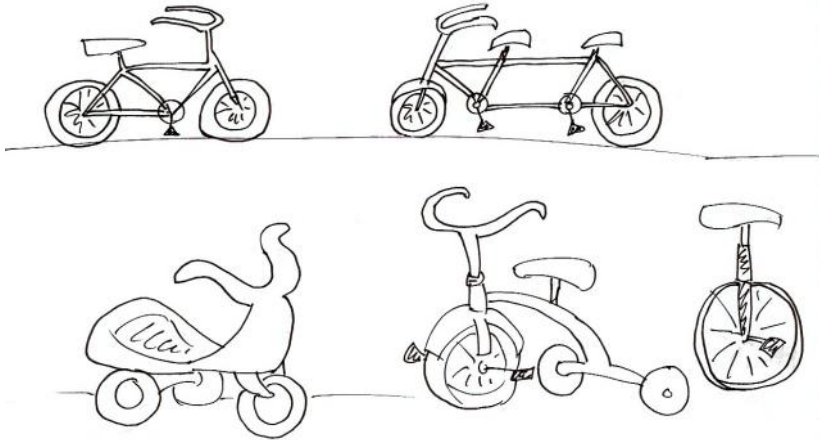


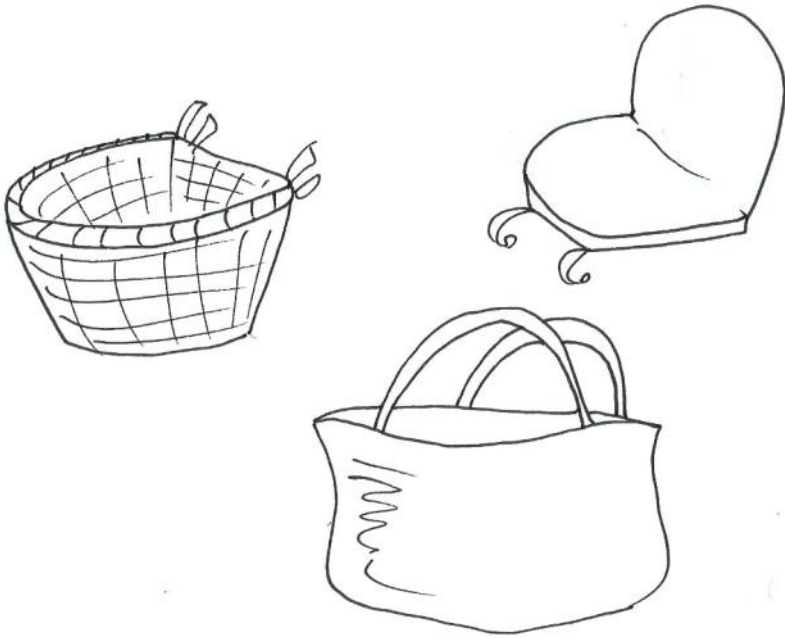
# 6

## Winners Are Grinners

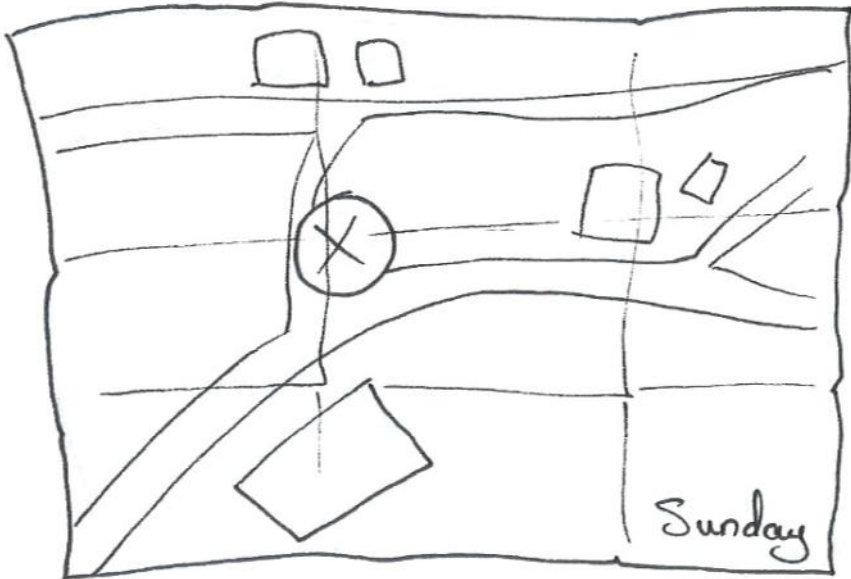


Today was going to be fun. It was to be the contest of all sorts of bicycles, tricycles, unicycles, tandem bikes, and any other sort of invented pedal and wheel vehicle.

There would be trick shows, speed races, displays, and all sorts of fun. Berry Beary Kind had on his helmet, and biking suit. He was going to bring his wagon that hooked on, too.

