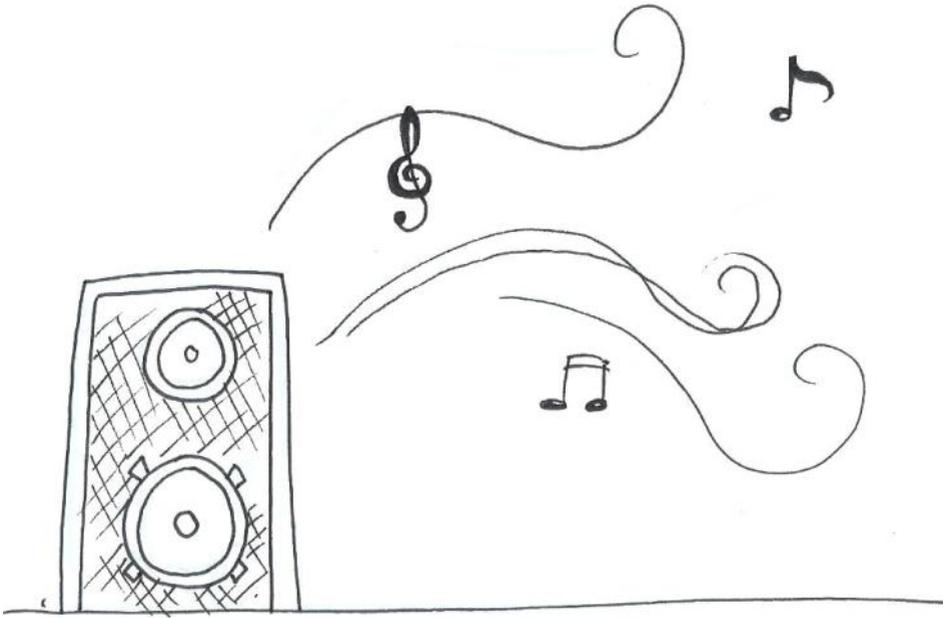


The Workman's Fun-Place Building Team



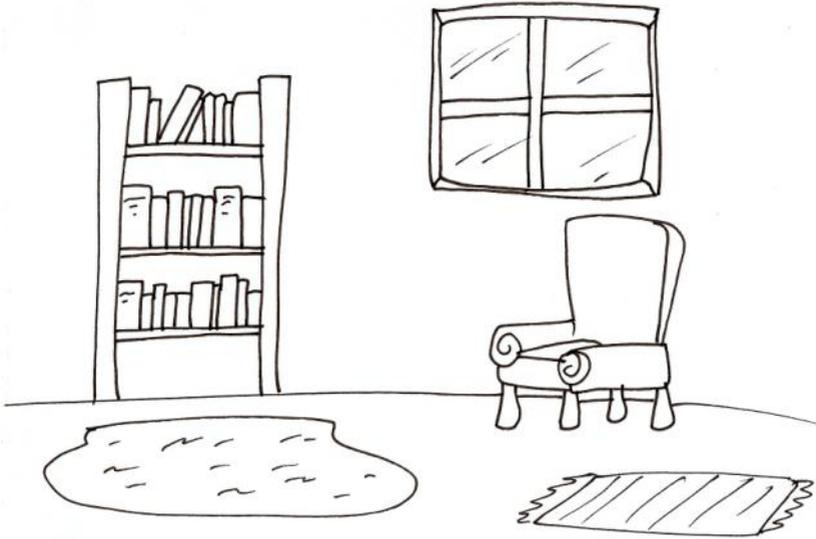
Berry Beary Kind's cousin Berry Beary Workman was visiting him. He lived in a village not too far away. He was here for three weeks to help construct the new building that was for "rainy day fun".

It was a place for parents and children, uncles and aunts, Grandmas and Granddads to meet when it was too cold or rainy to play outside.



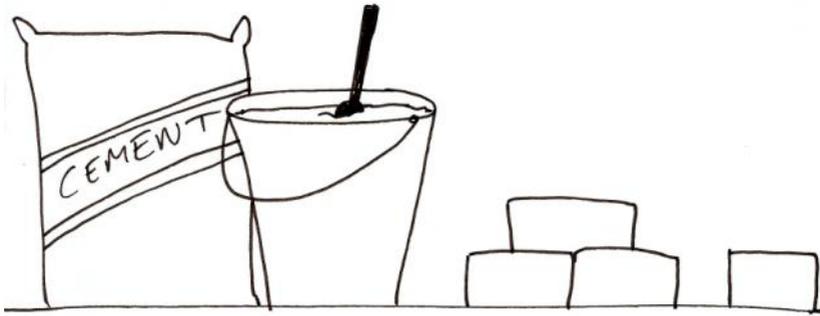
It would have large windows, to let in as much light and sights of nature as possible. There would be speakers to play fun music, or soft music, according to the mood and nature of the activities going on that day.

There was a snack corner, an indoor basketball court, a tennis court, a trampoline, an indoor swimming pool. There was even a room with beds for those who wanted to rest.



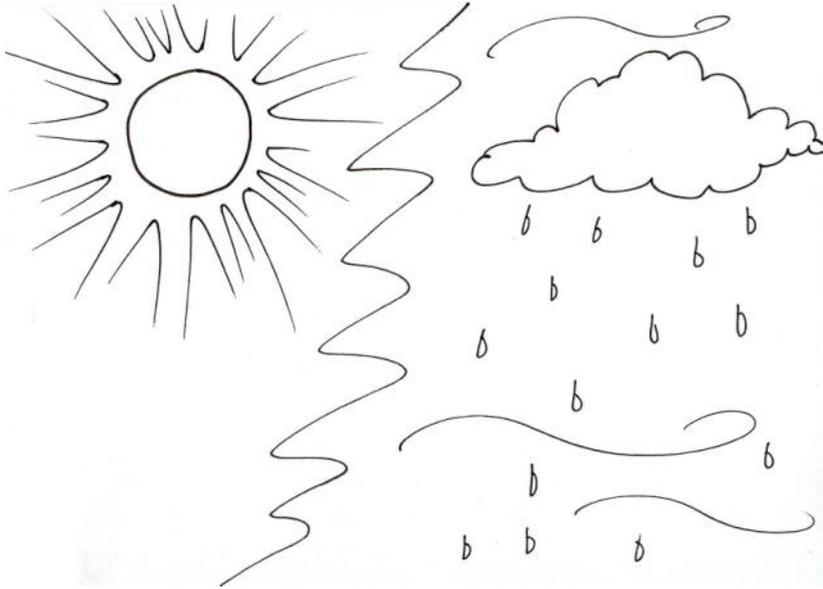
Tables would be set up for playing board games or doing arts and crafts type of activities. A library and reading corner was to be set up with books and rugs and soft cozy chairs and good lighting. A room for climbing tricks and gymnastics would be there too.

