

# The

# Missy

# STORIES

Story Two

## Where's Woofy?



## **About the Author**

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## **Acknowledgments**

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I hope this book sends the message to children that it is OK to stutter and that people who stutter should not be defined by it. Importantly, I hope the message is clear that teachers can play a positive role in the lives of children who stutter.

A.P.

# The

# Missy STORIES

## Story One

The Apple Thief

## Story Two

Where's Woofy?

## Story Three

Go Missy!

## **Author**

Ann Packman

## **Producer**

Michelle Shepherd

## **Original Character Illustrations**

Sarah Lam



Story Two

**Where's**

*Woofy?*

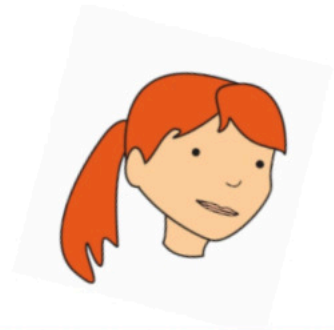


**Missy was having a bad day. At lunchtime, two older girls had teased her about her stuttering.**

**“Hey, Miss-Miss-Missy. That’s your name isn’t it?” One of them said to her as she passed them in the playground. They laughed as she walked away.**



haw haw  
haw



**“Oh, if only I could answer back,” Missy whispered to herself. “I try to, but I stutter, and then I can’t get the words out.”**

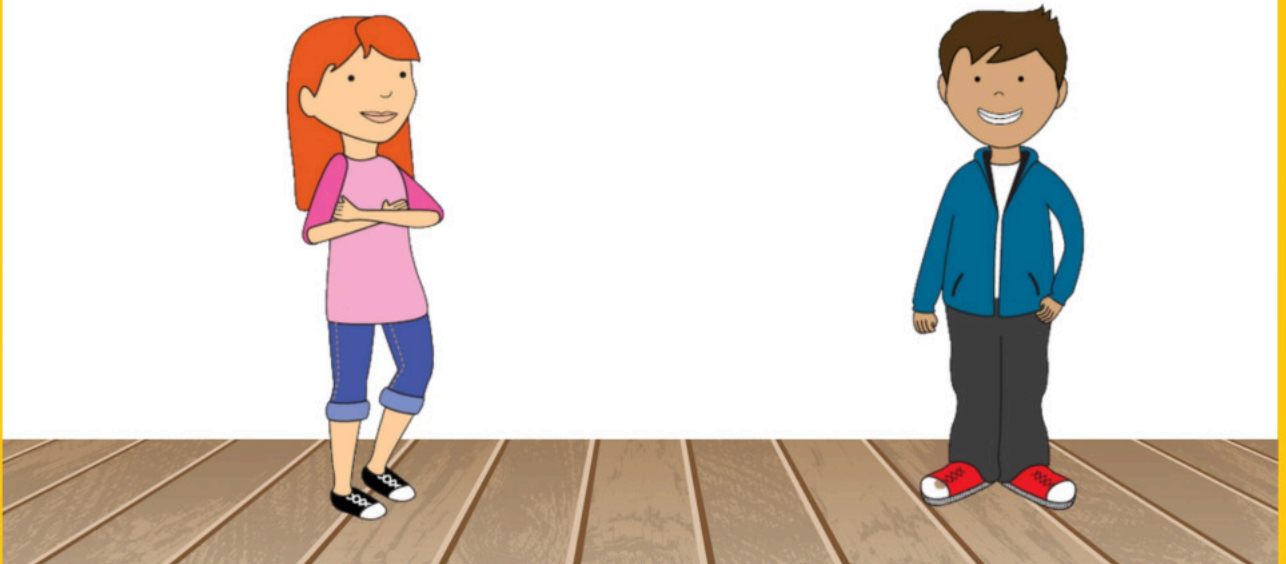
**She thought about that for a moment and then smiled. “Oh well, at least I don’t stutter when I talk to myself!”**



