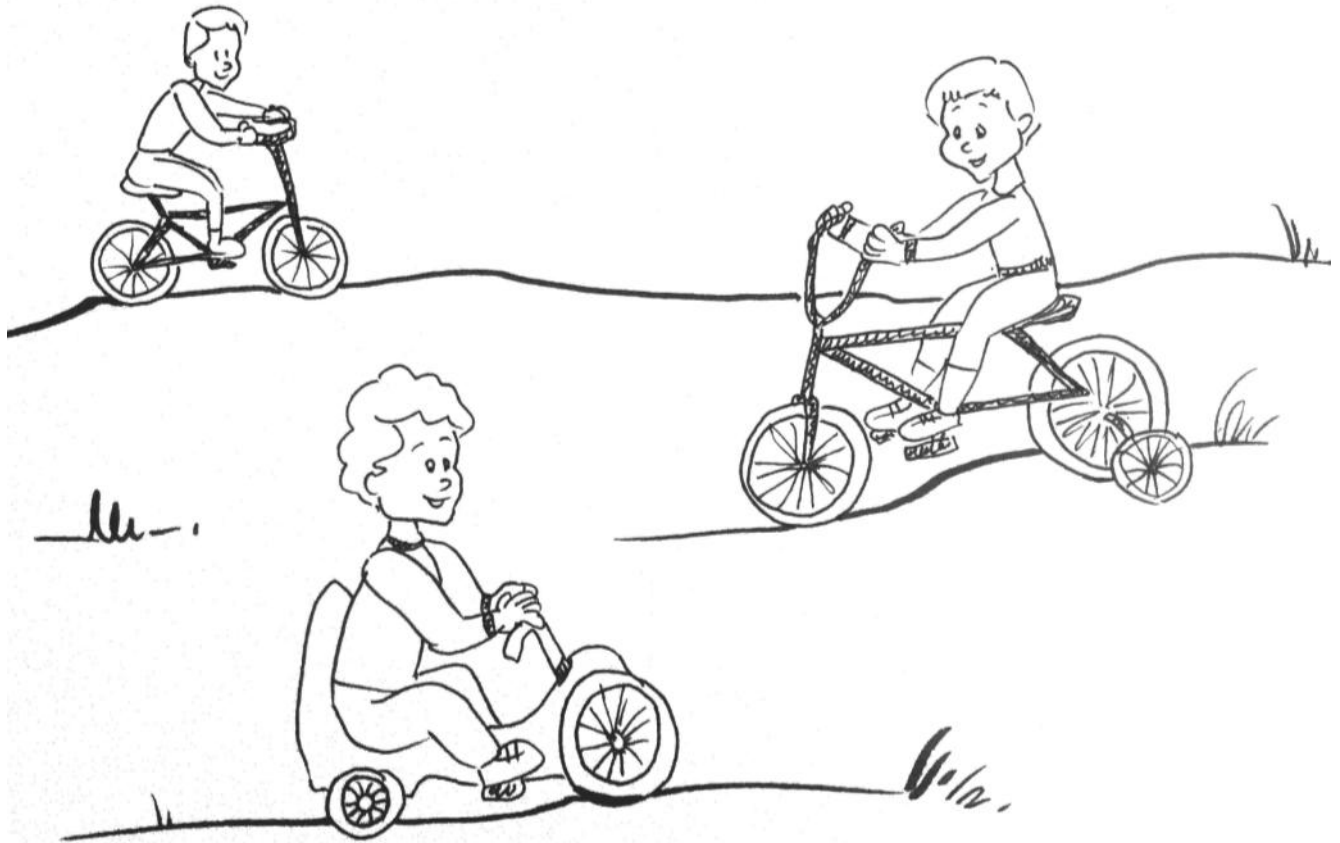
“Oh, this is so good,” said Ned. “May I please have some more?”

“You certainly can,” Mother said. “You are using your best manners tonight.” Tony was wiping his face with his napkin, saying, “Thank you, Jesus, for this yummy food!”



After dinner everyone went and sat in the livingroom. They were going to watch a video about a missionary family in Mexico. It would show lots of music and dancing and performances. Next, they all played some musical games—like Musical chairs, and Freeze Dancing, and sang songs. They had a great time.

When the boys were all tucked in their bed later that night, Daddy came to read them a Bible story, and to pray with them for the night.



Tony asked, “Daddy, can we learn some Spanish songs, and learn to speak some Spanish?”

Daddy said, “That’s a good idea. We can start tomorrow.”

The next day when they were outside playing, riding their bicycles and tricycle, Daddy said,

“Let’s play a special Spanish game! We’ll play ‘Red light, Green Light’ and we’ll learn our first words. When I tell you to ‘stop’ in Spanish, you have to stop driving your vehicles, and when I say ‘go’ you can go.”

¿Por Favor?

¡Gracias!

¡De Nada!

Later, at their evening meal, they learned how to say 'please' and 'thank you' and 'you're welcome' in Spanish. They had fun starting to learning this new language.

That night when Daddy and Mother said, "Good night, they said, "Buenos noches!"

And Ned and Tony and Teddy, thankful for the nice day said, "Gracias."