But before all that could be added, the structure and building had to be in place. And that is what Berry Beary Workman was here for. They had a team of 12 working to get the job done. Each one knew well how to build, and each one had their special talents too.



They would each help to oversee the part of the building job that they were best at. Cement mixing and laying, frame building, walls, roofing, glass and windows, electrical wiring, painting, and more. Then there was the set-up inside of the furniture, light fixtures, supplies and so forth.

It was a big job, but they were all looking forward to the final product—a place of fun to take their families to.



At last the job was done! It seemed like nearly the whole town came to the opening day celebration. Berry Beary Workman gave the opening speech:

“We are glad to present to you the ‘Rainy day Fun’ building! We hope it provides just that. And remember—fresh air and sunshine are best. Never settle for an indoor activity, if the weather is good. That really is the best. But should it be too rainy or cold, then you can still have fun and get good exercise. And here is a great place to do it. We hope you all enjoy it. Play it safe!”



Berry Beary Workman ended his speech, and everyone clapped and cheered, and began the celebrations.

There were snacks served, games played indoors and outdoors, and even a dance party held that night. The townspeople knew that it was going to be a place of fun. But they remembered Berry Beary Workman's wise words to them: "Outdoor play is best!" and "Play it safe!" Those words would help them stay happy and healthy!

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.

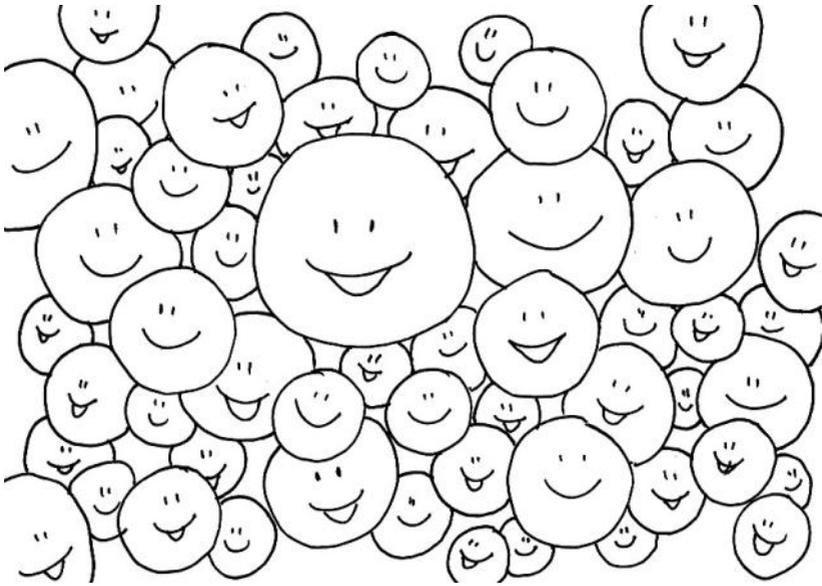


Berry Glum ‘n’ Grumpy hardly could look up, and said a low, “Hi”.

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.

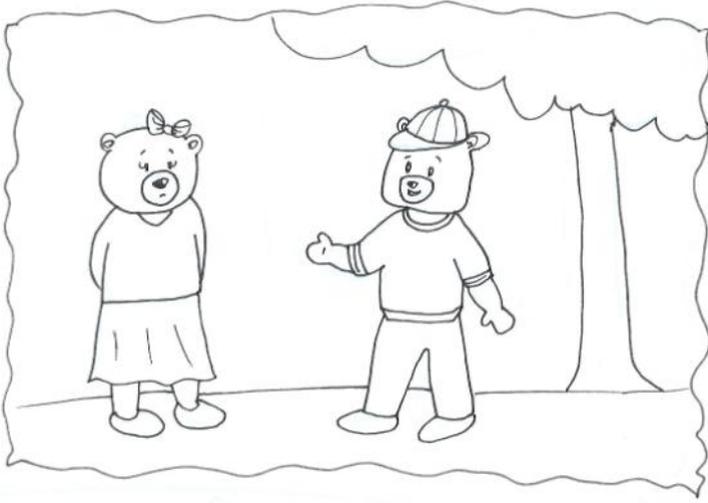


“I’ve never lived in a place like that before... I think I would feel better if I had a friend. You see, I just don’t know how to make friends, and it makes me sad. I see that others around always seem to have friends. What can I do?” Berry Glum ‘n’ Grumpy asked.



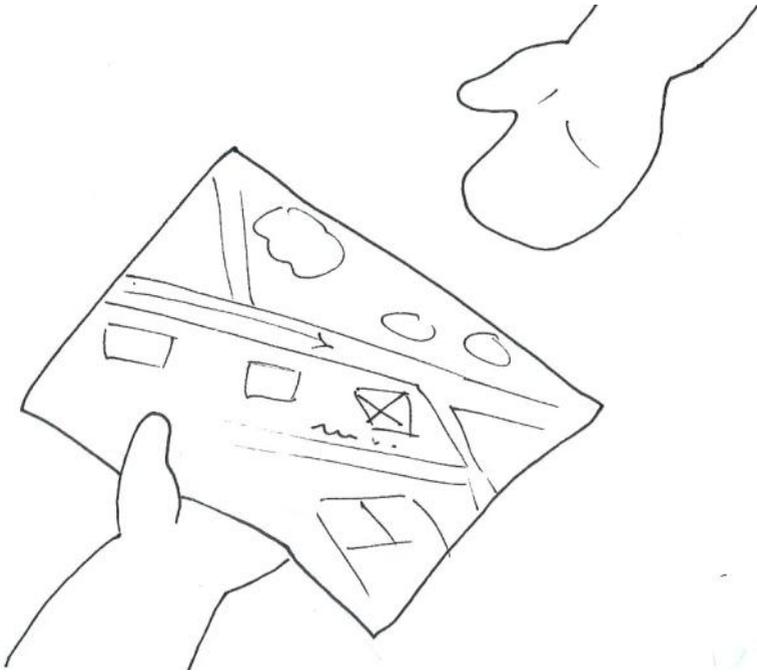
“Hmm...Well, I’ll tell you a secret, something that has worked for everyone else that gave it a try.” Berry Beary Kind now had Berry Glum ‘n’ Grump’s full attention. More than anything else, he just wanted to feel loved by friends. But without knowing the secret, he was having a hard time.