**Missy wandered over to her best friend Seth, who was talking to some other boys.**

**“Hi Seth,” she said, “OK if I come to your place this afternoon?”**

**“Sure,” said Seth.**



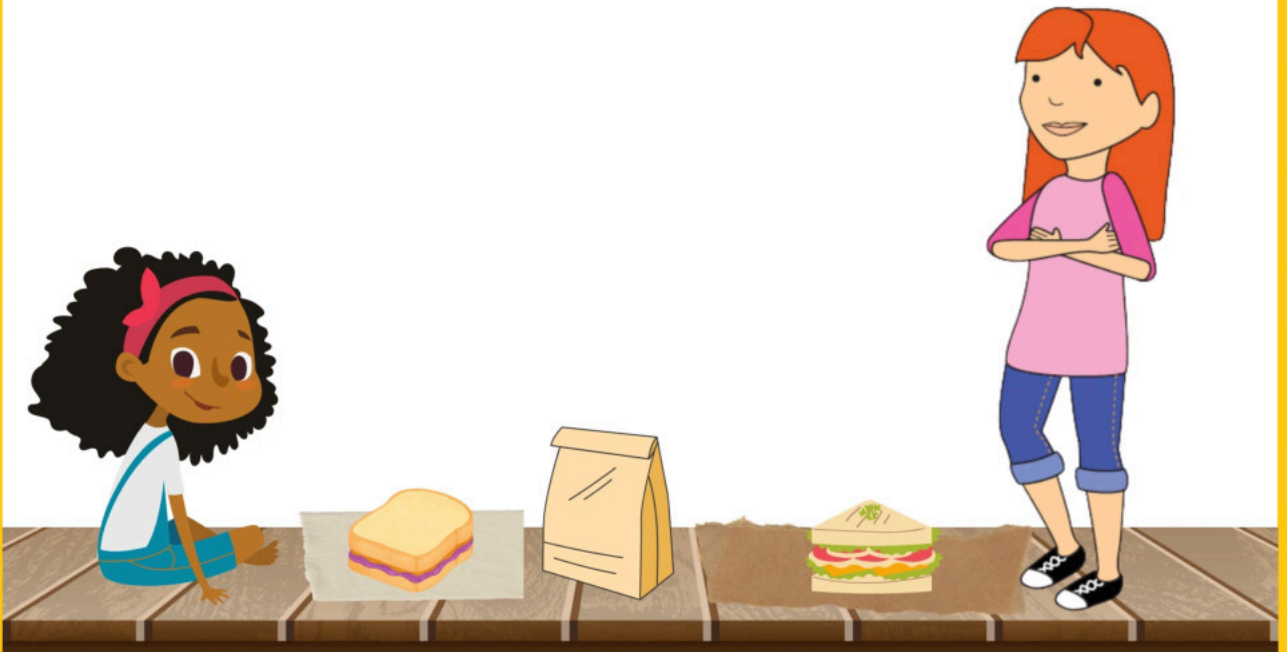
**Missy walked over to another friend, Lily, who was eating her lunch with some other girls.**

**“Those older girls just mocked me,” said Missy.**

**“Hey, Missy, don’t worry about it!” said Lily.  
“Come and sit with us.”**



**Missy sat down with Lily and pulled out her sandwich. It was a bit messy. Bits of cheese and lettuce were hanging out between the slices of bread. Missy made her own lunch.**





She sat and listened to the other girls talking, but she didn't say anything. She just wanted to be quiet for a while.

Missy didn't want to worry about the older girls, like Lily said, but they mocked her often and she got angry inside every time. She got angry with them and angry with herself for not answering back.

Oh, how she would love to say them, "Go jump in the lake, you big bullies!" She could say those words to herself, but they never came out when she wanted them to.



**Riding home with Seth after school was the best time of the day.**

**They rode their bikes as fast as they could along the dirt road, shrieking with laughter as they swerved to miss the potholes.**

**“Yee-haaa!” yelled Seth as he swerved so violently he nearly fell off.**





**They rode past the big dairy shed, where the fat black and white cows were waiting to be milked.**

**They waved to Mrs Brown who was walking along the road, pushing her baby in the pram.**

**“Hi kids!” she said.**



**Then they rode past the tumbledown wooden house where Old Bert lived.**

**Old Bert had no family and not much money. Missy and Seth took bags of fruit and vegetables to him sometimes on their way to school.**

**They left them at his front gate. Old Bert waved to them through the window, but he never came out to talk with them. Old Bert kept to himself.**

