Buster's Farm

A story by Edwin Thompson

Lessons based upon the actions and antics of the real Animals of Buster's Farm

(For Kacy)

A script for the audio story and the animation project, series one through eight

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TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR BUSTER'S FARM Series one thru three AUDIO CD # 1

SERIES ONE: 13:50

TRK# 1: pre-text	INTRO w\ BUSTER'S FARM THEME SONG, sung by Buster (1:31)
TRK# 2: pgs 1-2	MOVING TO THE FARM (1:56) character development story
TRK# 3: pgs 3-4	MEETING NEW FRIENDS (1:38) character development story
TRK# 4: pg 5	CRUZ: the Paso Fino Pony (:56) character development story
TRK# 5: pgs 6-7	HELPING OTHERS, Captain Hoony (1:46) character development story
TRK# 6: pg 8	ACCEPTING WHO YOU ARE: Nermy Kitty (1:05) character dev. story
TRK# 7: pgs 9-12	PREJUDICE (4:00)
TRK# 8: pg 13	SLEEPY TIME (:26)

SERIES TWO: 12:06

TRK# 9: pgs 14-24	WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOR (11:12)
TRK# 10: Pg 25	BELIEVES and ACHIEVE: The Ant (:50)

SERIES THREE: 11:25

TRK# 11: pgs 26-28	Pride (2:33)
TRK# 12: pgs 29-30	SHARING CHORES (2:06)
TRK# 13: pgs 31-32	STEALING: The Mouse (2:08)
TRK# 14: pgs 33-36	EVERYONE CAN HELP IN A CRISIS (4:20)

TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR "BUSTER'S FARM" Series four thru eight AUDIO CD # 2

SERIES FOUR: 12:00

TRK# 1: pgs 37-41	SEEING BETTER WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED (5:00)
TRK# 2: pgs 42-45	TEASING: Tators Story (3:24)
TRK# 3: pgs 46-49	MIS-JUDGING OTHER BY THEIR LOOKS (3:24)

SERIES FIVE: 13:33

TRK# 4: pgs 50-59TERRORIST STRIKE THE FARM (10:56)TRK# 5: pgs 60-61BIILY THE BLUEBIRD, TOO MUCH SUGAR (2:29)

SERIES SIX: 12:42

 TRK# 6: pgs 62-65
 TALENTS: Uncle Woo-Woo (4:11)

 TRK# 7: pgs 66-70
 ADOPTION: Peanuts Story (5:54)

 TRK# 8: pgs 71-73
 PROCRASTINATION: (2:23)

SERIES SEVEN: 14:06

 TRK# 9: pgs.74-78
 AGING: El-Poco's Story (6:21)

 TRK# 10: pgs.79-85
 LAZINESS: Caesar the Goat (7:41)

Series Eight: 12:30

TRK#10 pgs. 86- Helping Friends to Control Anger (14:00)

A synopsis of stories from the series "BUSTER'S FARM" By EDWIN THOMPSON

Series one: Seven stories, 14:30 total time

Stories 1 through 5 are short character development stories averaging less than two minutes in length introducing the characters of BUSTERS FARM; some have lessons interwoven while others are strictly to introduce the characters and their personalities.

STORY 1. MOVING TO THE FARM: A character development story that takes Buster, the Paso Fino horse from his lonely life in the city to his new home in the country, filled with new friends. The story lesson helps children understand that sometimes moving to a new home can be better than staying where you are.

STORY 2. MEETING NEW FRIENDS: A character development story that introduces Sir Peabody the cocky and arrogant Peacock, who throughout the series becomes somewhat of an antagonist to Buster. Also introduced is B.A. Hooty Owl, a character of practical wisdom, who in the series always restores order to the chaos while offering plain and practical solutions to many of the problems. The lesson touches on not being baffled by beauty or intimidated by those who "think" they are in charge.

STORY 3. CRUZ, the Paso FINO PONY: A character development story that introduces the high energy, fun loving, pony Cruz. A naive youth full of questions concerning life.

STORY 4. HELPING OTHERS, CAPTAIN HOONY: A character development story that introduces Captain Hoony the cat. This story tells of his near death experience and how he was saved by B.A. Hooty Owl. The lesson of the story is that we should help others whenever we can and that doing right is always the right thing to do.

STORY 5: ACCEPTING WHO YOU ARE, NERMY KITTY: A character development story that introduces Nermy the kitten, who longs to be as beautiful and as bold Sir Peabody. The lesson of the story is that one cannot pretend to be someone or something you're not and that you should be proud of your own beauty and individuality.

STORY 6: PREJUDICE: A four minute story that brings all of the characters together as well as introduces the ducks that live on the farm. The lesson on prejudice is brought into play as some passing crows ask to have a drink of water and a swim in the pond to cool off. The ducks argue to the others that the crows are different from the "members" of the Farm and therefore should not be allowed to use the pond. This story deals directly with the issue of prejudice because of race and color. It has a wonderful ending that shows how much in life can't be seen when one lives in the blindness of prejudice.

STORY 7: SLEEPY TIME: A fifty second filler story that re-enforces the importance of looking out for each other and living harmoniously together.

Series two: Two stories, 12:06 total time

STORY 8: WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOR: Based upon the classic story of The Good Samaritan. As Buster and Sir Peabody travel into town for supplies, they encounter a small dog that has been mugged and left injured and helpless along the road. The argument of whether or not to stop and help ensues between Buster and Sir Peabody. Helping the injured dog will cost them money, making it impossible to purchase all of their needed supplies for the winter. True to his character, Buster stops to help the injured dog, much to the objections of Sir Peabody. The story has a happy ending that teaches the lesson that we are all neighbors and we should always help those in need, and that one will always be rewarded ,sometimes in the most surprising ways, for their good deeds.

