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Holly Stevenson

Is the [Ballerina Princess](#)

With love from,

Auntie Joan and Uncle Patrick

Merry Christmas 2010

Holly Stevenson, age **5**, was walking in a park near Corstorphine, Edinburgh. She was watching butterflies playing in the flowers and was quite surprised when a king and queen arrived. "We're looking for a beautiful young girl to become the new princess of our kingdom," the king said.

"I've always dreamed about being a princess!" said Holly. The happy king and queen took Holly back to their castle. "I wish Beverley, George and Flora could see this place!" Holly said. "It's so big you could have the whole kingdom over for a party." "What an excellent idea!" said the queen.

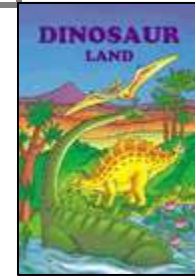
Soon, the entire castle was busy with preparations for a fancy ball to welcome their new princess. The royal dressmakers created a beautiful gown just for Holly. When she tried it on, Holly could hardly believe her eyes. "In this dress I really do look like a princess," she said. All eyes were on Holly as she made a grand entrance into the ballroom. "Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to introduce Princess Holly Stevenson," the king announced.

Cheers from the crowd filled her heart with joy. Being a princess was even more wonderful than she had ever imagined. In her glittering ball gown, Holly was the centre of attention all night long. Everyone wanted to meet the new princess and share a dance with her. "Holly is the most beautiful princess in any kingdom," they all agreed. By the end of the night, Holly had made a lot of new friends.

When Holly awoke the next morning, the weather was warm and sunny. "You should go to the beach and have fun with your new friends," the queen said. "That sounds great!" Holly replied. She spent the whole day at the beach swimming and playing in the sand with her new friends.

When Holly returned from the beach, the queen had a surprise for her. "Tonight the royal dancers will perform a ballet at the castle," she said. "And they want you to dance with them!" That night, Holly was nervous but excited as the dancers began the ballet.

Soon it was time for Holly to join the ballet. She took a deep breath and stepped out onto the stage. Holly heard the beautiful music playing and saw the smiling ballerinas all around her. She forgot how nervous she was and danced more gracefully than she had ever danced in her life. Holly met the king and queen for tea the next day. She was still tingling with excitement from the standing ovation she received at the ballet. "You are the finest princess we could ever wish for, Holly," said the queen. "We hope you will stay here with us for a very long time," the king said. "But I miss Beverley, George and Flora," Holly said. "Then you must return to them," replied the king. "After all, you are their princess, too." "We'll miss you," the queen said as she waved goodbye. The royal carriage took Holly home to Corstorphine, Edinburgh, but she knew she would be back to visit again very soon. The End [\(Back to Top\)](#)



Max Porteous
in **Dinosaur Land**

With love from,
Aunty Ruth and Uncle Collin
Happy 8th Birthday

Max Porteous, age 8, of Auckland, New Zealand, loved to play with dinosaur toys. In his room there were many of them: big ones, little ones, tall ones and short ones. Quinn, Michael and Ethan knew how much he loved dinosaurs. One day, Max was looking at pictures in his favorite dinosaur book. A fierce tyrannosaurus rex with big, sharp teeth was wrestling another meat-eating dinosaur, called an allosaurus. A pterodactyl, a huge lizard with wings, was flying in the air watching the battle. Max concentrated hard on the pictures. The dinosaurs seemed to come alive. A lizard with a long neck, fat body and huge tail stood beside a beautiful lagoon. A brightly colored spotted egg lay in a cozy nest near a friendly looking beast. In the distance, an duckbill dinosaur, called a trachodon, walked on two legs chewing giant ferns. Suddenly Max was in the tropical rain forest with the dinosaurs. "Wow, the dinosaurs eat so much! I'm afraid they will eat me," Max said, trembling. "Are you as sweet as this palm tree?" someone asked in a friendly voice. "Who said that?" Max wondered. "I am a brontosaurus called Thunderfoot," replied the long-necked lizard. "Do you eat children?" Max asked. Thunderfoot lowered her long neck and examined Max carefully. "You don't look very tasty," Thunderfoot decided. "And I only eat plants. Anyway, it's time to go to sleep at the top of the mountain." The giant creature gently covered her egg and joined the other dinosaurs. The dinosaurs snored very loudly as they slept. Suddenly Max heard a much louder noise.