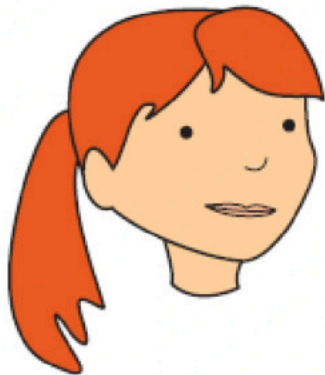


**Seth slowed down to let Missy catch up with him.**

**“I saw those older girls talking to you at lunchtime,” he said. “Are you OK?”**

**“Sort of,” said Missy. “They were mocking me again.”**

**“What did you say?” said Seth.**



**“I said nothing!” said Missy, loudly. “That’s what really makes me mad. When I try to answer back, I stutter and the words don’t come out. I wanted to punch them in the nose!”**

**Seth laughed so hard he nearly fell off his bike again. “But you didn’t, I hope!” he said.**

**Then he stopped laughing and turned to look at her. “Did you?”**

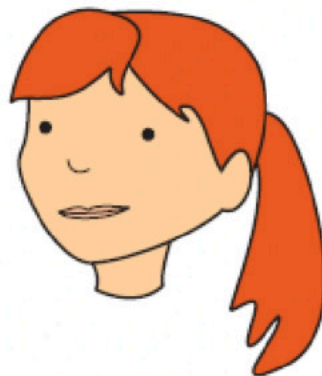
**Missy laughed too.**



**“Of course not!” she said. “But how else can I stop feeling angry when they tease me and I can’t talk back? Sometimes, I just want to scream!”**

**“I don’t know,” said Seth. “Maybe you should talk to yourself instead.”**

**“I do that,” said Missy. “I tell myself how much I hate them and how one day I will get even with them.”**



**She raised one arm in the air and, hanging on to the handlebar tightly with the other hand, she pedalled really fast, leaving Seth behind.**

**“Yay. One day I will get even with them!”**

**“No, you won’t,” said Seth, catching up with her.**





**“There’s no point trying to get even with big bullies because you never will.”**

**“Forget about it. You have to tell yourself that they don’t hurt you, that they are mean and nasty, and that no matter what they say to you, it won’t change your life.”**

**“You have friends, and they won’t change that. You are cool, and they won’t change that either.”**

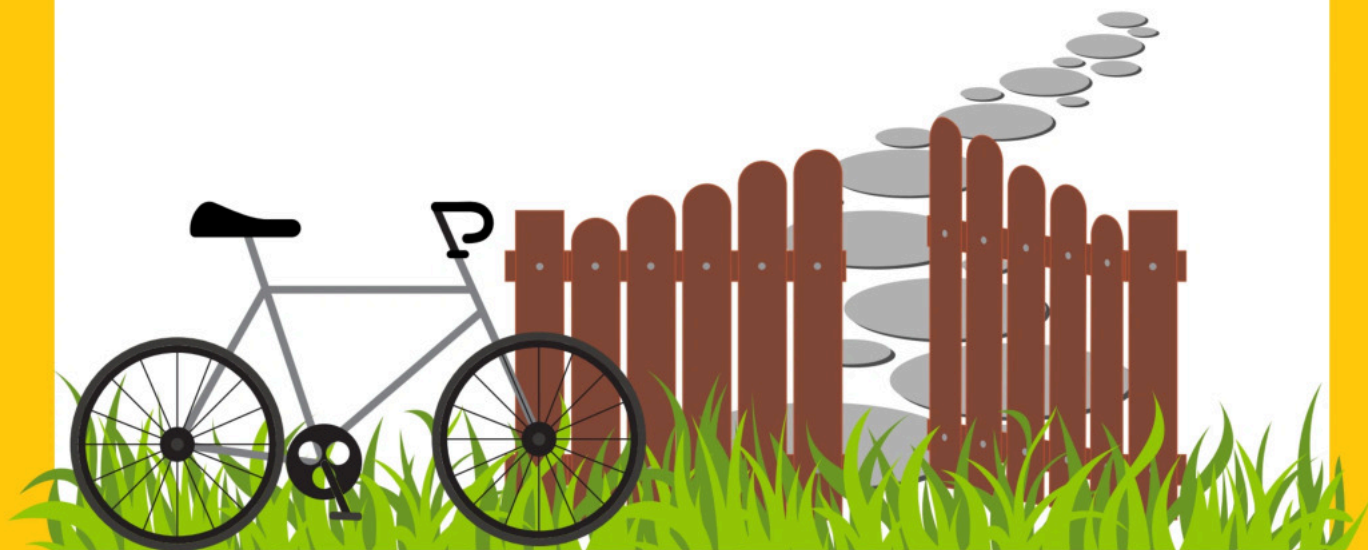
**BIG**  
*bullies!*

**WON'T  
HURT  
US!**

**Missy smiled. “You’re cool, too, Seth,” she said quietly, slowing down. They reached Seth’s place and got off their bikes.**