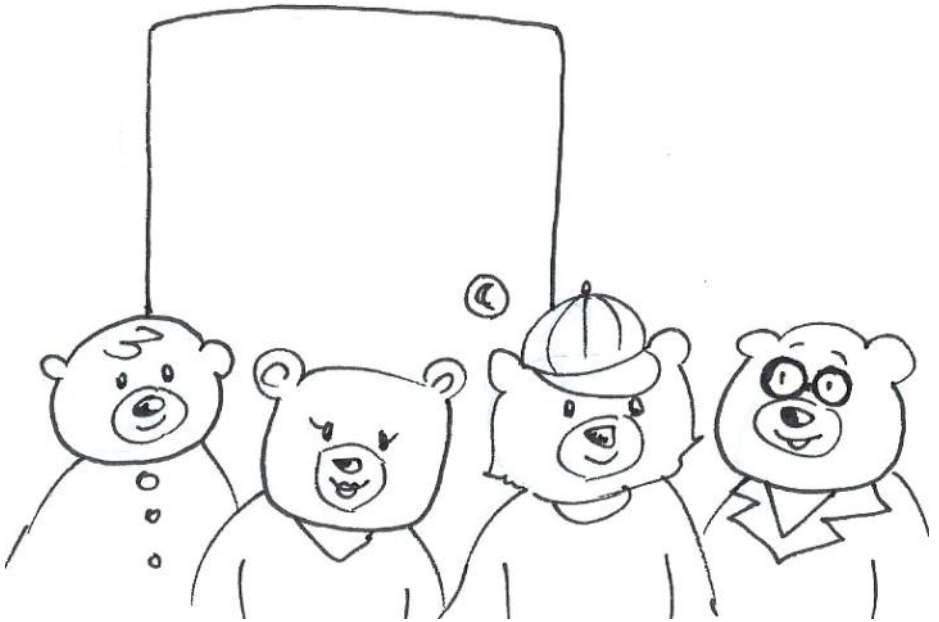


There was also a basket that he could attach to the front end to carry things, and a bag that could be put in the middle of the frame. There was also a small child's seat that he hooked on to the back of his bike. He was going to show how much he could carry and transport with just one bicycle.



However, when he arrived at the contest location, it was empty! His was the only bicycle around. “Hmmm? Did I miss something?” He wondered.

He checked the map again. No, this was right. This is the right place. But when he looked closer at the map page it said that it was supposed to be on Sunday. But this was Saturday.

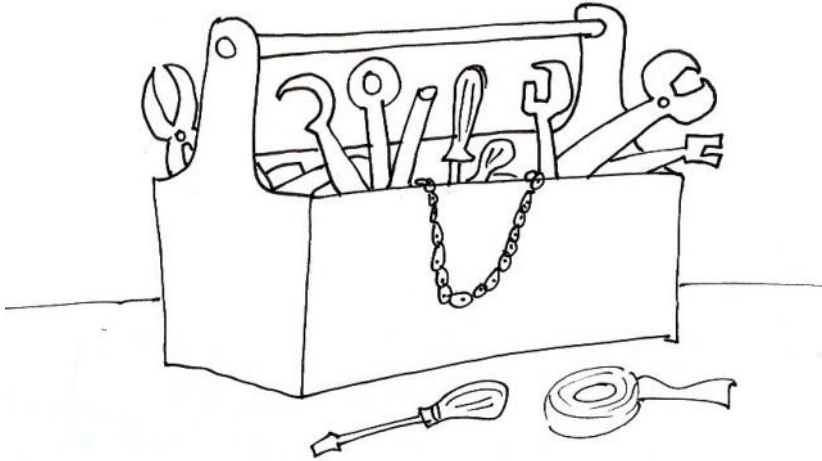


“Oh! I got the days wrong! At least I didn’t miss it. I still can look forward to it tomorrow. Oh, well. Maybe there’s a reason for this. I’ll just start on my way home.”

When he got home, there was a group of children waiting outside of his door for him to return.



“Berry Beary Kind. We’re so glad to see you. Can you help us fix up our bicycles? Please? We also want to go to the contest, but our bicycles aren’t working. They have things that are broken about them.”



“Well, come on in,” he said. “Why don’t you sit down in the living room and have a fresh piece of fruit and some water, while you each tell me what needs fixing on your bikes.”

So they did. And then they had fun learning and watching and helping too. It wasn’t all easy, but as they worked together they got all the bikes up and working.



“Ah!” thought Berry Beary Kind, “I see now why it was good it wasn’t today. These children wouldn’t have been able to participate. I’m glad we can all go and do it together now. Fun!”

And fun it was. And everyone who attended went home with some sort of prize or medal, because all tried their best and made it fun for those who came to watch. It was a great day on wheels!

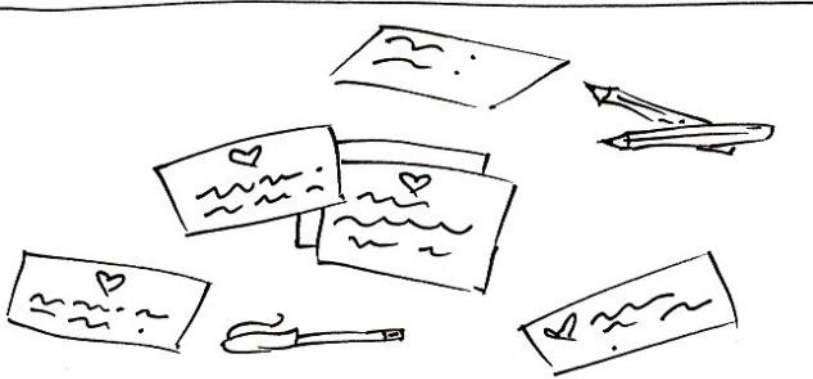
## An Incredible Beary



“Just in time!” Berry Beary Kind said as he turned the stove down low before his pot of chicken and veggie soup boiled over. “I guess I like to be someone who makes it there in time when people need me too,” he thought.

Then he pondered about what it took to be the kind of helper that people needed. He took out his pen and paper and wrote down some notes that he was going to post on his wall, to remind him, and also to encourage those who visited him, to help others all they could.





