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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 introducing the characters of BUSTER'S 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 is an antagonist to Buster. Also introduced is B.A. Hooty Owl, a character of practical wisdom that always restores order to the chaos, while offering plain and practical solutions to many of the problems. This lesson teaches us not to be baffled by beauty, or intimidated by those who think that 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 in this story teaches that we should always help others when 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. This story shows that one cannot pretend to be someone, or something you are 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. By the end of this story we are shown how much in life can not 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 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. This story teaches that we are all neighbors, and we should always help those in need. We are shown that one will always be rewarded for their good deeds—sometimes in the most surprising ways.

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 teaches that as long as one believes and tries, then 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 shows us 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 pollen used to make their honey— which they share with all of the animals. B.A. Hooty points out Peabody’s freeloading ways, and nearly convinces Peabody that the bees are not the “spies” that he imagines. This 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 Buster’s 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. The story emphasizes that stealing is always wrong.

STORY 13: EVERYONE CAN HELP IN A CRISIS: Lightning strikes the barn. This causes financial difficulties because the animals have to fix the roof. 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. We are shown that during a crisis, painful sacrifices are sometimes required, and that we all have help that we can offer.

Series four: Three stories, 12:11 total time

STORY 14: SEEING BETTER WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED: It's time for the annual yard sale. 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 us to not judge others by their looks and the importance of treating all equally. In an interesting experiment, Buster shows Sir Peabody that sometimes you can see more clearly without sight.

STORY 15: TEASING: TATER'S STORY: This story introduces Tater the pop-eyed dog. His enormous bulging eyes make him a target for teasing. All of the animals show Tater how to deal with the teasing from others, and teach him what true friends are. Tater learns not to let the teasing from others dampen his self esteem, and that everyone's different looks are what makes them special and unique.

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

Series five: Two Stories 13:26 total time

STORY 17: TERRORISTS STRIKE THE FARM: A timely story that deals with terrorism. Buster's Farm becomes the unexpected target of terrorist buzzards. This story explains why terrorism exists in a way that children can understand. It teaches us not to live in fear, but to learn from the past, live for today, and to be prepared for the future.

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 one's 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 BUSTER'S FARM. Nermy tries hard to paint like his uncle, but realizes that 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: PEANUT'S STORY: Peanut the Border Collie, a friend of all of the animals on BUSTER'S FARM, comes for a visit. Having run the gambit of foster homes, enduring abuse and neglect—Peanut's 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 shows that when you put things off nothing gets done.

Series seven: Two stories, 14:02 total time

STORY 22: AGING: EI-POCO'S STORY: El-Poco, an old war hero, and uncle of Cruz the 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. The animals explain to 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, the city-slicker friend of young Cruz, comes to spend several weeks at the farm. His lack of helping with chores, and wandering off unsupervised soon leads to tension and trouble. By the time his stay is over at BUSTER'S FARM he learns that being lazy produces nothing in your life. Caesar finds that becoming productive and active makes exciting and wonderful things happen in your life.

Series eight: One story, 13:20 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 important and helpful ways to control his anger, and how to keep calm in a crisis. This story is based upon the lessons from Dr. Grad Flick's book on anger management.