**“Hey, our gate is open,” said Seth. They pushed their bikes up the path to the front door.**

**“Hi, Mum!” called Seth.**





**They parked their bikes on the verandah and went inside. Seth's mum was feeding the baby, and he could hear his little brothers playing outside, probably with Woofy.**

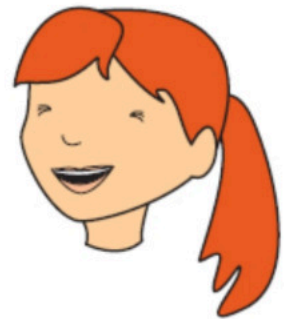
**He went out to see them.**



**Woofy was the family dog. Missy loved him. He was big, with soft brown fur, and he was very gentle. He always said hello to Missy by licking her hand and wagging his shaggy tail.**

**She didn't stutter when she talked to Woofy.**

**“Hi, Mrs Timms,” said Missy. “How-how’s the baby?”**



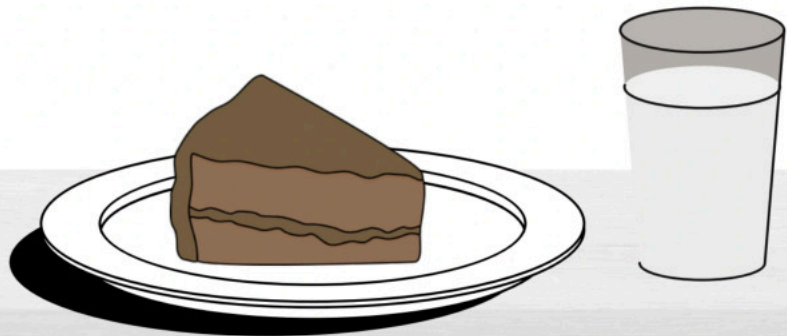
**“Fine,” said Seth’s mum. “Have some milk and some of that chocolate cake you and Seth like. I baked it today.”**

**“Yum,” said Missy, opening the fridge.  
“Where’s Woofy?”**

**“Outside, I think.”**



**Just then, Seth came back inside.**



**“Woofy’s not here,” he said. “Mum, we noticed the front gate was open. He must have gone for a walk.”**

**“Oh, don’t worry. He’ll come home soon,” said Seth’s mum, smiling. “He will miss us all too much to stay away!”**

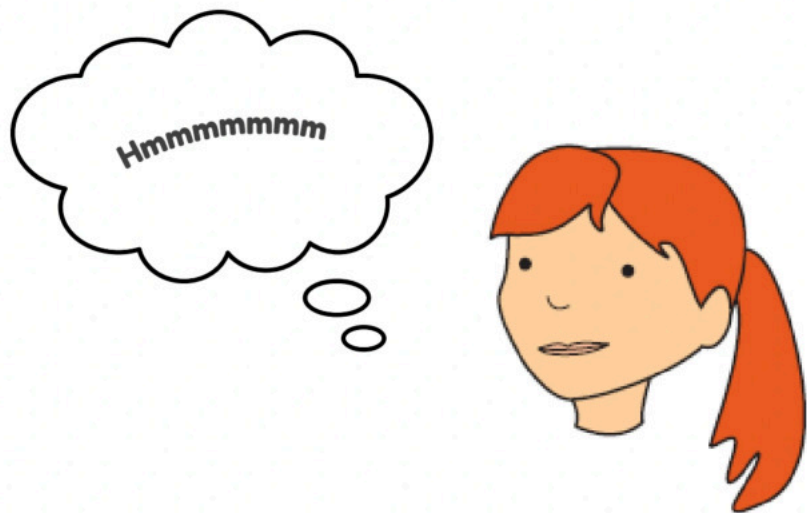
**“I hope he comes back before I go home,” said Missy to herself.**



**The next day when Missy saw the two older girls in the playground, she turned and walked away from them.**

**They followed her and called out to her, mimicking her stutter again.**

**She hummed loudly so she couldn't hear what they were saying. She thought about what Seth had said.**



**“So, I stutter”, she thought to herself. “It’s OK. I have a good life and they are the mean people, not me.”**

**Seth came over to her, glaring at the two girls. They walked away.**

**“Woofy hasn’t come home,” said Seth.**

**“Oh, no!” said Missy. “Woofy, where are you?”**

**Woofy did not come home that afternoon, or the next afternoon, or the next.**





**Each day, after school, Missy and Seth rode their bikes into town and around the country roads calling, “Woofy! Woofy!”**