The mountain was exploding! Fire and melted rock poured out of the volcano. "Wake up, everyone! Wake up!" Max shouted. "Oh, please, we must hurry away from here and get to the water." The dinosaurs loudly lumbered to the safe lagoon. "We are safe, thanks to Max," the dinosaurs chanted. The dinosaurs were so thankful they decided to have a party to honor Max. During the party, they danced and thumped their tails until the ground shook. "What a wonderful celebration!" Max said. "I wish Quinn, Michael and Ethan could join the fun." Just then, Max noticed a change in the brightly colored spotted egg in the nest by the lagoon. "Look over there!" called Max. "Thunderfoot's egg is hatching!" Snap! A little head poked through the top of the shell. The sides broke away and out tumbled a baby dinosaur with a long neck, fat body and big lizard tail. A pterodactyl neighbor flew close to visit the baby dinosaur. Thunderfoot and her baby walked toward the beautiful lagoon. Other dinosaurs returned to the tropical rain forest. "Please stay with us forever," pleaded the dinosaurs. Max answered, "I would love to stay with you, but I can't. I must return to my home in Auckland, New Zealand. Quinn, Michael and Ethan will be worried." Max closed his eyes and waved farewell to the dinosaurs. When he opened his eyes, the picture in his dinosaur book had changed. The brightly colored spotted egg was no longer in the cozy nest by the lagoon. Now, a brand-new baby dinosaur stood nose to nose with its proud mother, Thunderfoot. The End

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Stevie Baillie

The Football Star

With love from,

Mum and Dad

Happy 18th Birthday

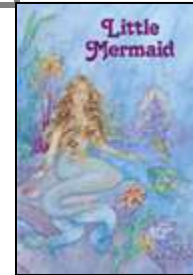
Today was the day! Stevie Baillie, age 18, from Polton Hall, Midlothian, still couldn't believe he had been lucky enough to win the big football sweepstakes. The first prize had been tickets to watch his favorite team Hearts play at the stadium. Stevie was especially excited because as a big winner he was going to get to sit on the bench with Alan Maybury, Steven Pressley and Andy Webster! Also, Stevie could take Billy, Bob and Bruce to the game, too. Once inside the stadium, Stevie, Billy, Bob and Bruce were ushered to the Hearts dressing room. "Stevie, you're such a big fan of ours that we'd like to make you an honorary member of Hearts," the coach said. "Here's your very own team strip." The coach then turned to the players. "Okay everybody, let's win this one for Stevie!" The team all cheered and ran out to the pitch. Stevie, Billy, Bob and Bruce hurried to their seats on the bench. They didn't want to miss the kick off. As they sat down, the referee tossed the coin. Hearts won the coin toss, and decided that they would kick off. The ball was kicked into play. The players dribbled the ball down the pitch. "Go team!" yelled Stevie. Stevie watched excitedly as the ball went up and down the pitch. His team kept making great passes, but hadn't been able to score yet.

The opposing team was Hibernian and they had already scored a goal. Suddenly, Stevie heard a whistle. One of the Hearts team players had been fouled by the opposing team and was lying on the ground clutching his leg. With all the excitement on the pitch, no one noticed that the ball was zooming through the air right towards Stevie. What could he do? Thinking quickly, Stevie gave the ball a mighty kick. Up, up in the air went the ball. "That was quite a kick," the coach said to Stevie. "We have an injured player and the team needs someone to take the free kick. Have you ever taken a free kick before Stevie?" "Oh yes! I love playing football! I know I can score on the free kick for you," Stevie said. Stevie could not believe his good luck. He was actually going to get a chance to help Hearts win the game! Alan Maybury, Steven Pressley and Andy Webster walked up and said, "We're glad you are going to take our free kick, Stevie. We know you can score." Stevie lined up in front of the goal to take the shot. The coach yelled, "I know you can do it, Stevie!" Stevie looked at the football lying on the pitch. With all his might, he kicked the ball straight at the goal. The goalie from Hibernian jumped towards the ball as it flew through the air.

The football sailed past the goalie's hands and into the net. Now the score was tied, but Stevie wanted Hearts to win. Stevie used all his football skills. He dribbled the ball down the pitch. He trapped the ball with the top of his foot. He even headed the ball. "Come on Stevie," yelled the

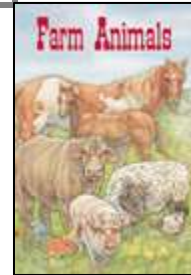
coach from the sidelines. "That was a great header!" Stevie kept looking for a chance but hadn't scored another goal. There was less than a minute left in the game and Stevie was getting tired, but he couldn't disappoint his team. The ball came towards Stevie but he was far from the goal. Suddenly, he saw an opening. "Do I really have a chance at goal?" wondered Stevie. There was only one way to find out. Stevie used all his strength and tried a long shot. The crowd grew silent as the ball flashed through the air. The ball hit the edge of the goal for just a second, then bounced into the net. Goal! Stevie had scored the winning goal! Hearts had won the game! The crowd started chanting, "Stevie, Stevie!" The other players hoisted Stevie onto their shoulders and marched him around the pitch. "This has be the best day of my life," Stevie said to Billy, Bob and Bruce. As the coach handed Stevie the Man of the Match trophy, he said, "Stevie, you can play on our team any day. You're a real football superstar!"

