

A kid and a big dog jog in the grass.
The dog yaps and nips at a tan cat.
The cat has a fit.
He runs and slips in the pond.
The wet cat is not glad.
He is mad.

The kid stands next to the pond.
He tells the dog it is bad to yap and nip at cats.
The dog licks the kid's hand.

Ducks are on the pond.
The ducks quack at the dog.
The dog yips at the ducks.
A hen clucks at the cat.
The cat sits in the sun.
The ducks swim on the pond.

Pat has a tin top.
It has red dots.
He sits on a cot and spins his top.
It spins on a box.
The top will not spin in sand.
It does not spin in grass.
It spins best on a big box.

Pat sits and spins his top.
A dog hops on the box.
The dog grabs the top and runs.
Pat runs at the dog.
The dog stops and pants.
He drops the top.
It lands on the rim.
It does not get a dent.
Pat pets his dog and grins.
He is glad he can still spin his top.

A black bird sat in a nest of sticks and twigs.
She left the nest to zap at bugs.
Birds must be quick to get bugs.
Next, the bird hopped on a rock to rest in the sun.

A smug cat ran at the bird.
But, the cat had a bell on his neck.
He went splat on the rock.
He did not get the black bird.
It was too quick.
“Drat,” said the cat.

The bird went back to her nest and hid.
The cat jumped on a big log.
He was not glad.
The mad cat ran back and hid in a box.

Tim has a drum.
A strap holds it on his neck.
He is in the band.
Tim hits his drum with two sticks.
He is quick and has fun.
Tim's band pants are black, and his vest is red.
His gold band hat flops in the wind.
It is too big for his head.

Pam has a brass horn.
Her hat flops in the wind, too.

Tim stands at the back of the band.
Pam is next to her pal.
The rest of the kids get mixed up.
The band zigs and zags in the grass.
Tim yells, "Stop!"
The first kid stops.
The rest drop.
It is such a mess.

Pam sat on the steps. She put ice cubes in her teacup. She made a mistake. Pam had put the ice cubes in a cracked cup. The cubes melted, dripped out of the crack and onto the steps. That made the steps slick.

Just then, her dog chased a cat up the steps. The cat hit the slick steps and slid into a plant stand. There was a pot of flowers on the stand. The stand tipped, and the pot fell. What a mess!

Pam cleaned up the mess. Then, she got a mug and filled it with milk. She sat on a swing in the shade and sipped her drink.

It was raining. Fluff was a lost cat, and he was wet. He ran up a tree to hide. After the rain stopped, the sun went down. The grass was filled with deep puddles. Fluff was afraid to wade across them. He was afraid he would sink.

Fluff had a chain on his neck with a tag. It had his name and address on it. The tag told where he lived. A man came up the street and saw Fluff. The man picked up the drenched cat to take him home.

Fluff was glad to see his home. When he went inside, the children gave him a dish of milk. Then Fluff went to his soft bed and had a long nap.

Jen felt sad. A tear splashed down her cheek. "I'll never find it!" she cried. Jen had worked hard for a long time and saved her dimes. Then, she used the cash to get a green yo-yo with gold string. It had a white goose painted on the side, and now it was lost.

"Please keep trying. I know it's here somewhere," her mother said as she sat knitting a wool cap.

"Okay," Jen grumbled. "I'll keep looking." The girl walked to her bedroom. She looked in the closet and under the bed. She looked in her play box. "I can't find it," Jen groaned.

When she was about to give up, Jen saw Bell, her small, brown puppy. He sprang from behind a broom. Her yo-yo was in his mouth! Jen hugged the quick puppy and scratched his ears.

Jen felt so happy! She gave Bell a new, soft, plastic squeeze toy. "Thank you, Bell. You found my yo-yo," Jen said as she clung to him. "I promise I will never give up again."

Ben was a beaver. He saw his mother and father dive under the water. They had just fixed their home. As Ben swam, he watched the clouds in the sky. It looked like a storm. He saw lightning, and he heard thunder. It started to rain. The creek turned into a river, and water began to rush into the lake and flood their lodge.

“Quick!” his father shouted. To save the family, Ben and his parents ran across a ditch and up the hill to safety. Soon the rain stopped. The family scrambled to cut fresh tree trunks to fix their home.

Ben picked up sticks to help. Ben flung mud from the bottom of the lake. He pulled grass and brush from the top. Then, he helped move a small tree stump to the edge of the water. “Well!” sighed Ben as he chewed on a branch. “That was hard.” They soon had their home in good shape.

Alex crawled under the blankets on his bunk bed. He was afraid of storms. Bursts of light flashed outside and thunder rolled. Tree branches scratched at his window, and he shook with fear.

Soon his father came home from work and found Alex in his room. “What’s wrong?” he asked as he sat on the edge of the bed.

“I’m afraid of the noise,” answered Alex.

“I know a storm can be scary. Cheer up. Think of the good things that happen when it rains,” said his father. “The wind scatters seeds, and the rain gives them water to grow. Plants and wild animals need water to help them stay alive.”

“That’s true,” said Alex. “I’ll think about that and try not to be scared.” He bravely took his dad’s hand. “Thanks, Dad,” he sighed.

His proud father said, “Come with me. Let’s go to the kitchen and have some apple pie.”

Each night Dora's mother tucked her in bed. Then, her mother turned off the bedroom light as she left the room. For Dora, this was awful. Dora's eyes grew wide in the dark. She would lay in bed with the covers pulled under her chin. She shook with fright. She just knew monsters were hiding under her bed. Maybe they were lurking in the closet or creeping behind her drapes.

One night, Dora told her mother how scared she was. "I did not know the dark room bothered you," said her mother. "From now on, you may turn off your own light."

The next bedtime was different. Dora's mother closed the door but left on the light. So, Dora looked under her bed. She checked the closet. She peeked behind the drapes. Then she wrapped her teddy bear in a blanket. Dora clutched her toy animal. She paused, then reached the chain on the glowing lamp and turned off the light. Soon Dora became used to the dark, and she was not afraid.

There was a marble game at school. Ken was the best player in first grade, and he wanted to win the contest. Ken put his marbles in the middle of the ring. He looked around and saw a new student. His name was Troy. Ken flopped onto the ground. Troy sat on the other side of the circle and looked at Ken. This made Ken feel uneasy.

Ken licked his lips. Sweat ran down his face. He was proud of his marbles. He liked his blue power shooter the best. He was going to try very hard to win.

One by one, the other players lost and dropped out. Soon only Ken and Troy were left. Each time they played, the game ended in a tie. When recess was over, they were still tied. The game was a draw. This meant nobody won the contest. The two marble champs shook hands and became good friends.

Sally looked at the score of the soccer game. Her team had only two goals. The other team had three goals and was winning by one point. Only five minutes were left in the game. The crowd was quiet. Sally fell down and let out a yell. She was hurt and couldn't play, so she had to sit on the bench.

All at once, Carmen, the smallest player on Sally's team, got the ball. She flew down the sidelines. Taking aim, she kicked the ball at the goal. The ball hit the back of the net, and the score was tied. The crowd cheered.

Two minutes were left in the soccer game. Carmen refused to give up. She kicked another goal. Six seconds later a loud whistle blew, and Sally's team had won! When the girls looked around, everyone was clapping for their team.