**Seth did his special Woofy whistle.**

**One afternoon, they rode down to the river, thinking Woofy might have gone to have a drink and got stuck in the mud.**



**As they rode slowly along the narrow bush track to the river, they saw a wallaby hopping across in front of them.**

**Then, they saw a cloud of white cockatoos flying up out of a big gum tree, squawking to each other.**

**But they didn't see Woofy.**





**The next afternoon, they took their bikes up the narrow winding track to the top of the hill that everyone called High Top.**

**The hill was made of stone, with just a few small trees growing out from cracks in the rock. They walked most of the way, pushing their bikes beside them.**



**At the top, they could see right across the town, and they could see the river winding through the green paddocks and through clumps of trees.**

**They could even see Seth's house in the distance. Missy's house was hidden by her dad's orchard.**

**“Seth, do you think we will ever see Woofy again?”**

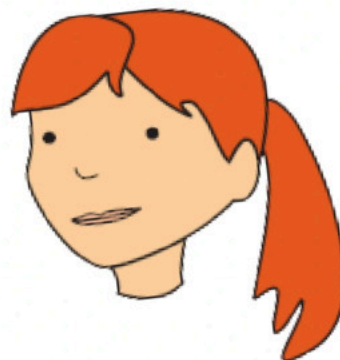
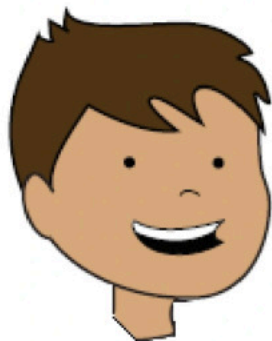


**“Well, we can’t stop looking,” said Seth. “He must be somewhere.”**

**“We may never find him, Seth,” said Missy. She was starting to feel sad.**

**“We must keep looking,” said Seth.**

**“But where?” said Missy. “We have looked everywhere.”**



**Missy pulled two apples out of her pocket and gave one to Seth.**

**They sat for a while on a big rock, eating their apples. Three pelicans sailed past, so close they could almost touch them.**

**They were not even flapping their wings, just floating on the breeze. Missy and Seth watched them as they got smaller and smaller. They landed on the river.**



**Seth looked at Missy. “Don’t be sad,” he said.**

**But Missy could see that Seth was starting to look sad too.**

**They watched the pelicans as they sailed slowly downstream and disappeared around a bend in the river.**



**Suddenly, Missy grabbed Seth's arm.**

**“Hey, Seth, I know what to do,” she said excitedly. “Let's make a ‘LOST DOG’ sign and put it up in a shop window. Then, if anyone sees Woofy, they will know who he is and bring him home.”**

**“Cool,” said Seth, smiling. “That's a really cool idea, Missy.”**





**The next day, Missy made a sign. She wrote “LOST DOG” at the top and stuck a photo of Woofy underneath.**

**After school, Missy and Seth rode their bikes into town and went to the newsagency.**

**They asked Mr Green, the owner, if they could put the sign in his window.**

**Mr Green said that they should put it in the windows of lots of the shops. He helped them photocopy the sign.**



**“Thanks, Mr Green,” said Seth as they ran out of the newsagency. “Come on Missy. Let’s do it!”**

**Bev the baker let them stick one of the signs up in her front window. So did the man in the fish and chip shop across the street.**