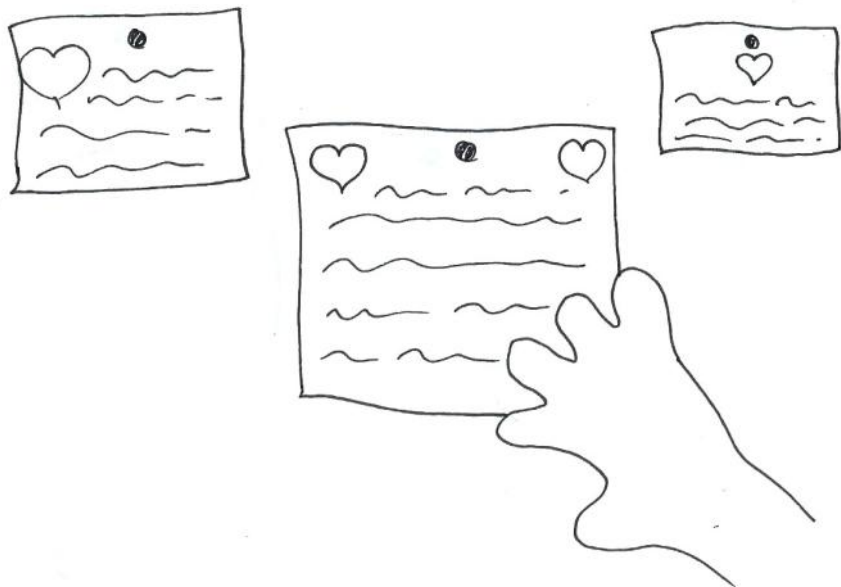
**Number 1:** Be ready to stop and go. To stop what you are doing, and to go do something else.

**Number 2:** Showing love is better than just saying it.

**Number 3:** Think, “What would God like me to do, in this situation?”

**Number 4:** You’ll probably get another chance to do what you want to do, but may not have another chance to help that person who needs help right now.

**Number 5:** Be happy and friendly. Everyone will appreciate it and love you for it.



Just as he posted it up, there was a knock on the door. It was Berry Beary Incredible. He was always coming up with new and amazing inventions, and could do so many tricks.

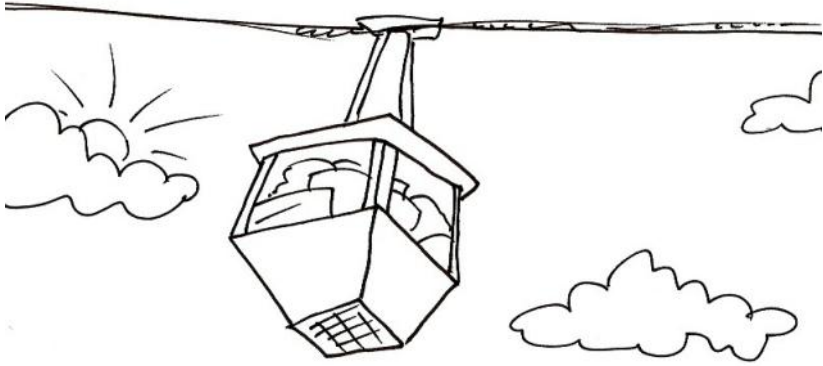
“Hi, how are you?” Berry Beary Kind asked as he greeted him at the door.



“Want to see my latest design? I’ve been working on making a machine that will take goods and supplies from the market up to the village at the top of the hill. That way they won’t have to travel so far to go shopping and get the things they need for their children and families.”

“Sure, I’d love to see it.”

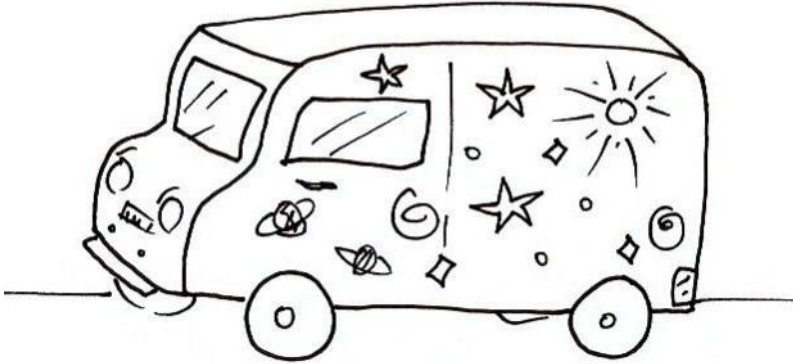
And so off they went.



It was something like a cable car, or ski lift. Only that it was smaller and was just for carrying food and supplies. The villager would write a note of the things that they needed and put it in, and send the box cable car down.

They would wind a handle around and around. It would spin a wheel, and the box that was attached to the rope would go down to the market. After it was loaded up, they would turn the wheel again and bring it back.

“That’s great!” said Berry Beary Kind. “You are always looking for ways to make things easier for others.”



“How about a ride with me in my circus van?” said Berry Beary Incredible. And so off they went. When they arrived at a park, he said, “This is where I’m going to practice some of my acts. I plan to do a show in a few days. Maybe we can do a special showing here for any children that need extra special encouragement. They could get to see the show first!”

And so it was planned! And a great time was had. Berry Beary Incredible had them laughing and singing, and even helping him do some of his tricks. They had a great time.

**8****A Friendly Plan,  
for a Berry Friendly Town**

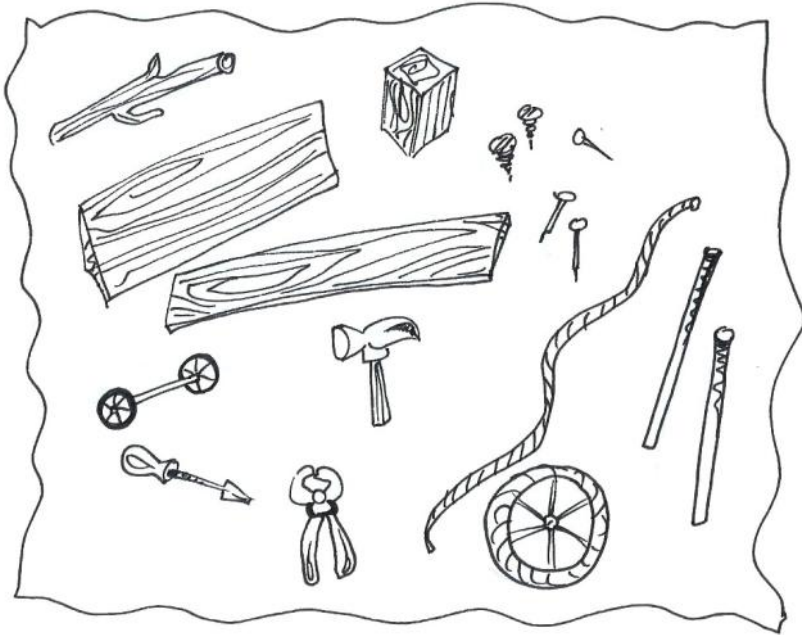
It seemed pretty impossible—trying to build a wagon, using only bits and pieces of wood they’d found at the beach, and a set of old wheels from a broken and discarded scooter. But the Friendly family, who were on vacation in Berry Beary Town, were a fun team.