“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 favor, 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.”



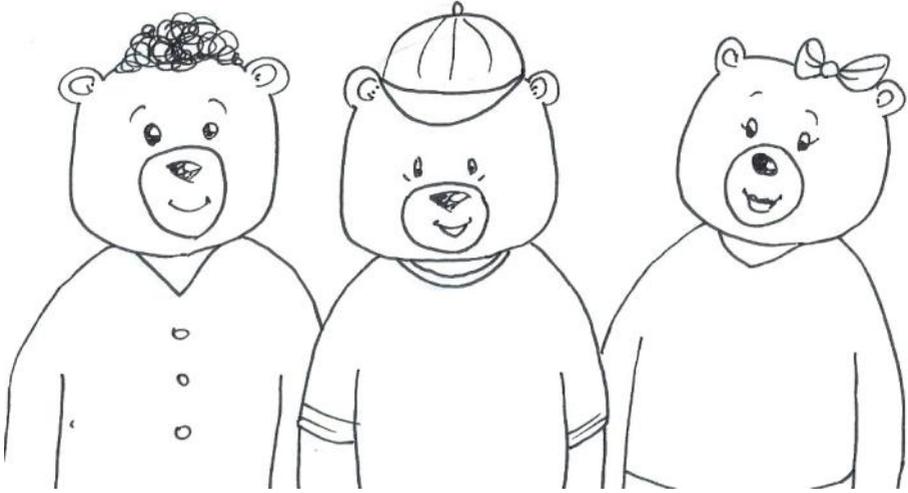
Berry Glum 'n' Grumpy felt a little shy just thinking of talking to those he didn't know yet, but decided to give it a try. After all, joining in on the fun did seem nicer than just watching it happen, while sadly sitting on the sidelines.

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

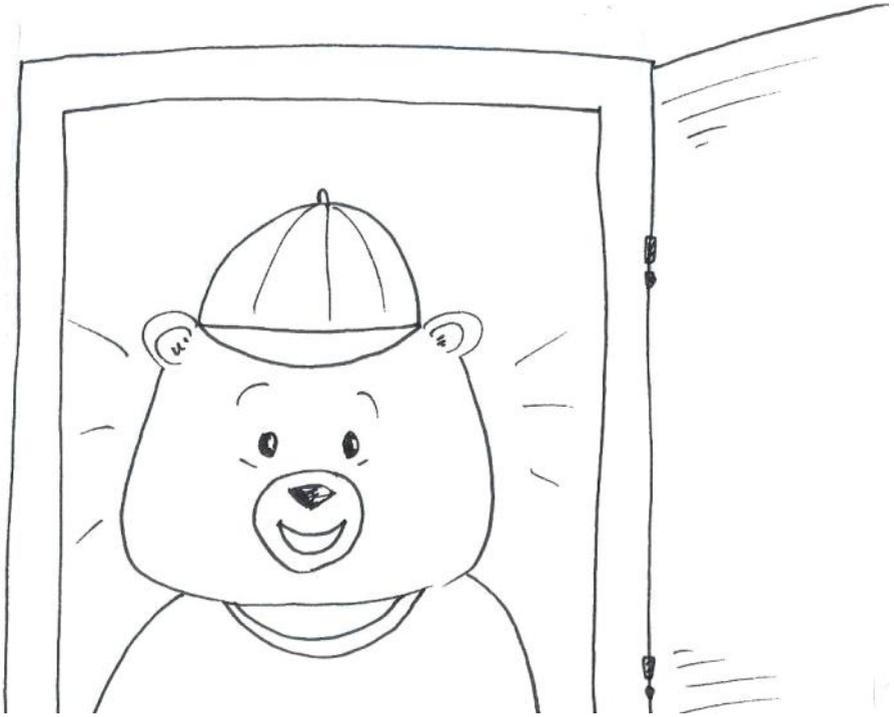


It wasn't long however before Berry Glum 'n' Grumpy was having a great time talking and laughing with others. He just had needed a little encouragement to not just wait for others to be a friend to him, but to go out and be one for someone else.

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 realized 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!”

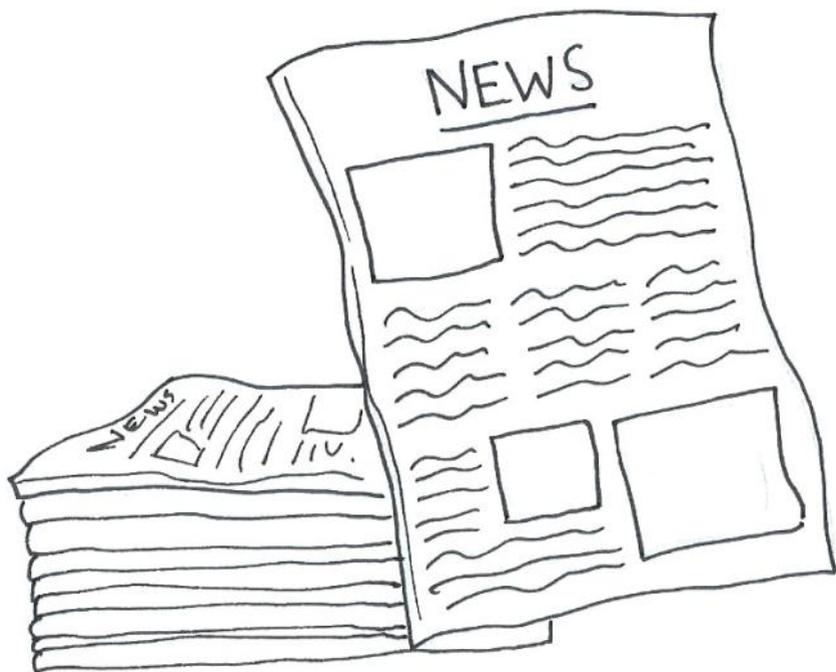


“Yes!” Berry Beary Kind exclaimed, “You certainly did discover a very important part of having friends—reaching out to cheer others, and forgetting about your lacks, or imperfections. I have an idea!”