**Then, they went next door to ask Bill the butcher if they could put one up in his window too.**

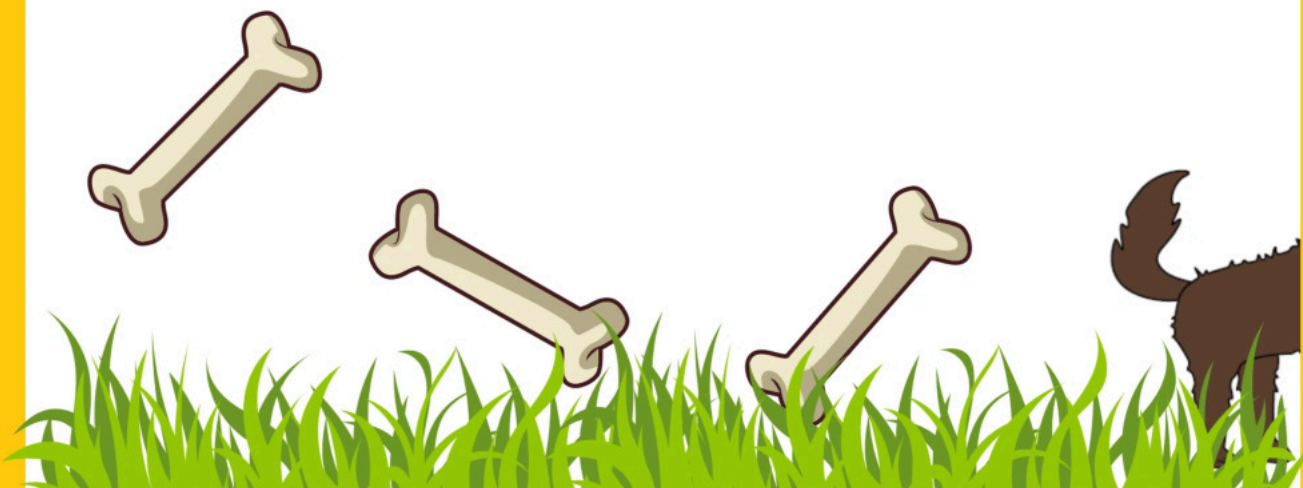




**“Your mum told me last week that Woofy had run away, Seth. Is he still lost?” said Bill.**

**Seth nodded.**

**“Well, yesterday the Parkin boy came in and asked if I had any dog bones. I was surprised because the Parkins don’t have any animals. I wonder if he knows where Woofy is?”**

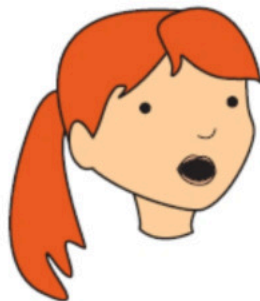


**Missy and Seth jumped on their bikes and rode as fast as they could around the corner and down the lane between Bill's shop and the general store.**