They wanted to make something together, and had decided on a wagon. Four-year-old Mackie had suggested it, and the rest of the Friendly family agreed it was a great idea.



They had been off to a good start, but now it just seemed things weren't working out.

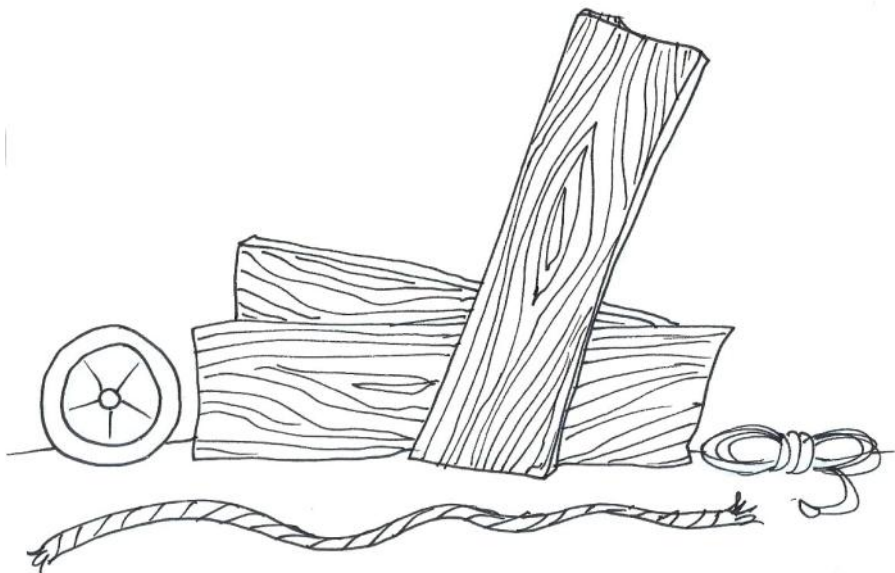
Father Friendly went for a walk down the beach along with Mackie and seven year old Lisa to see what they would discover. Jogging along was a smiling and waving Berry Beary Kind. They stopped to chat for a while.



“I live not too far from here,” Berry Beary Kind told Father Friendly. “I’m headed there now, actually. You can follow me in your car, if you like, and bring your supplies. I might have just what you need to complete the wagon. I’ve got all sorts of tools and scraps and bits and pieces that I’ve collected, in my work shop.”

The children and all the Friendly family were delighted! Within 20 minutes they found themselves walking into a very interesting and gadget-filled work shop, in Berry Beary Kind’s shed.

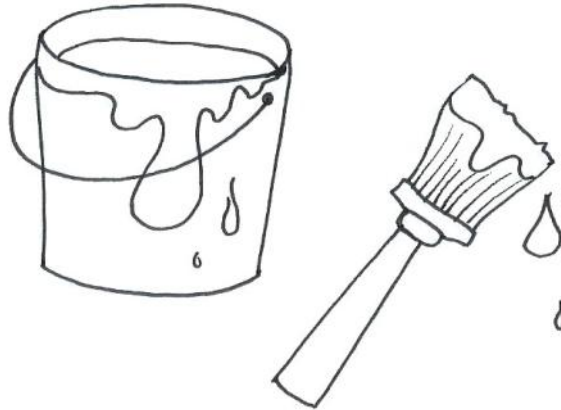




Together they laid out all the supplies they had already found—some boards, a few wheels, a piece of rope, and some scrap wire.

“Hmm, let’s see. What’s missing?” Berry Beary Kind asked aloud.

The children started to get some ideas.



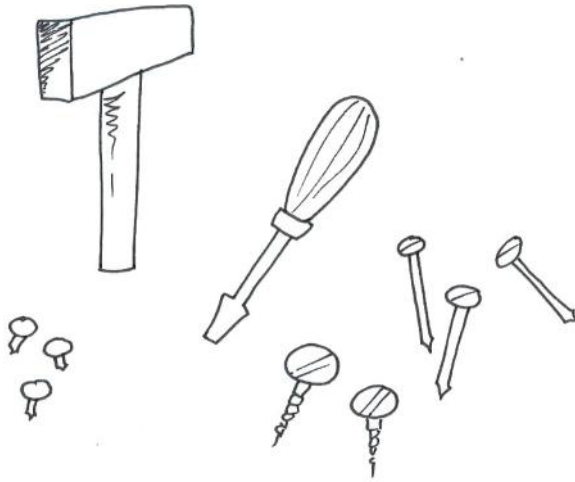
“I think we need some nails or screws, and a tool to put them into the wood with,” offered Mackie.

“Also some more wheels,” added Liza.

“Perhaps a few more boards to form the sides of the wagon, so nothing falls out of it?” Father Friendly suggested.

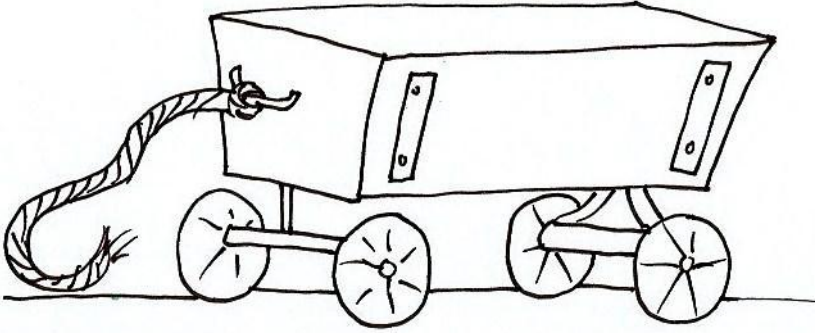
“I’d like to paint it red” said Mother Friendly, and the other’s agreed.

