

Short-Syllable Stories

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The Trap

"It's a trap," Gil said, and put up his hand to stop Zed. They were on a damp track that led across a hill, and Gil had spotted a clump of flat grass, past the next bend.

"It's just grass," Zed said. "We can step on it."

But Gil got a rock and flung it on the grass. The rock fell into a pit that the grass had hidden.

Early Start

(Story words: early, start)

As the rest of the men in the camp slept, Dan sat up in his tent to rub a sudden cramp in his leg.

Crickets sang, and the wind sent a gust along the tent fabric. He drank from his tin cup, and got up to go have some eggs, and a scrap of ham.

The sun crept up and lit the hills. The rest of the men got up, and the elk hunt was on.

Frog Facts

A frog can swim, and it can be on land. It has skin that is slick.

A frog will sit on a log to rest. If a frog wants a bug, it sits still, and when a bug lands next to it, the frog snaps the bug up.

Then it can jump off for a swim. Frogs jump well, and they swim well.

A frog has eggs, as hens do. Frog eggs are not as big as hen eggs.

Off to Camp in a Truck

Camp is a lot of fun, but you must pack well for it.

Bring a tent, a grill, and a big bag that you can fill with some nuts, chips, and cans of pop.

If you come in a truck, you can put the tent and the grill in back.

It helps to bring a soft mat for your tent too.

If you do not, you can end up with a stiff neck!

Tim's Pig

Tim rested in the grass by the pen where he kept his pigs.

A man crept up to the pen and got in.

Tim jumped up and ran at him.

The man put one of the pigs in a bag and was back on the grass with one big jump. Then he ran off, and he was fast!

Again Tim ran at him. He swung a stick to snag the bag.

The man ran off with not a thing in his hands,
and Tim had his pig back.

Wren in a Nest

(Story word: wren)

The wren rested in her nest with her eggs. She had a good nest of twigs and grass set in mud. The wren sat over her eggs all day. The nest was a soft and snug spot to be.

But then the wind hit the top of the elm, and the sun set. It got dim, and the wren felt a chill come over her.

Still the wren sat on her eggs. At last, she felt an egg jump! And in not long at all she had a chick.

A Dog's Wish

Jed was at the plant stand. The man at the stand handed Jed a nut.

"Plant this nut," he said. "A big red dog will spring up. Then it will ask you to bring it a drink."

Jeb planted the nut in a box full of sand. The next day, a big red dog sat next to the box.

"Can I get you a drink?" Jeb said.

"Yes," said the big red dog. "And put a big hunk of ham in it too!"

“That will not be good.” Jeb said.

“To me it will be good,” said the big red dog. He licked his chops, and then he licked Jed.

Crops

(Story word: carrots)

If a big plot of land has a lot of plants in it, and they were planted by men, the plants are said to be a crop.

Lots of plants can be crops, such as: plums, figs, carrots, melons, and catnip. Cotton is a crop, as well.

You have to get crops wet often, and not let bugs or pests kill them. Frost can kill crops as well, but you cannot stop frost. You just have to trust good luck on some things.

Hidden in a Sandbox

Sid dug in his sandbox. He dug until he hit a big red box. There was a lot of damp sand stuck to it.

He dug until he got the box out of the sand. He dusted it off. In the box was a cotton bag with a lump in it. Sid put his hand in the bag and felt the lump. What was it? It was a glass rabbit.

The rabbit had a trumpet in its hand!

Sid put the rabbit next to his bed so it was with him when he slept.

What Is an Atlas?

An atlas is a set of maps. It is helpful if you are on a trip and you end up lost. Often, if you do not want to admit that you are lost, you will not stop to ask for help.

With a good atlas, you can get back on the best track. An atlas of a big land will have a lot of maps in it.

If you want, you can get an atlas of the planet!

Have a Picnic!

In the spring, if the sun is out, a picnic is a good bet for a fun thing to do. Pick a spot on the grass, and fling a big blanket to sit on.

Fill a basket with muffins, napkins, and plastic cups. If the picnic basket has flaps on it, it will stop insects that want to jump in.

A picnic next to a pond can be splendid. You can toss scraps to the ducks and then go for a swim.

What Are Cats Like?

(Story words: like, adult)

Cats are fun to have as pets. If a cat drops from a spot, it will twist or flip to land on its legs the best that it can.

Cats do not have a lot of trust, and they will scam from a sudden upset. For a cat, one big upset is a dog.

An adult cat can be fat or slim. If a cat is not an adult yet, it is a kitten.

All About Texas

(Story words: cows, cowboys)

Texas is a big land with lots of cows and cowboys. It has a lot of dust as well, or mud if it is wet.

Texas cowboys dress well for the jobs they do, with strong pants and jackets, and hats that block the sun.

A lot of Texas is flat grass land, but it has hills and cliffs too.

If you go on a trip to Texas, it will help if you have a big map.

The Cabin on Fog Hill

(Story word: old)

The cabin on Fog Hill was full of junk and rusted metal. The kids on the bus said to Flip that the cabin was inhabited by a mad old man.