**When they came to the house where the Parkins lived, they stopped at the front gate and got off their bikes.**

**“Can you hear that?” said Missy.**

**A dog was whining in the distance.**

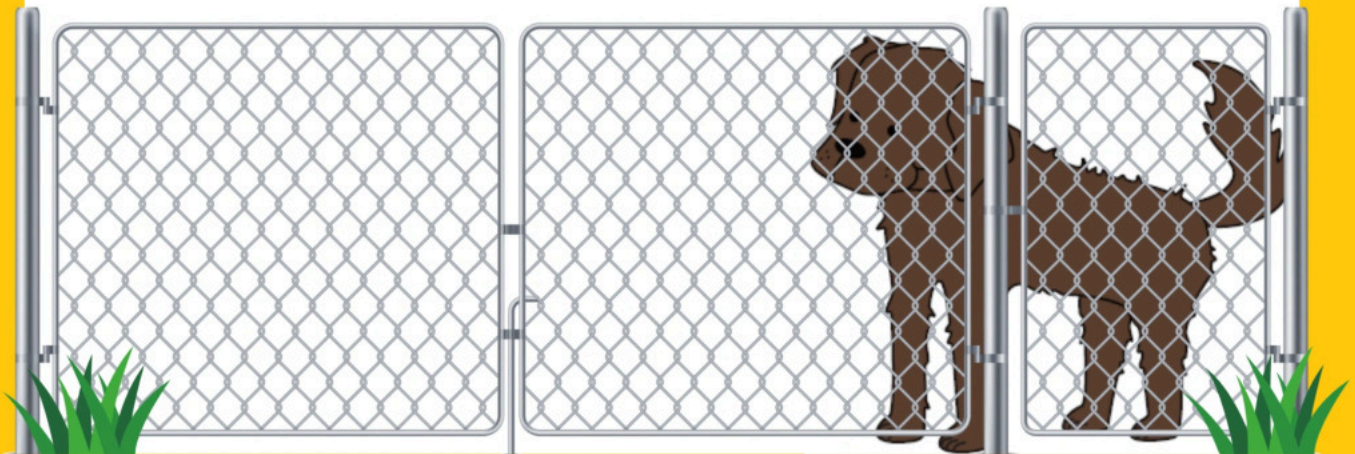


**“It’s Woofy!” said Seth, pushing the gate open.**

**They dropped their bikes and ran down the front path.**

**“There he is,” said Missy. She could see Woofy behind a rabbit wire fence, way down the back of the yard.**

**“Woofy!” she cried.**



**Woofy saw them coming and jumped up and down behind the fence, barking and wagging his tail furiously.**

**Just as they were opening the wire gate to let Woofy out, they saw the Parkin boy coming through the front gate.**

**The Parkin boy went to a different school and got home later than they did because he had to catch the bus home.**





**“Hey,” said Missy, “You stole Woofy!”**

**He looked at them and then walked slowly across the grass to where they were crouched, their arms around Woofy.**

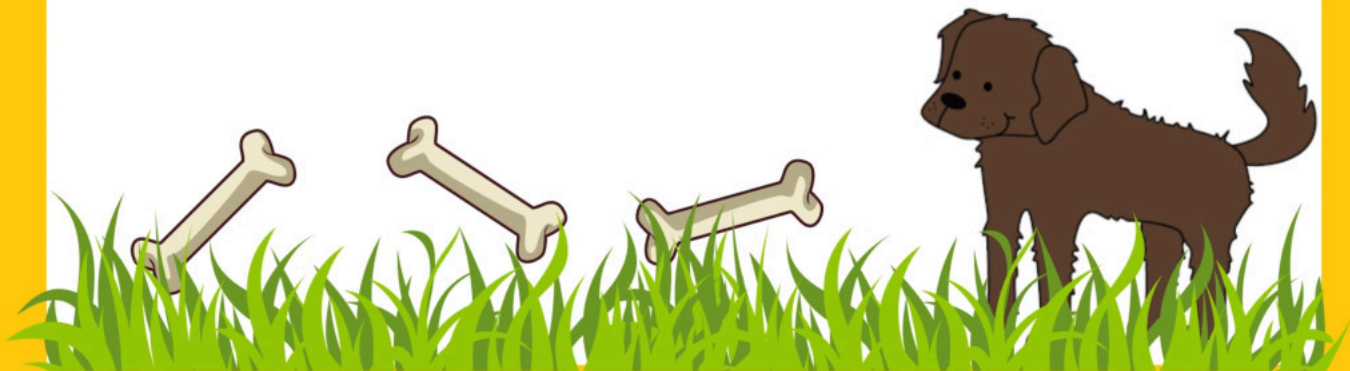
**“Is he yours?” he said.**

**“Yes,” said Seth.**



**“I saw him running down the main street last week,” said the boy.**

**“I thought he was lost and I was worried he might get run over by a car, so I brought him home. He’s nice. My dad won’t let me have a dog, so I decided to keep him down the back here. I gave him water and leftovers from dinner, and yesterday, I gave him some bones from the butcher.”**





**“You should have told someone,” said Seth, loudly.**

**Missy had never heard Seth angry before. “We were very worried about him.”**

**“I know,” said the Parkin boy, eyes down.**

**Looking at them, he said sadly, “Are you going to take him away now?”**



**Missy put her arms around Woofy's neck and buried her face in his warm fur.**

**"Oh, Woofy, Woofy," she said. "We found you at last. Let's go home now."**

**Seth put Woofy's leash on, and they rode slowly back to Seth's house.**

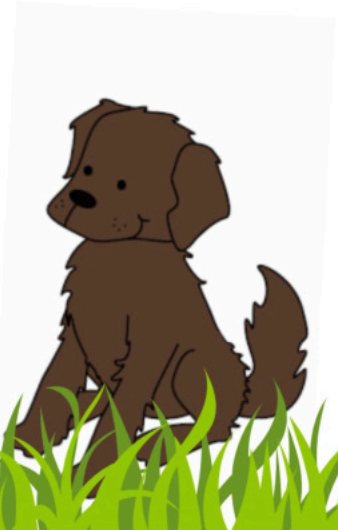
**He was worried that Woofy would get lost again. Missy sang all the way. She was very happy.**



**As she rode back to Seth's place, Missy thought about the Parkin boy. He had looked sad as they rode away with Woofy.**