“I think I’ve got those things” said Berry Beary Kind, and started to look around and hand the items to the very eager children.



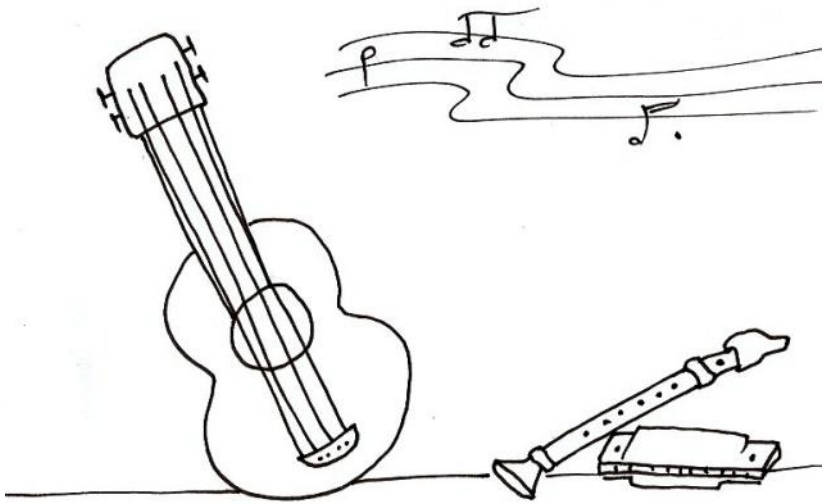
Since Berry Beary Kind was often fixing things up for town folks, he often had bits of this and that from his jobs. There was a set of wheels from an old trolley, in a box in the corner. There was a big piece of board that used to be part of a large wooden box, it could be cut to make the boards for the sides.

The paint he had plenty of—a large can of red paint he still had from his last project of painting the playhouse for the Happy Family who lived just down the street. And of course, screws and nails, a hammer and screw driver, along with bolts, nuts and all the little things needed to attach the wheels, were in his tool kit.



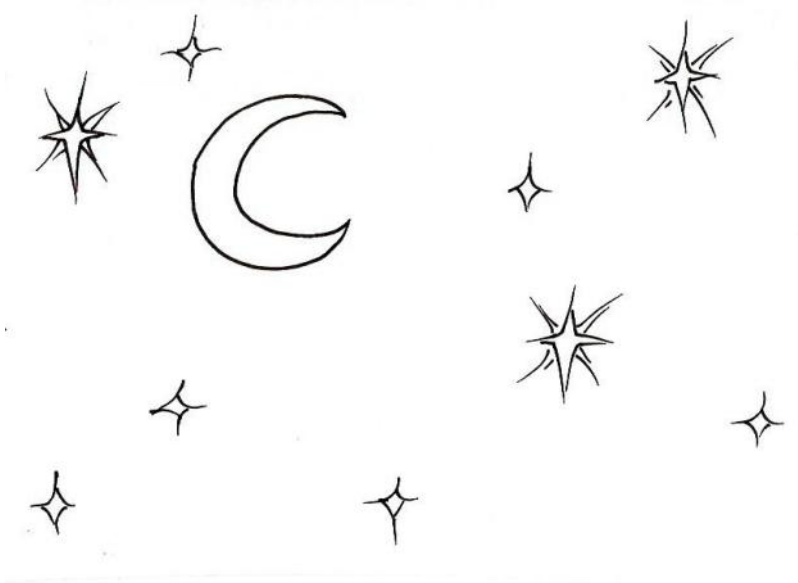
It wasn't long till the wagon started to take shape. With everyone working together, and Berry Beary Kind helping by offering what was needed, in about an hour-and-a-half it was rolling!

The children helped to paint it, and it looked great. Berry Beary Kind said they could keep it in his shed till it dried, and come back the next day to get it. So off the Friendly Family went to have their beach picnic and barbeque. They would come back the next day.



“Thank you so much!” each one told Berry Beary Kind. “And to show our appreciation, if you’d like to join us for dinner on the beach tonight, please be our guest!”

“I would love to!” Berry Beary Kind responded. And then he surprised the Friendly Family by showing up with a box of percussion and other types of instruments. Some made of wood, others with interesting items like shells or pot lids. There was a ukulele, a harmonica and a flute as well.



The Friendly Family were good at making up songs and keeping a beat. That night they called themselves “The Beary Beach Band”. Some songs were so lively they thought even the fish in the sea could hear them!

“Good night,” they said, as the stars were starting to peek out, and Berry Beary Kind said good bye and headed home.

“We’ll see you tomorrow!” said Mackie, remembering to get their wagon.