The kids said that the old man sat in his cabin all day and sang songs. He went out of the cabin and sat on the grass to sing songs with the crickets.

The kids said that Flip must not go in the cabin if Flip did not want to be trapped in the cabin to sing with the crickets himself. Flip did not tell the kids on the bus that he was upset, but he

was upset all day about the cabin with the mad man.

Flip said to his mom before bed, “I’m upset about the cabin on the hill with the mad old man who traps kids. What if he comes here to get me?”

Flip’s mom said, “Flip, the kids on the bus are just having fun with you. There is not a mad man in that cabin. It is just a shack filled with lots of rusted junk.” Flip’s mom added, “But do not let the kids push you to go in. I went into that cabin when I was a kid, and I got bitten by a big bug.”

Sod Cabins

(Story words: trees, family, America)

Let's think about a family traveling west across America in 1880.

They are traveling in a wagon. A strong ox pulls the wagon. The family must stop and rest. A cabin will be splendid for them. But there is not a lot of stuff to craft a cabin with.

If there are no trees, the family will cut sod.

What is sod? Sod is grass, with the land that it is planted in. There is much sod to cut. Sod is cut with an ax. You can cut into the land and pull up the sod.

Then, bricks can be cut from the sod. The family can craft a cabin from the bricks. They will put mud on the sod cabin. The sod cabin will be a bit damp. But it was fast to craft. And it can be a snug spot for the family to rest.

Tex's Map

A band of wagons and a pack of animals traveled west across the windswept lands, sending up big gusts of dust as they went.

Tex, a big man in a black hat, sat on a strong ox. He led the wagons and the animals.

Tex had a map, and he often got it out from his backpack. When the animals drank and fed, Tex consulted the map and planned the band's next steps.

The rest of the men were thrilled that they had Tex and his map, and Tex led them west for ten days.

Tex did not let the men see that the map he consulted was blank!

A Fantastic Nut

Mr. Livingston, the man who ran the melon stand, called Jeb over to chat with him. He said something fantastic.

“Jeb, do you see this nut in my hand? If this nut is planted, a red plant with a long red stem will spring up, and then the plant will ask you to bring it a drink!”

Jeb said, “Can I have this nut? I will plant it!”

“Yes,” Mr. Livingston said with a glad wink and then handed the nut to Jeb.

Jeb ran to his sandbox and got his trucks and buckets out. He planted the nut.

By sunset, a big red plant on a long stem was sticking up.

Jeb said, "Can I get you a drink?"

"Yes, with a twist of lemon," the plant said.

The Angry King

(Story word: angry)

The king, clad in velvet and mink, was vexed, cross, and angry.

He flung his big metal cup at the map of his lands and the lands of the next king over.

“Bring me my cannons,” he said at last. “I must grab the lands of the nitwit king who has been inhabiting the lands by us for too long.”

The men were glum. They did not want to tell the king something bad.

“What is the problem, you milksops?” the king yelled.

One man bit his lip. One man said, “King, this task will be too difficult for us.”

“Why, you timid rabbits?” the king yelled.

One man summoned the pluck to tell the king the bad thing. He said, “King, you have just one cannon. And that one cannon is stuck in the mud.”

Fun Family Trips

(Story words: family, America)

A family trip can be a lot of fun.

You can visit granddad.

You can travel to a festival.

You can rent a cabin by a pond.

A big family will often travel in a van. But if you must travel across America, you can hit a lot of traffic.

Traffic is not fun.

If you travel on a jet, you can skip the traffic.
You can get to a spot fast. But you must get a
ticket to travel on a jet.

It is good to get the tickets long before you are
planning to travel or the tickets will cost a lot.

What To Do When You Get a Cut or Scab

If you get a bad cut, it is good to tell your mom or dad.

They will want to dab it with stuff that smells. It will sting a bit, but it helps. It stops the cut from getting infected.

Then the cut will get a scab on top.

Do not pick at that scab! The scab is doing its job.

It must be there to help the cut get well.

Mom or Dad will hug or kiss you. That helps too.

Why We Put on Sunblock

“Put on sunblock!” Mom and Dad yell to us. Here is why.

The sun is strong. Skin tans in the sun, but with too much sun, your skin gets red, hot, and distressed. Too much sun is bad for your skin and you.

Dan will swim. He puts on sunblock. He gets wet and when he gets back in the sun, he puts on more sunblock.

Kim has tennis lessons, and there is a lot of sun. She puts on sunblock and puts on a hat as

well. The brim of the hat is big and blocks the sun too.

Jack thinks that a suntan is splendid. He does not put on sunblock and sits in the sun. He has tennis lessons too. He swims with Dan. He sits in the grass with Hank in the sun.

Hank sees that Jack's skin is red and looking bad. "You are getting red!" Hank says. He sits with Jack under an umbrella that blocks the sun.

Robin Moms

Kids have moms. Animals have moms, too.