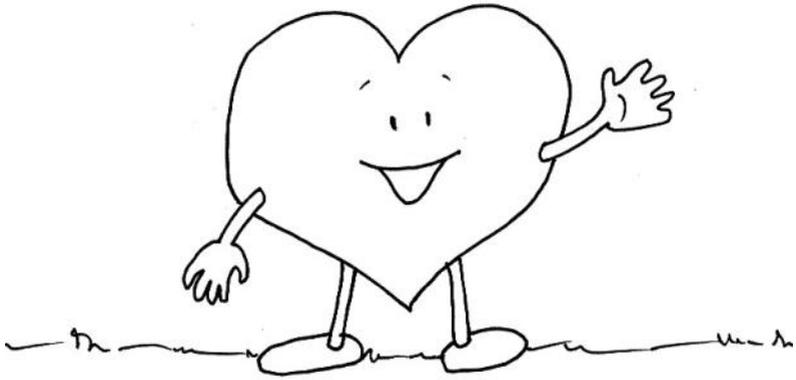
Berry Beary Friendly—for he was to be called that from then on—looked up with interest.



“How would you like to publish an article in our town’s paper—only the good stuff gets 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.

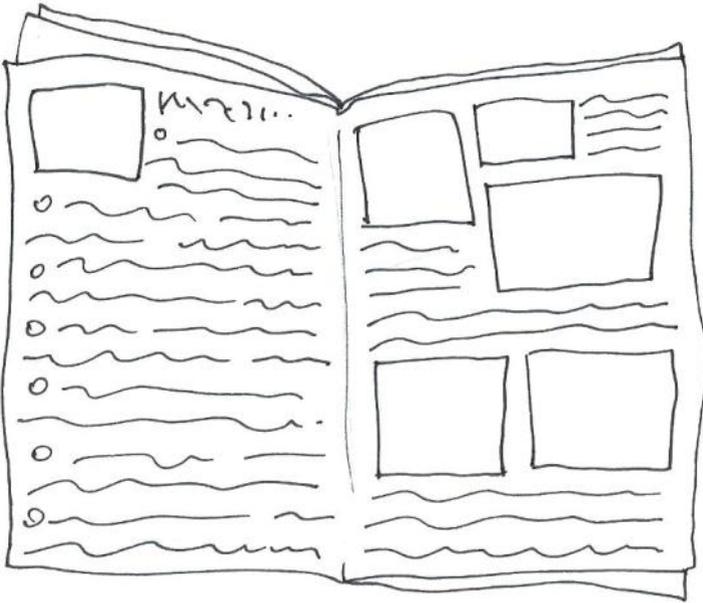


“Hmm... I do like that idea. It would be a great way for me to meet and get to know people as well. And at the same time I would get some tips on friendship. I think I’d like to be the friendliest one around! That would be a lot of fun! But there’s lots I need to learn first, and since many of the town’s 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!

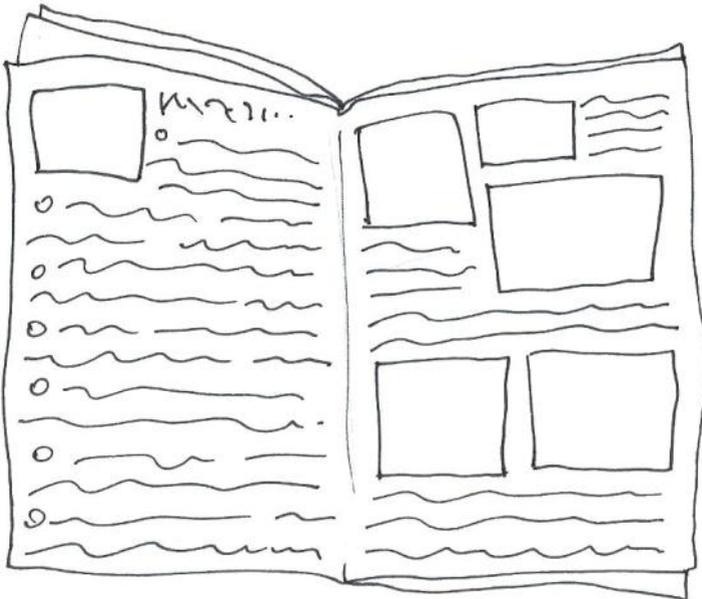
When Berry Beary Friendly sat with Berry Beary Kind out in his garden the following week, looking over the tips that folks had shared with him, Berry Beary Kind smiled. He not only saw that Berry Beary Friendly was so much happier, but was glad in heart to hear all the ways those in his town were showing 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 favor, 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 favorite. 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!

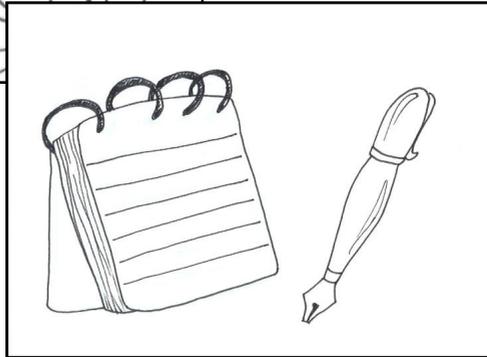
The Runaway Ball



Berry Beary Kind was in his workshop taking a look at one of his new inventions. “Beep beep” and “click-chuck-click” and “mmrrr” was heard coming from the something-or-other that he held in his hands.

“Hmmm, I think I need to adjust the hydration detector a bit here, and tighten a few of these knobs....”

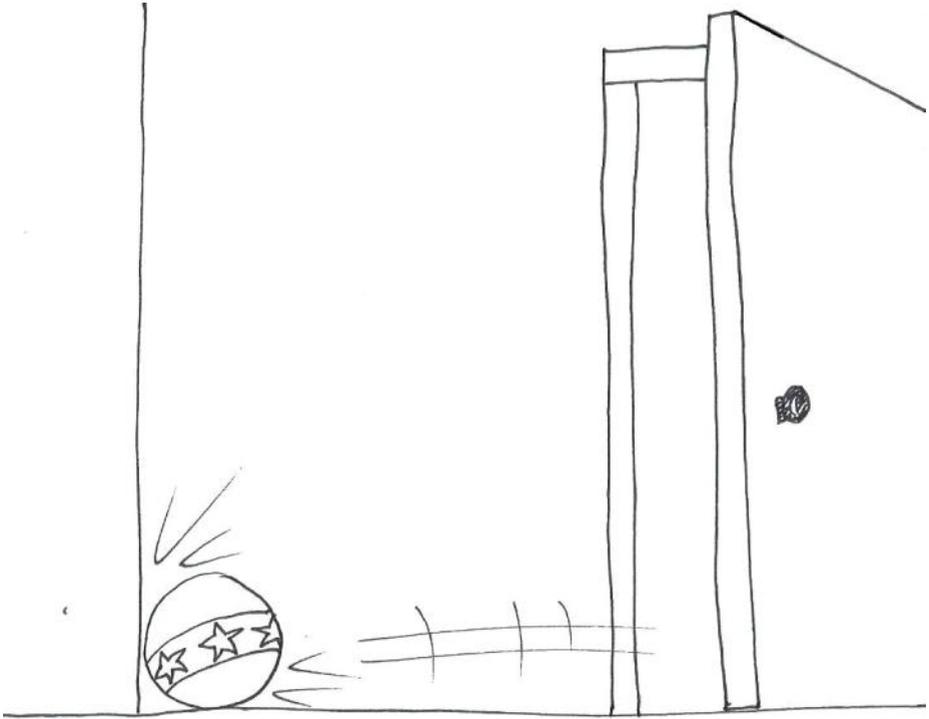
What it could do, he wasn’t entirely sure, but what he wanted his new gadget to do was what he was aiming for.