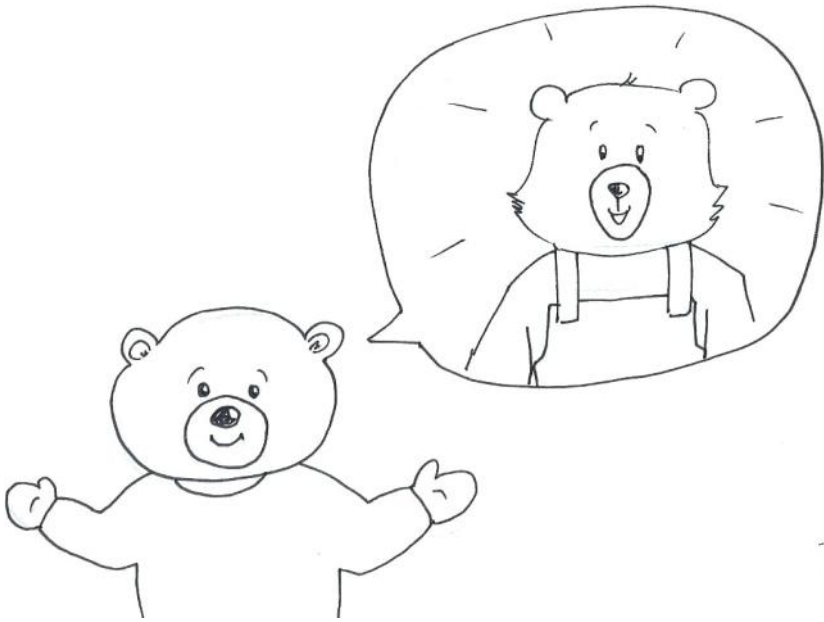


Early the next morning, Mackie and Liza hopped on their bikes for a morning ride, while Father and Mother Friendly jogged beside. Berry Beary Kind had drawn them a simple map so they could easily find his house.

“Knock! Knock!” they sounded on the door.

“Hello! I see you are here bright and early to pick up the wagon!” Berry Beary Kind said to the cheery team.

Mackie wanted to be the first one to pull it—after all it had been his idea. It rolled just great!



Then the two children took turns pulling it down the sidewalk, while Father and Mother Friendly helped them with the bikes.

“Do you know why I’m glad we made a wagon?” Mackie asked his family.

They were curious to hear what he had to say.

“Well, when we go home, I want to help people around town more. I’d like to be a bit like ‘Berry Beary Kind’, ready to help, and make things happier in our town. To make it more like its name, ‘Berry Friendly Town’.”





“Yes!” added Liza, starting to get ideas already. “We could help to pull home the shopping for our neighbor, Miss Grey, who’s getting older and has a hard time carrying her bags.”

“That’s a great idea,” Mother Friendly encouraged.



“I know!” Mackie piped up. “We could use it to collect trash that is left around the park or down the street. It would look so much better then!”

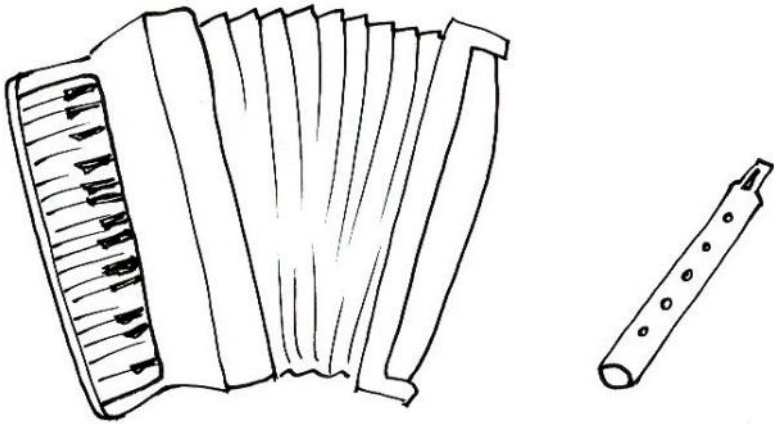
“You are getting such a fun plan!” said Father Friendly. “What a nice way to end our vacation! With a new family project to look forward to, as we head home. I can hardly wait to get started.”

## Merry Berry Bella



Berry Bella put on her prettiest dress. It was green with white lace on the edges and a big yellow ribbon for a belt. She added a crown of freshly picked flowers from her garden to her hair.

Today was the day that she and her brother Berry Beary Kind would perform for the elderly folks that lived in a cottage near the lake.



“Music is a way to cheer folks up,” Berry Bella would say.

She would play the flute and harp, while her brother would sing and use his accordion.

He was dressed up too, in his best light blue suit and red bowtie.



On some Sundays, they chose to be a team and would go to places all around, singing and making hearts glad with their cheery songs. Many of them were songs that Berry Bella wrote herself.

After each performance they'd ask each other, "Where shall we go to next, a fortnight from now?"

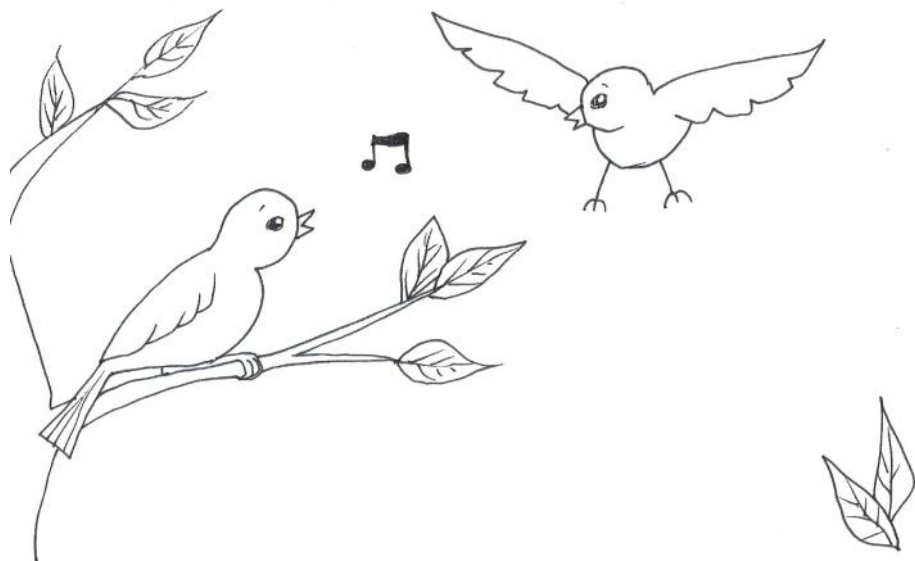
There were always so many ideas and invitations from people to have them revisit. Sometimes it was hard to choose.

"I always feel so happy when I see the smiles we help to give to people," Berry Bella said as she and her brother drove to the cottage for their performance.



