

A kid and a big dog jog in the grass.  
The dog yaps and nips at a black 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 girl had a red bike.  
She went to get her bike.  
It had a flat tire.  
Where must she go to fix the tire?  
Her dad said he would help.  
He made a patch to fix it.  
Then he had to use a pump.  
He did a fine job.

Her dad said it was fixed.  
She could use her bike.  
The girl gave a big grin and said thanks.

She rode back and forth in a safe lane.  
Then it was time for lunch.  
The girl went fast on her bike to get home.  
For lunch, she had fish sticks, an apple,  
and a cupcake.

The wind makes waves on the lake.  
The waves make the sand get wet.  
Small birds like to chase bugs in the wet sand.  
The bugs run away fast and dig holes to hide.  
Then the bugs are safe.  
When the sun sets, the birds rush home to  
the trees.  
They are safe in nests of twigs.

When the sun comes up, the birds come back.  
They look for more bugs.  
Clams live in the sand, too.  
Some big birds look for clams for dinner.  
The clams dig holes to hide from the birds.  
That is where clams are safe.

Some big birds swim in the lake to catch fish.  
The fish dive and hide next to rocks.  
That is where fish are safe.

One of the boys in the class had a glass jar. He filled it with water. Then the teacher put frog eggs in it. It took a long time for the eggs to hatch. First, they were tadpoles. Next, they grew legs. At last, they were frogs. It was time to set them free in the lake.

The next day, the sun came up and the wind blew. The sky was getting cloudy. It looked like it might rain. The class had to set the frogs free that day. If it rained, the boys and girls would get wet.

They took the frogs to the lake. It was fun to see the frogs jump and swim. Two frogs played in the mud. The class was glad it did not rain.

Sam and his best friend took the same bus to school. The two boys liked to walk, side by side, to the bus. One day, Sam knocked on his friend's door. When the door opened, a white sheet jumped at him. Sam yelled out and jumped back! He did not know his friend was under the sheet. It was an April Fools' Day joke.

Sam had to watch for more tricks all day long in class. He played pranks, too. He made a sound like a lost kitten. The kids and the teacher could not find the cat.

Sam was glad when the last bell rang. He went home and played tricks on his mom and dad. They told him he made up silly pranks.

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.



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 buy 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 shawl.

"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 toy box. "I can't find it," Jen groaned.

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

Jen felt so happy! She gave Philly a new, soft, plastic squeeze toy. "Thank you, Philly. 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 brook turned into a river, and water began to rush into the lake and flood their lodge.

“Quick!” his father shouted. To avoid the flood, 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 repair 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 haul a small tree stump to the edge of the water. “Well!” sighed Ben as he chewed on a branch. “That was tough.” They soon had their home in order.

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.