

The End of Summer Sunrise Picnic

One early September morning, Mamma woke Sammy, Iris and Hannah up. It was so early that it was still dark outside. Mamma had already packed the picnic. The ‘end of summer picnic’ she called it, because soon Fall/Autumn would come, it was cooler each morning now. ‘Hurry’ Mamma said, ‘we want to see the first light of day!’

After they were dressed, they all went outside. The children buttoned up their sweaters as they walked to the big hill behind their house. Then up, up, up they climbed the hill. Mamma carried a big blanket, a thermos of peppermint tea, and a basket of blueberry muffins, hard boiled eggs, watermelon, and best of all, sweet, juicy blackberries! These were the best berries of the summer.

‘Listen’ said Mamma, ‘the birds have come along to welcome the day’, their joyful songs greeted the first colors of morning. ‘Oh my’ whispered Mamma, ‘look there!’ The children all looked out as the sky started to turn a friendly, rosy red.

Sammy gazed at the sky, and then smiled, for he saw in the clouds something very special! ‘Look Mamma, there goes a red cloud pony’. They all watched as the pony cloud trotted across the morning sky.

Hannah got excited and looked all across the sky too, and she spotted a pink bunny cloud stretching her morning cloud ears. Iris laughed when she saw the golden cloud fish swimming so slowly across the sky.

After a while of quiet looking, Mamma said, ‘I see the shining sun is starting to peek out. A new day is coming right now’.

It did not take long for Mr. Sun to bring the day, and then, as if by magic, the red pony, pink bunny, and golden fish bowed down low to greet the day, and then they became ordinary clouds in the sky, all white, and the softest grey.

As Mamma and the children ate their picnic, and watched the sunrise, Sammy said, 'I like the way the sky welcomes Mr. Sun each day'.

It was time to go home, so they finished eating their picnic breakfast, down to the very last blackberry! They packed up their picnic, and blanket, and ran, ran, ran down the hill, all the way home.

That night at bedtime, Sammy, Hannah, and Iris asked, 'can we wake up early tomorrow too?'

'Oh yes', said Mamma, 'tomorrow is the first day of school! We will be up with the birds, and dear Mr. Sun'. Then she kissed each one, saying 'happy dreams. I wonder what fun you will have at school tomorrow!'

Before Mamma left their room, the children were already asleep and dreaming...