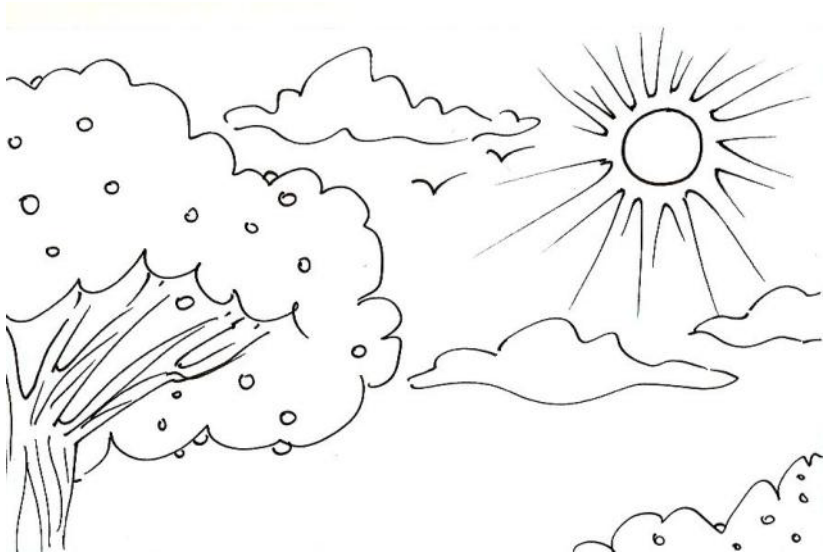
The clapping started even before they began their first song. Everyone was glad to have this Berry Beary team there that day. In fact they looked forward to it so much that they chose to spend the afternoon of the day before getting things all decorated for this special event.

There were streamers and balloons on the ceiling; flowers on the tables; and a special snack prepared for all to enjoy—especially their musical guests.



The first song was a tune that came to Beary Bella one day as she woke up one sunny spring morning, and heard the birds singing merrily. She called it, “Merry Melody.”

When she played it for her brother a day or so later, on her flute, it made him think of a little poem his mother, Berry Beary Gentle used to say. He worked on it a bit and soon together, with these words and the new tune, a cheery song was made.



“We’ll start off with ‘Merry Melody,’” Beary Bella announced to the waiting audience.

Her flute began the melodic intro, then was joined by the harmonizing notes of Berry Beary Kind’s accordion, and his voice began:

“Sunlight rays dance in my room,  
Like a smile that replaces gloom.  
I’ll bring that bit of cheer with me,  
To help someone else feel happy.”





The songs and applause continued for half an hour or more, and then the snack and chat time followed.

It was more than just the songs that were welcomed, but the friendship of this pair. For they must have been about the friendliest ones around.



At the end when it was time for the team to leave, they asked if anyone had any last requests for them to sing.

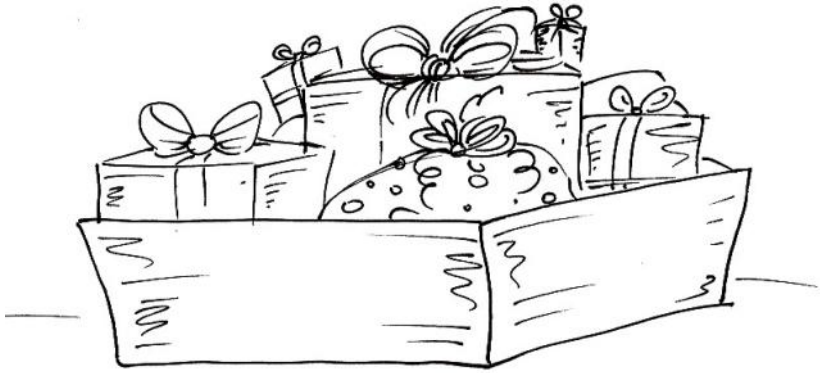
“Please sing, ‘Happy Birthday’! –For today is Mr. Abel’s birthday!”

Indeed it was. Mr. Abel was a kind and gentle man, soft spoken, and would never have tried to get the attention focused on to him alone. But now it was his turn to be appreciated.



The singing team stood up and sang the best “Happy Birthday” those folks thought they’d ever heard. It sure was lively.

Miss Gayle had secretly prepared a box of gifts for Mr. Abel and was planning to present it to him that day, and decided that it was the best time right then.



“Here in this box are gifts and treats, cards and notes, given by each of us here, and some that aren’t here but who wanted to show you, dear Mr. Abel, their love and appreciation for all you have given and done.”

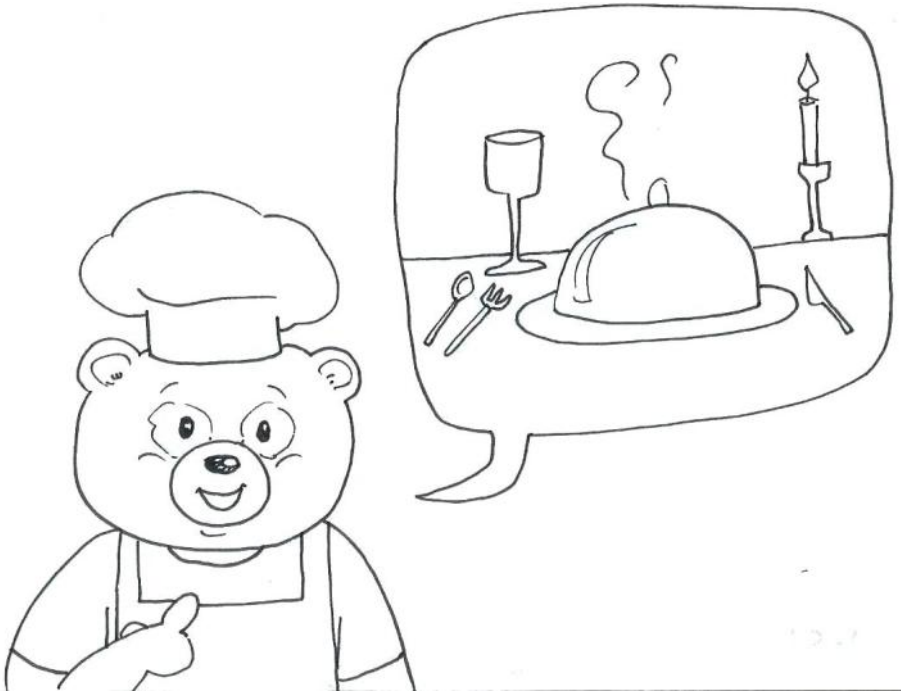
Mr. Abel was surprised by all this sudden attention. He didn’t know what to say. He reached out and accepted the gift box, which was filled with many gifts inside.