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Erin Docherty
and **The Little Mermaid**
With love from,
Mummy and Daddy
Merry Christmas 2010

One sunny day, Erin Docherty, age 6, of Gorebridge, Midlothian, was visiting the ocean with Adam, James and Alice. Erin was in the shallow water collecting colorful seashells. As she reached for a bright pink shell, someone tapped her on the shoulder. It was a beautiful mermaid! "I'm very unhappy," wept the mermaid. "My daddy, the king of the sea, has been captured by the evil sea serpent, Electra! I don't know what to do." So Erin said, "Please do not cry. I know how to rescue your daddy. Do you have any friends who can help us?" The little mermaid replied, "Yes, I have many friends who would love to help." Erin and the little mermaid swam toward the evil serpent's den. Along the way they met two playful dolphins. "We are Splish and Splash. Would you like to play with us?" asked the giggling dolphins. Erin told them, "We have no time to play. We must rescue the king of the sea. Come and help us!" Erin and her underwater friends swam a long way through the beautiful blue sea. Many sea animals wanted to help. There were graceful sea horses, countless starfish and a whole school of parrot fish. Everyone was eager to help save the king. Erin and her friends swam closer and closer to the serpent's den. The sea became cold and dark. Erin was a little afraid and wished Adam, James and Alice were there to help. From a distance, they could see Electra's den. It was a sunken pirate ship. Guarding the entrance were two huge sharks with big teeth as sharp as knives. The king was trapped with his hands chained tightly by his sides. Erin explained the rescue plan to the sea animals and gave the go-ahead signal. The animals began swimming in circles like a swarm of wild bees around the serpent and the sharks! Erin quickly entered the den through a porthole and unlocked the king's chains. The mermaid's daddy was free! The sea animals cheered, "Hooray! Hooray! The king is saved!" The overjoyed mermaid gave her daddy a great big hug. She said, "Oh, Daddy, I'm so happy we are together again. You could not have been saved without help from Erin. We must find a way to thank her." The king decided to hold a grand celebration at the palace in honor of Erin. Animals from all over the ocean were invited. Erin Docherty was crowned an honorary member of the royal sea family. Everyone danced and played merry music. "Adam, James and Alice sure would be proud of me," thought Erin. The beautiful little mermaid presented Erin with many brightly colored sea flowers and seashells. "Won't you please stay with us forever?" pleaded the little mermaid. Erin replied, "I must return to my home in Gorebridge, Midlothian. But I promise to return to the sea kingdom to visit." Erin thanked the king and the little mermaid for the beautiful party and the wonderful gifts. The dolphins, Splish and Splash, gave her a ride to the seashore. Erin was happy to be home and could not wait to tell Adam, James and Alice about her wonderful adventure with the little mermaid. The End ([Back to Top](#))



Eve Bailliefield

Visits the **Farm Animals**

With love from,

Mummy and Flora the Dog

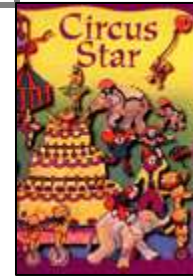
Merry Christmas

Clickety-clack. Clickety-clack. The train was speeding through the countryside. Eve Bailliefield, age 5, of Polton Hall, Midlothian, listened to the sound of the train tracks below her. Eve was excited because she had been invited to spend the day on a farm. It was going to be a wonderful adventure! "I just wish Grandma, Emma and Gary could be here, too," thought Eve. The first stop Eve made was a field where goats and sheep were munching on the grass. "H-e-e-llo," bleated the goat. "You can talk!" shouted Eve. "Ye-e-e-es," answered the goat. "And we eat just about anything, including garbage." "Yuck, that sounds terrible," said Eve. A sheep came up to Eve and said, "Soon we're going to get our wool shaved off so people can make clothes out of it. But it won't hurt. It feels just like when you get a haircut." Just then the sound of squeals filled the air. Eve ran over to a mother pig and her babies. "Wow," said Eve. "Nine baby pigs! That's a lot!" "Oink, oink. It sure is," agreed Mrs. Pig. "And they're all hungry! Stop crowding, children. There's plenty for everyone." Mrs. Pig smiled and said, "Did you know that pigs are often the smartest animals on a farm?" "No ma'am, I didn't," said Eve. "But thank you for telling me." Eve heard the sound of someone fighting nearby. She ran over to investigate. "Quack, quack," said a duck. "That seed belongs to me!" "Cluck, cluck," said a chicken. "The farmer left it here for me!" "Don't fight," said Eve with a laugh. "There's plenty for everyone!" So she reached into the seed bad and tossed lots more grain to the hungry chickens and ducks. Eve decided to take a fishing break, but the sky was getting a little dark. She put down her fishing pole and said to a friendly dog, "There's a storm coming. I must warn all the animals and take them back to the barn."