Berry Beary Kind looked at his notebook that listed what he was trying to create:

A weather and air pressure detector, with an inbuilt clock and alarm, that also displayed the temperature and moisture level in the air.

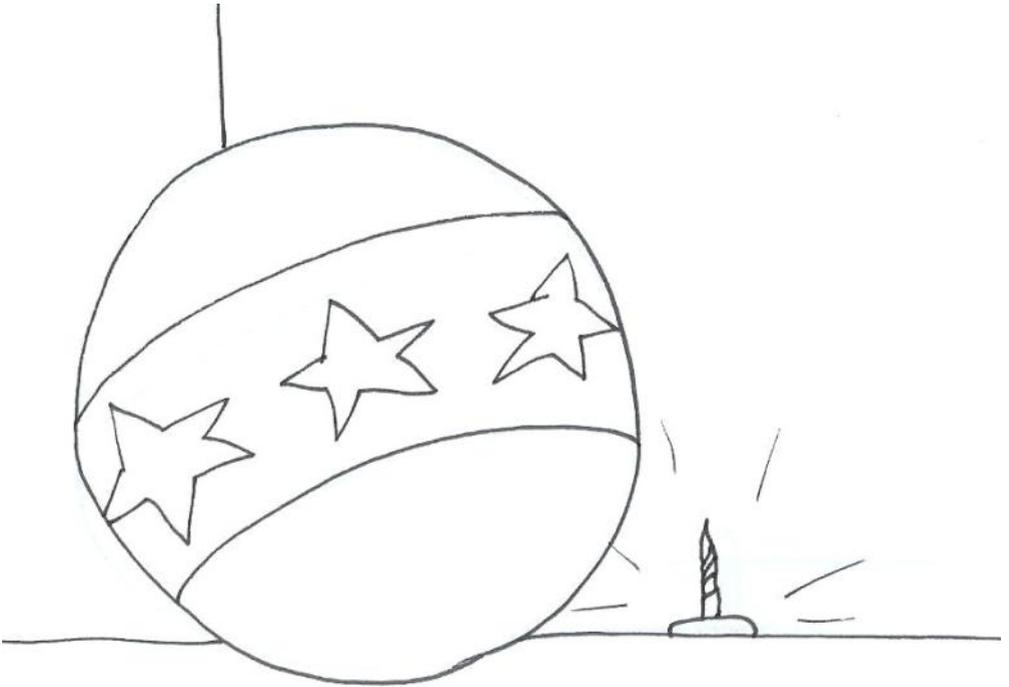
“Just a little handy device to have with you when you’re out hiking, for example...” he was thinking.



“Frump!”

Berry Beary Kind looked up to see that a stray ball had managed to roll in through the partly open door and hit against the low cabinet.

“I guess I should have shut that door if I didn’t want any stray or flying objects to make their way in!”



But as he went to pick the ball up to return it to whoever owned it, he noticed something curious right there on the floor.

“Hmm, sometimes things seem so random or like they have no reason for happening, but then we find out that it actually helped us in some way—or could help us if we look around.”



Berry Beary Kind, instead of picking up the ball, picked up the missing screw that he'd looked long for just that morning. He found it on the floor right beside the ball.

"Aha! So there it is!" he said, then happily placed it and screwed it into the machine he was working on.

"I'm glad now for that stray ball coming at just the right time when I really did want to find that missing item, for my what-you-might-call-it, machine" he thought.



However, he was also glad that it hadn't hit and disrupted anything on the shelves. If the door had been open all the way, there's no telling what might have gotten rattled or messed up or broken.

Berry Beary Kind then picked up the ball and rolled it out of the door, for whoever owned it to easily retrieve, and shut the door.

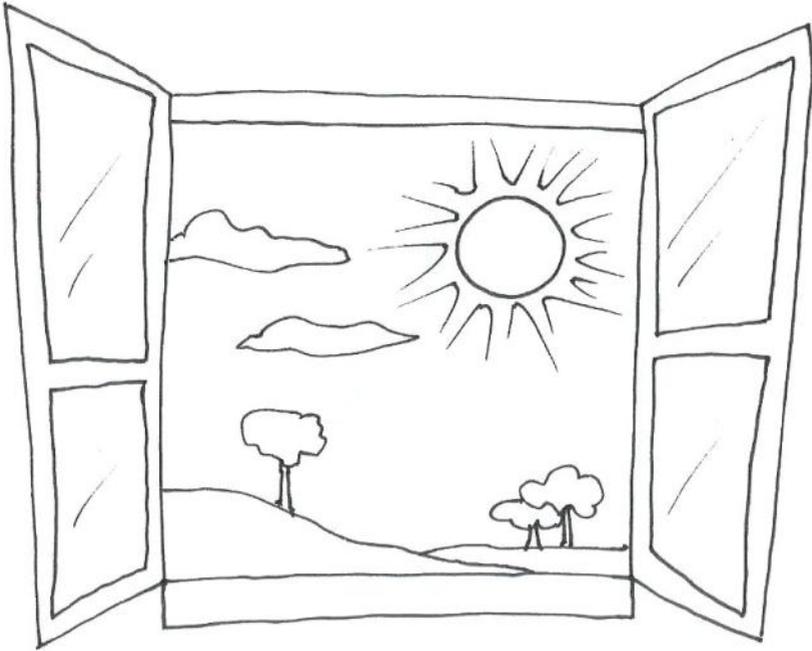
He mused, "It seems like praying for our day to go right, and all the aspects of it to fall into the right place is like adjusting a door. The right things then come into our day and life at the right times—even if they seem out of place, they bring good our way in the end. But prayer also puts a protection from trouble and disruption that would ruin our efforts.



He liked to take note of the little good thoughts and lessons he learned, to remember them and tell them to others. Berry Beary Kind quickly wrote out a note and pasted it on the inside of his workshop door. It read:

Prayer is the door to let the right things into your day;

Prayer is the door to keep unneeded troubles out of the way.