**She had seen him give a little wave before going slowly up the steps to his front door.**

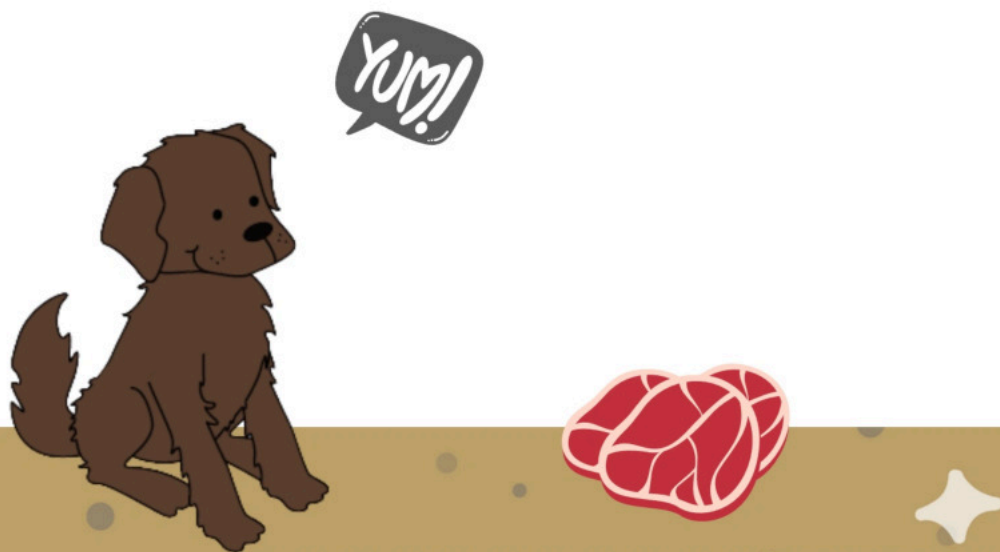
**Seth's family gave Woofy a big welcome home.**



**Woofy wagged his tail until Missy thought it would fall off, licking all the family one by one.**

**Seth went to the fridge and got some chopped fresh meat, which was Woofy's special treat.**

**The next day, as Missy and Seth were riding their bikes to school, Missy said, "Seth, let's take Woofy to see the Parkin boy on Saturday."**



**“It’s not fair his dad won’t let him have a dog. I think he really likes Woofy, and he did look after him well.”**

**So, next Saturday morning, and each Saturday morning after that, Missy and Seth put Woofy in the bike basket and rode to the Parkin house.**

**The three of them put Woofy on the leash and walked down to the river.**



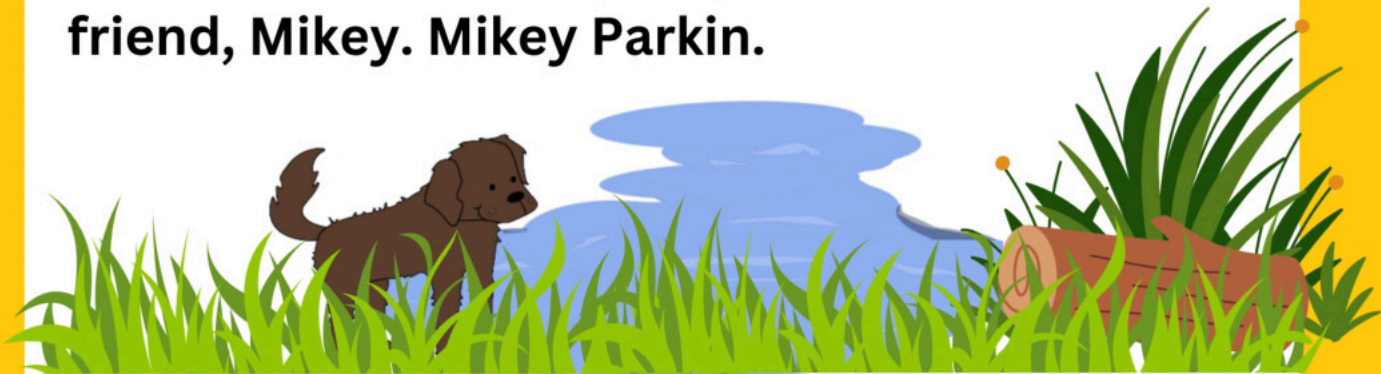


**There they let Woofy run free for a while,  
where he would chase imaginary rabbits under  
logs and through bushes.**

**Then, he would jump in the water and splash  
around to cool off.**

**When it was really hot, they would wade into  
the river too and play with him.**

**Woofy loved going down to the river. He had so  
much fun there. And Missy and Seth had a new  
friend, Mikey. Mikey Parkin.**





**The End**