“I’ll explore this later,” he said with a happy look, touched by the love shown back to him, in return for all he’d done for others.

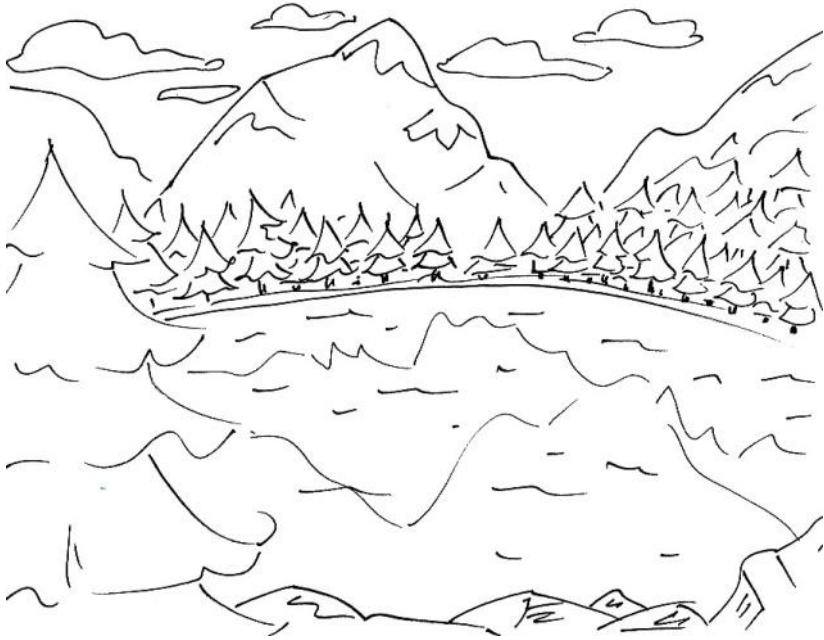
He thanked each one sincerely for whatever they added to the box.

“Thank you! Thank you all so much,”  
Mr. Abel said.



“And now, there’s an announcement by the chef,” Miss Gayle said, as attention turned to hear what he had to say.

Berry Beary Cook said, “In honor of Mr. Abel’s very special day today, there is going to be a surprise dinner. It will be served an hour earlier than usual, and,” he said with a smile, “please come dressed to dine near the lake. I’ll see you then.”



There was to be a special picnic and barbeque, boat rides, and more live music playing—this time by Beary Merry Song and his band.

Everyone was looking forward to it.

Berry Beary Kind and his sister Beary Bella were also invited to join in the fun.



“It sure pays to give!” Berry Beary Kind said in a whisper to his sister.

“Sure does!” she responded.

And a fun evening was enjoyed by all. The Wonder bears even made a surprise visit and served snacks, told jokes and did a short, impromptu entertaining show.

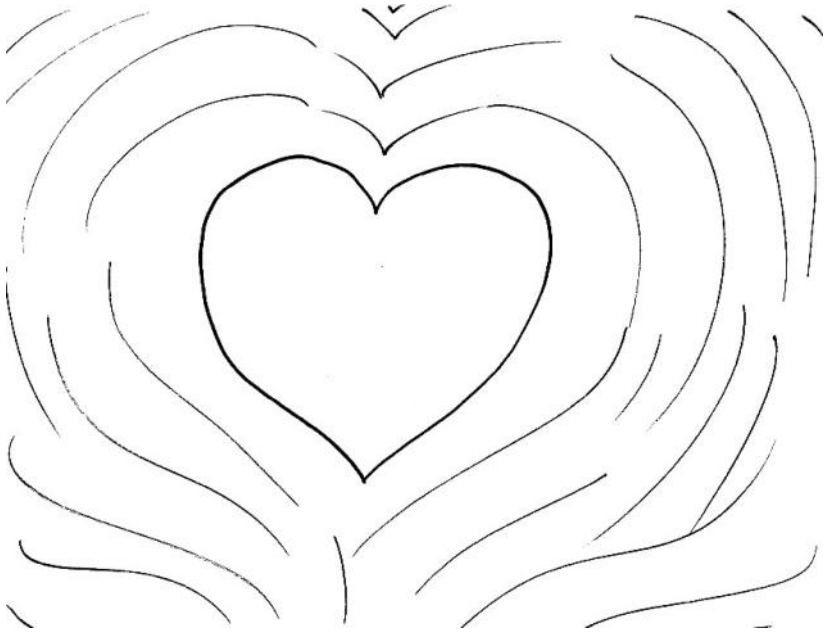
Berry Beary Brave took them all on a glass-bottom boat ride on the calm lake, and those that wanted to swim would just dive off the boat into the water.





At the end of the special evening, Mr. Abel had an announcement to make:

“You’ve all been such good friends to me, and that has been the best gift ever, throughout the year. I’m looking forward to another year living and working with you, and doing all I can to help make Berry Beary Town the happiest and most friendly place around.”



As Berry Beary Kind and Beary Bella drove away they smiled thinking what a fun day it had been.

“When I heard what Mr., Abel said towards the end,” Bella said, “it made me realize how important not only kindness is—for he has truly been kind and generous—but also how equally important it is to encourage and show appreciation to those that do. It keeps them going and doing and showing love. Everyone benefits from loving appreciation and heartfelt thanks.”