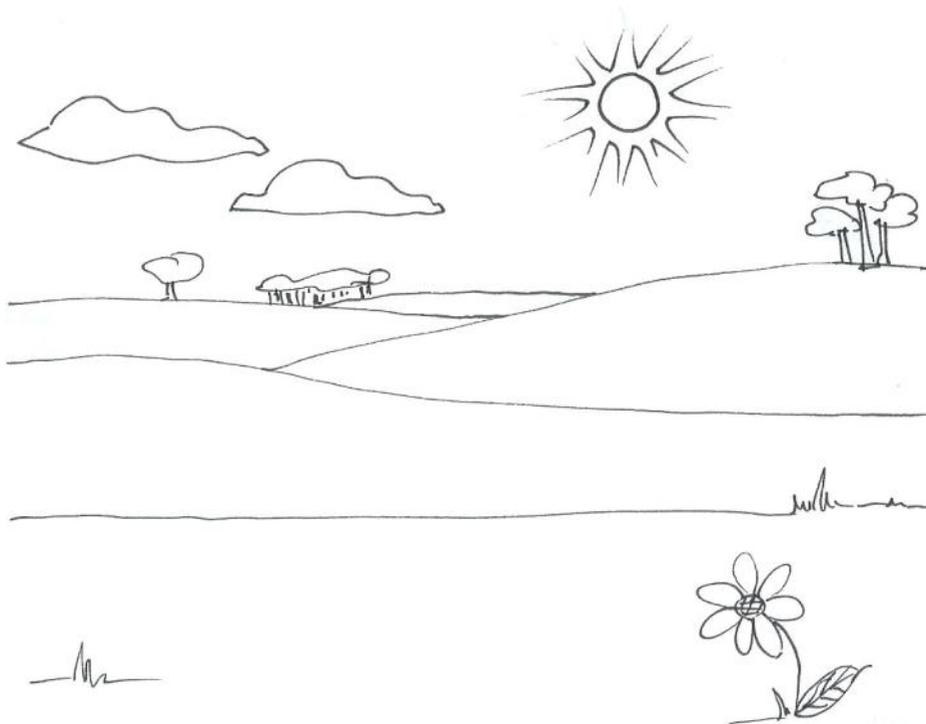
Just as he finished reading it over—and then saying a short prayer for the rest of his day to go well, he was attracted to the sunlight beaming its way into the window.

“I’ve got to get out there for a bit, I say,” he said to himself. After seeing that what was meant to be put away, was away, and nothing dangerous for little people’s hands was left within reach of children, he stepped out.



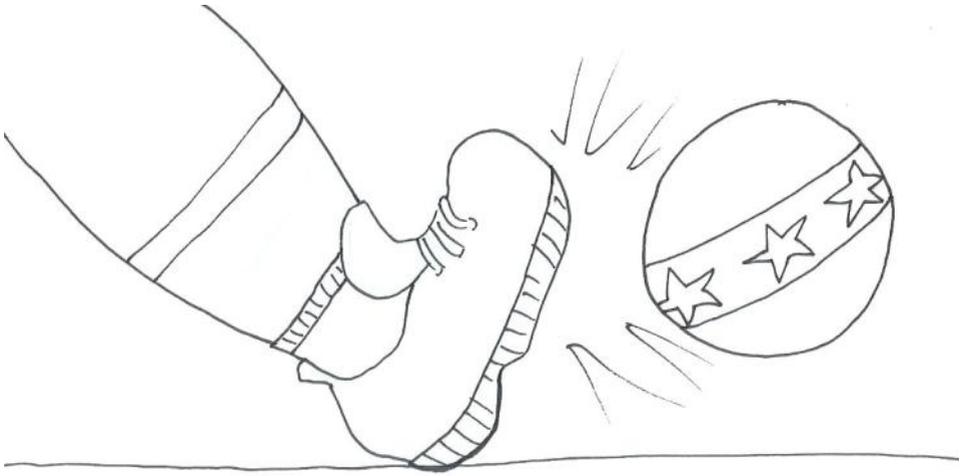
A surprised boy greeted him the second the door opened. The boy's hand was suspended and poised, just ready to produce a knock on the workshop's door when it had flung open. A smiling Berry Beary Kind greeted him, and a smile he returned.

"Well, Sonny, what brings you here? I see you have found the ball that paid me a timely visit." Berry Beary Kind said in a friendly voice.



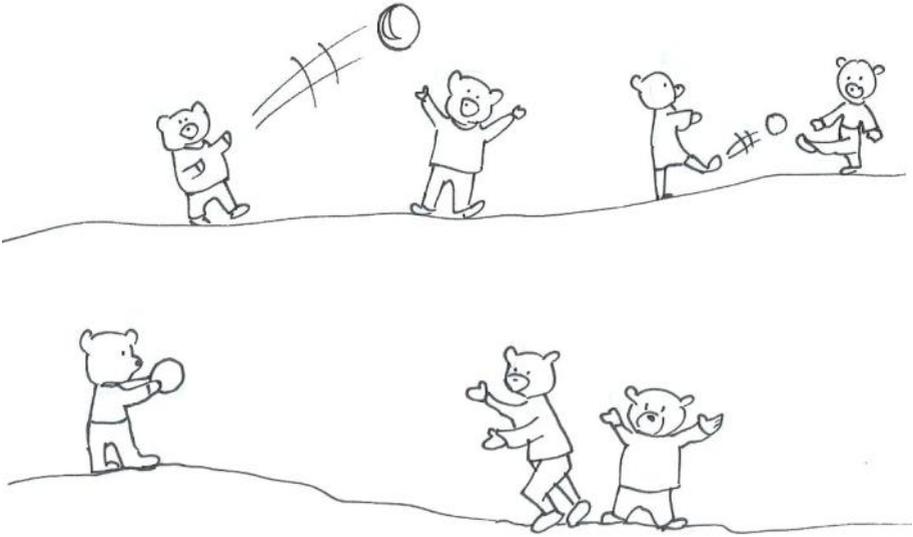
“Yes, I came to get it. See my brother was practicing his kicks, but this one got away too far. I hope it didn’t trouble you,” the boy said.

“No trouble at all. In fact I was just coming out now for a spot of sun—the best refreshment ever. How about we take that ball of yours and play on the field near your house over there? I’d like a little time to get the heart beating. Good for my health, you know.”