Animal moms have jobs.

A robin mom must plan a nest.

She wants a good spot, a hidden spot.

The robin mom collects twigs and grass and puts them in her nest.

Then she sits on her eggs. She sits and sits and sits.

Then there is a crack in an egg. The crack gets big.

A bill pecks up from the crack.

The rest of the eggs crack and split too.

Now the robin mom has six chicks.

The chicks will have to be fed.

It is just one more job the robin mom must do.

Camping Can Be Fun for a Family Trip

(Story word: family)

What is there to do at camp? The Jackson family will do lots of fun things on their camping trip.

The Jackson family will travel in a big truck. Mr. Jackson has packed all the camping stuff and put it in the back of the truck.

When they get to the spot by the pond where they want to set up camp, Mr. Jackson lifts the big stuff out of the back of the truck, and the kids get the small things out.

Mrs. Jackson sets up the tent.

Sis sees a big log. She jumps on the log. Then, she pushes the log over for the family to sit on.

They go for a swim in the pond. They hunt frogs and let them go.

They rest in the tent.

At the end of the day, they sit on the log and sing camping songs.

They all think that camping is a fun family trip.

Sandbox

It is fun to be in the sandbox.

You can pack sand in a cup or bucket.

You can tip the sand out from the cup or bucket and get a block of sand.

Wet sand is best for this. Sand blocks are strong when the sand is damp.

If the sand is not wet or damp, you can still dump the sand out of the cup or bucket.

You will get a hill of sand. Will it be a big hill? Or will the sand spill out and be flat?

Wet or not, a sandbox is lots of fun.

Now It's Spring

Get rid of the sled. Pack up your mittens and hats. A thin jacket is just what you want.

Now, it's spring!

What happens in the spring?

Grass pops up.

The robins are back. They have a nest with eggs.

The ducks are back as well. They are in the pond.

Frogs sing in the spring.

There is more sun in the spring, but spring can be damp and wet too.

Drip, drop, drip, drop. You will get wet. Yuck!
Your pants and socks are damp.

The next day, you will bring an umbrella with you, and you will not get wet.

Insects

(Story word: attack)

This planet has a lot of insects on it. Insects (or bugs) are often pests and can attack planted crops, animals, and us, as well.

The cricket is an insect. It is big and black, and it can jump as fast as a frog. In fact it must, for it is often hunted by frogs.

The ant is not as big as the cricket. Ants are strong, and they dig long, twisted tunnels that connect well.

Which Animals Are Good Pets?

(Story words: carrots, fluffy)

Lots of animals can be splendid pets.

Dogs are fun pets for kids. Dogs must have a spot to run and sniff. They will nap in bed with you if Mom and Dad let them.

Cats are fun pets too. They are swift as they hunt. They nap a lot. Mom and Dad cannot stop cats from napping on the beds. Cats tend to do just what they want to do.

A rabbit can be a good pet. They are soft and fluffy and can be kept in a small spot. They

snack on plants. If you bring scraps of plants or a carrot to your rabbit, he will be glad.

Some kids have rats, and they can be a lot of fun.

Ants can be fun as well. They can be kept in a small plastic box with sand. They will not nap in bed with you. But you can look at them as they dig their tunnels in the sand.

And then there are animals who are not splendid pets. Not a lot of kids have elks or skunks for pets.

Fox Kits Frisk

(Story word: adult)

Fox kits are red animals. They have black legs.
They run and frisk in the grass for fun.

Run, fox kits!

Jump, fox kits!

Dig, fox kits!

The kits get strong from frisking. They will hunt
as they get big.

Adult foxes hunt rats. And they hunt bugs.

The fox kits frisk as a lesson for hunting.

Then they rest in the den.

The fox mom puts the den in a good, hidden spot.

Rest well, fox kits.

Rocket Blastoff

A rocket is a vessel that can send you up off of the planet.

You sit in a metal pod, on the tip of the rocket, and strap in.

At blastoff, the rocket blasts from its stand and lifts the pod with it.

The rocket and pod travel up fast, until the rocket cuts off from the pod.

Tim Had Mumps

Tim got mumps. He was hot. He felt sick. His neck felt big and hot. He had to rest in bed.

Granddad sat by the bed. “Drink this milk,” said Granddad. “It will help.”

Tim drank the milk.

Tim was upset. “What can we do?”

Granddad said, “The mumps are not fun. But just rest. Rest will help.”

The next day, Tim still felt rotten. He rested with a snug blanket. It was dull.

“Can I get up?” Tim said to Granddad.

“Not yet,” Granddad said. “I had mumps,” said Granddad. “I was seven.”

“You were not seven,” said Tim. Granddad at seven? Too odd. Tim grinned.

Then he slept.

“Still sick?” said Granddad as Tim got up.

“Yes,” said Tim. The bed was damp. He let Granddad fix up the bed. Then he got back in.

Tim rested and rested. And then he got up strong. “Yes!” he said, jumping from the bed. “I got rid of the mumps.”