STORY 9: BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE, The ANT: Buster encounters an ant doing the impossible, carrying a morsel of food twice his own size. This 50 second story plainly teaches the lesson that as long as one believes and tries; there is nothing one can't do!

Series three: Four stories, 11:25 total time

STORY 10: PRIDE: It's molting season and Sir Peabody has lost his brilliant feathers along with his self esteem. B.A. Hooty teaches the lesson that beauty is fading but wisdom is permanent, the story teaches the age old adage that "pride comes before a fall."

STORY 11: SHARING CHORES: As all of the animals are tending their crops Peabody's paranoia's pop up as the bees come to gather some pollen used in making their honey, which they share with all of the animals at BUSTERS FARM. B.A. Hooty points out Peabody's freeloading ways and nearly convinces Peabody that the bees are not the "spies" that he imagines. The lesson teaches that when we all work together and share, everyone's needs are met and "that to waste not, is to want not."

STORY 12: STEALING, The MOUSE: Grain is missing from Busters food supply, the culprit is a little mouse. In this story, Buster teaches that to be in need is nothing to be ashamed of and that asking for help is always more honorable than stealing and that stealing is always wrong!

STORY 13: EVERONE CAN HELP IN A CRISIS: Lightning strikes the barn causing financial difficulties upon the animals to fix the roof of the barn. All of the animals, as well as the neighboring farm animals pitch in to help raise the needed money. Despite all of the help, they're still short of the needed money. The burden falls upon Sir Peabody to donate his beautiful plumage in order to raise the additional money. This humorous story teaches that during a crisis, painful sacrifices are sometimes required and that we all have help we can offer during a crisis.

Series four: Three stories, 12:11 total time

STORY 14: SEEING BETTER WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED: It's time for the annual yard sale and Sir Peabody has devised a way to make quick sales by helping those who appear to be wealthy while ignoring those who appear poor. In this lesson Buster teaches the valuable lesson of not judging other by their looks and the importance of treating all equally. In an interesting experiment Buster shows Sir Peabody that sometimes one can see more clearly without sight!

STORY 15: TEASING, Tators Story: This story introduces Tator the pop-eyed dog; his enormous bulging eyes make him a target for teasing. In this story all of the animals show Tator how to deal with the teasing from others and teach him what true friends are. Tator learns not to let the teasing from others dampen his self esteem or bring him down and that every ones different looks are what makes everyone special and unique!

STORY 16: MISJUDGING OTHERS BY THEIR LOOKS: In a very humorous story, Buster encounters a snake in the barnyard and goes hysterical with fear thinking that the snake tried to bite him, while the snake thinks that Buster was trying to stomp him. B.A. Hooty Owl brings reasoning into the chaos and confusion and teaches us not to draw conclusions based upon what others look like and not to panic in unexpected situations.

Series five: Two Stories 13:26 total time

STORY 17: TERRORIST STRIKES THE FARM: A very timely story that deals with terrorism. Busters Farm becomes the unexpected target of terrorist buzzards. This story deals with why there is terrorism and the devastation and carnage caused by terrorism in a way that children can relate to and understand. It teaches children not to live in fear, but to learn from the past, live for today and to be prepared for the future. An outstanding story for teaching children how to cope with the issues related to terrorism.

STORY 18: BILLY THE BLUEBIRD, TOO MUCH SUGAR: In this story Billy the Bluebird begins feeding at Harry and Harriet the Hummingbirds feeder, creating too much sugar in his diet. This short two and a half minute story teaches the dangers of too much sugar in ones diet.

Series six: Three stories, 12:37 total time

STORY 19: TALENTS: UNCLE WOO-WOO: Nermy's uncle Woo-Woo, the Siamese cat, who is a very important artist, comes to visit BUSTERS FARM. Nermy tries hard to paint like his

Uncle but realizes he has no talent for painting. This story teaches that everyone has a talent and that if you seek your talent you will find it!

STORY 20: ADOPTION, PEANUTS STORY: Peanut the Border collie, a friend of all of the animals of BUSTERS FARM comes for a visit. Having run the gambit of foster homes and having endured abuse and neglect, her never ending joy and zest for life show us that if you wait patiently and cheerfully with a loving and forgiving heart, love will find you!

STORY 21: PROCRASTINATION: Ed has called an early practice and he's running late. It's a beautiful day...too pretty to work on the new story, so all of the animals decide to play hooky from work. This story teaches that when you put things off, nothing gets done!

Series seven: Two stories, 14:02 total time

STORY 22: AGING, El-POCOS STORY: El-Poco, an old war hero, and uncle of Cruz Pony comes to visit. Cruz has a hard time understanding how his uncle was such a hero in the past when now he is always tired, slow and can't play with him all the time. In this story the animals explain to young Cruz the effects of aging as well as the reason why we should all have patience and respect for our elders.

STORY 23: LAZINESS: CAESAR THE GOAT: Caesar the goat, a city-slicker friend of young Cruz comes to spend the summer at the Farm. His lack of helping with chores and wondering off unsupervised soon leads to tension and trouble. By the time his stay is over at BUSTERS FARM he learns that being lazy produces nothing in your life and that becoming productive and active makes exiting and wonderful things happen in your life.

Series eight: One story, 14:00 total time

STORY 24: ANGER MANAGEMENT: After a bad day at jumping practice, Cruz pony is angry over a minor misunderstanding that turned into a physical fight with another pony. Buster and Sir Peabody show young Cruz some very important and helpful ways to control his anger, as well as how to keep calm in a crisis. This story was written based upon the lessons from Dr. Grad Flick's book on anger management.