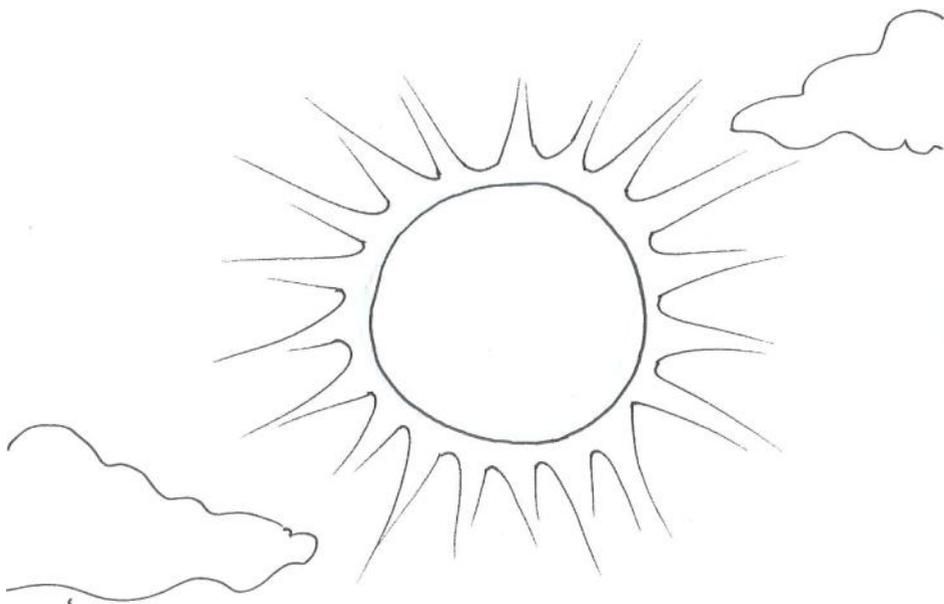


The boy grinned. He was glad now that he'd shared his ball with his brother—even if it meant it went astray and he had to stop playing for a while to retrieve it. He had been tempted to wish he hadn't, but now things were working out well.

So, the three of them—the brothers and Berry Beary Kind had some kick-ball time, as well as some running races, and other games.



When a few other children saw the fun that was being had, they asked their mothers if they could join in and play with the team on the field. Before too long several more balls and children showed up, along with some fathers and mothers, snacks, laughter and smiles.



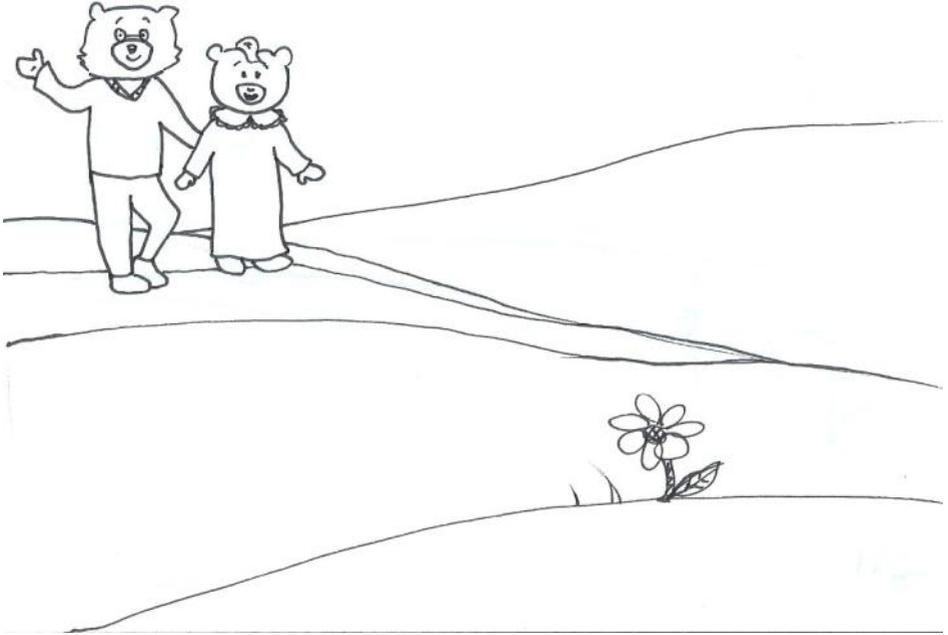
It had been raining for a few days before, but now the clearing sky and warm sunrays were being all the more appreciated. Perhaps if had always been sunny, this neighbor moment wouldn't be happening.

Soon, everyone that could stop their work, had done so, to come for an hour or so, to enjoy a good dose of togetherness, laughter-filled games, and cheery sunshine.



Mellisa and her grandmother set up a table with fruit and water under the shade of a tree, for the players to enjoy.

Berry Beary Fit dropped by to teach everyone some good warm-ups and stretches, to keep their bodies in good shape for the games.



Berry Beary Gentle and Berry Big Beary, Berry Beary Kind's parents were seen taking a walk and looking on with a contented smile.

They were glad that their son not only knew how to work hard and focus to make things better for this town he was now the mayor of, but that he knew how to drop what he was doing, and give some fun to the young ones. For when you make life good and pleasant and fun for the youngest, it seems just right for everyone else too.



“When you make sure the young ones of a town are happy and growing well,” commented Berry Beary Gentle to her husband, “it seems everything else works out well, too.”

Berry Big Beary nodded and waved to his son, who waved back and beckoned for them to join some of them under the tree for a good drink of water.



Berry Beary Kind was telling a few of the children who had likewise gathered there, “If you could choose only one thing to put in your body that would give it the best health, what would you choose? Do you know what is the most essential of all?” then he held up a glass of fresh pure water and drank it down: “What used to be in this cup!”

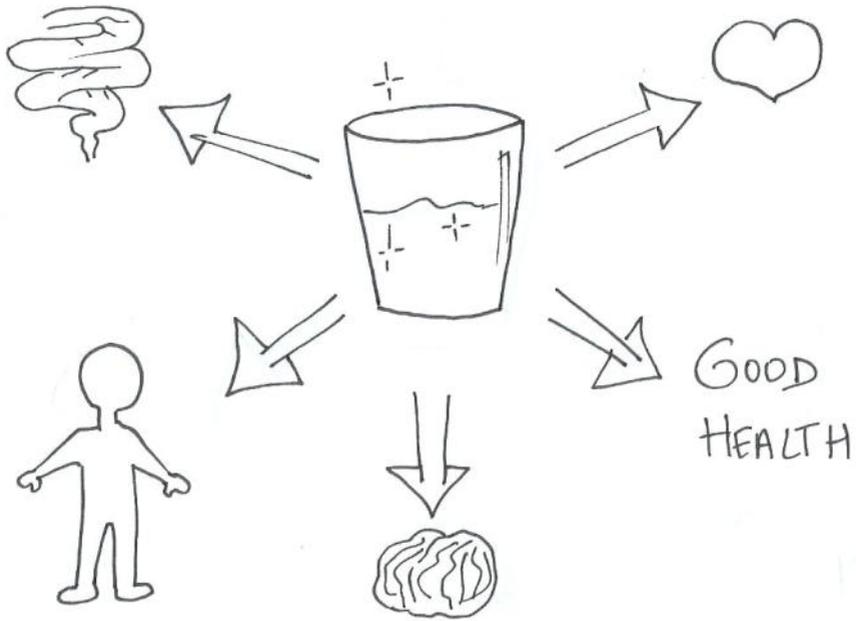
The children followed and each had a good drink.



“But how can it be so good for you, when it doesn’t have anything in it—it’s just water.”
A child asked.

“Aha! Well, it might not taste like much, and it’s clear and doesn’t have food and other things in it, but it’s not nothing. It has just what your body needs to keep it in good working order. Did you know that many of the parts inside of your body are made of just this?” Berry Beary Kind asked.

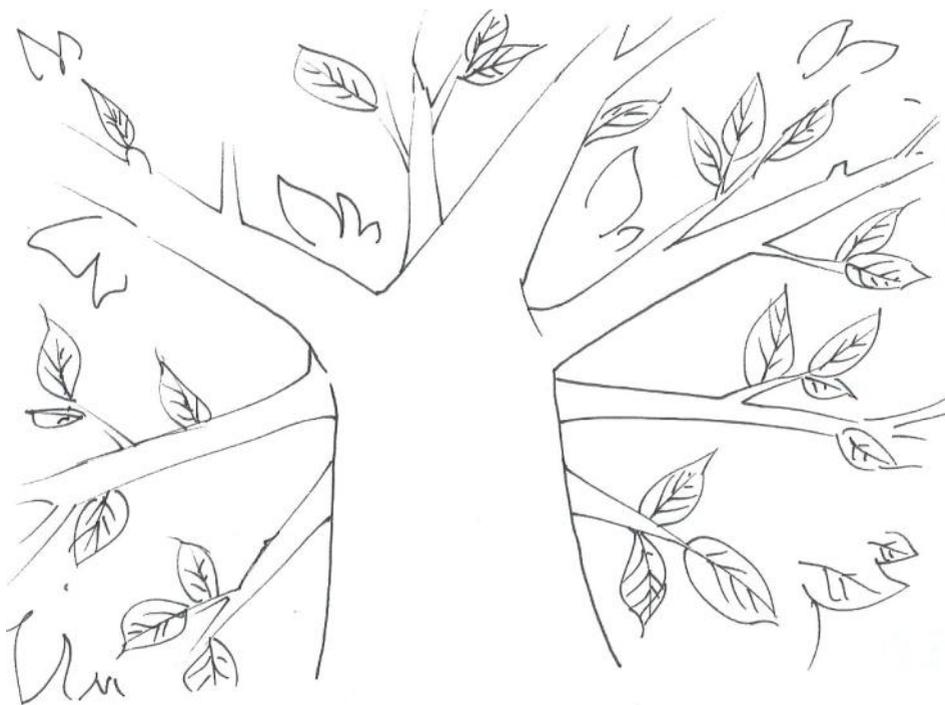
Some children knew, but some of the younger ones looked questioningly.



“Yes, and when you drink water, it’s like sending the parts of your body just what is needed to repair and keep everything working right, without getting worn out. Running and playing is very essential to good health, good food and sleep, clean air and sunshine are all needed too. But you can’t function right without lots of water.”



The children had all finished drinking and ran to find their parents who were milling around the field, or caring for their baby siblings. Berry Beary Kind's parents had arrived just then, and sat under the tree to enjoy the spontaneous picnic and chat together.



Berry Beary Kind looked around and was glad for this all-of-a-sudden activity that brought the town together. The air of friendliness seemed to dance around, like rays of sunlight shining through the leaves of a tree in the gentle breeze. He lay back on the grass and looked up at the varied shades of green in the tree overhead.



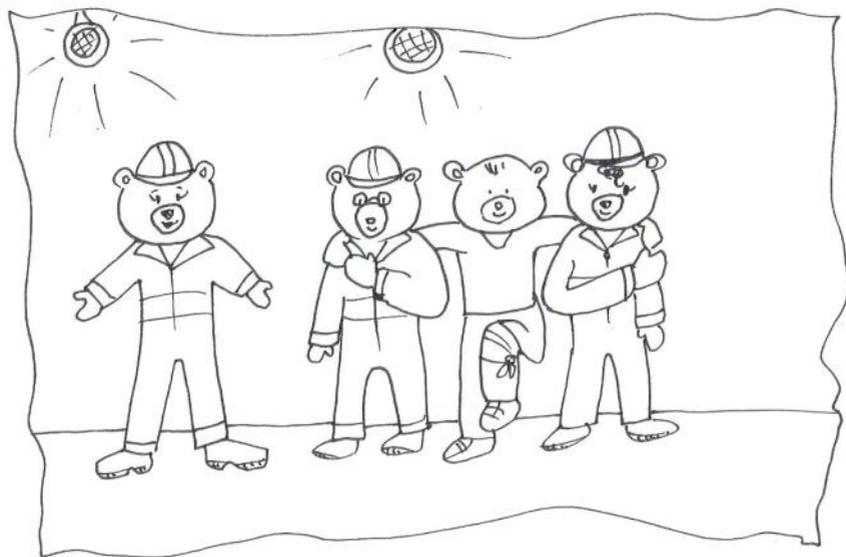
He might have even shut his eyes for a bit, if yet another stray ball—the second one that day—had not suddenly landed on him. This time it was just a light air-filled beach ball, thrown by Jellina’s younger brother.

Berry Beary Kind looked up and smiled, and threw it back for him toddle over and catch.



“Well, I guess I better get back to some sort of work,” he said to his parents, who themselves were also getting ready to head back to the house.

Berry Beary Kind waved to everyone, “I’ll see you later on!” he said, and they knew what he meant. That night there was to be a show put on by the “Rescue Team” as they were called. All the emergency rescue workers had made a stage play, complete with real equipment and vehicles, costumes and all.



Berry Beary Kind had some preparations yet to do, and people to talk with—and snacks to collect from those who offered to make them. It was promising to be a great night for all—especially the young ones. And he was glad for that.