The dog look up at the clouds and agreed, "Woof, woof. Let's go tell the others." Soon all the animals were happy and dry in the barn. Eve held a kitten in her lap which was purring as it licked her hand. "Meow, meow. Thanks to you, Eve, all the animals are safe and sound," purred the kitten. "That was fast thinking to bring the animals back to the barn." Before too long, the storm ended and the sky became a beautiful blue color again. The sun came out and was shining. Eve was feeling very warm and happy as she went skipping through the field. She saw a farmer on a tractor working in a hayfield. "In school we learned that farmers harvest hay during the summer and store it in a barn so the cows and horses would have food during the winter," said Eve. Suddenly, a herd of horses galloped past. Eve quickly jumped out of their way. One horse stopped right next to her. "Neigh, neigh. Thank you for helping all the farm animals during the storm," said the horse. "Jump up and let me take you for a ride!" Eve hopped on the horse's back, and away they rode over the hill. "I wish Grandma, Emma and Gary could see me right now," said Eve. Towards the end of the day, there was just one more chore left.

Eve ran to watch the final roundup of the cows. "Moo-oo-ove out of the way!" a huge cow bellowed as Eve opened the corral gate. "Eve, you were such a big help today that we'd like you to spend the night camping with us," said the farmer. "That sounds great," said Eve. The farmer made a call to Polton Hall, Midlothian and got permission for Eve to stay. All the animals of the woods looked on as Eve and the farmer set up camp. They laughed when a startled night owl whistled, "Who, who, who's there?" As night approached, Eve and the farmer roasted marshmallows and told ghost stories. Before too long, it was morning and time to go home to see Grandma, Emma and Gary. "I sure wish you could stay longer and help us out," said the farmer. "Thanks," said Eve. "But I've got to go back to Polton Hall, Midlothian. I promise I'll come back again and visit soon!"

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Adam Docherty
in the **Circus Party**
With love from,
Santa Claus
Merry Christmas 2010!

Adam Docherty, age 5, was the happiest boy in Gorebridge, Midlothian. He was excited because he was going to the circus with Erin, James and Murphy. As soon as they arrived at the circus, Adam bought popcorn and delicious candy floss. Clutching his ticket, he anxiously waited in the queue. As Adam neared the main entrance to the circus tent, he could see a funny clown juggling many balls. The ticket Adam held in his hand had a sparkling star on it. Seeing the star, the ticket-taker exclaimed, "Wait, little boy, your ticket is special. The star allows you to sit in the very front row!" Adam rushed to his seat, and the show immediately began. "TOOT-TOOT," chugged a steam train as it rolled toward the centre stage. The train clickity-clacked in a big circle and stopped directly in front of Adam. Clowns wearing colourful costumes jumped out of one tiny car and did tricks that made everyone laugh. Adam wondered how so many clowns could fit inside such a small car. Adam was delighted to see the chimpanzees balance on bicycles. All of a sudden, CoCo, the baby chimpanzee, disappeared. Adam noticed him ride his bicycle out of the circus tent straight into the car park. Adam jumped from his seat and dashed after CoCo. Adam was able to save CoCo just before he crashed into a big truck.

He then returned the thankful CoCo to his loving mother chimpanzee. Then the ring master announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, today we have a very special guest in the audience. His name is Adam Docherty, age 5, from Gorebridge, Midlothian. He just saved the life of CoCo, the baby chimpanzee. Let's give him a big round of applause." Adam smiled broadly as he joined the ring master on the centre stage. Just then Adam saw several clowns wheeling out a huge cake. To his surprise the cake read: Thank you Adam Dougherty for saving CoCo, the baby chimpanzee. Suddenly, a cuddly teddy bear jumped out of the giant cake. Adam laughed and clapped his hands as three ballerina bears danced just for him. Lovely ladies riding a team of horses galloped into the centre ring. Adam was amazed to see the beautiful horses leap through blazing hoops of fire. The ring master invited Adam to ride on one of the horses. Adam waved to Erin, James and Murphy as he rode past them on the white stallion. Adam thought, "It's great fun to be in the circus!" Next, a bright red fire engine carrying fire-fighting bears raced toward a burning building. Adam, along with Erin, James and Murphy shouted, "Jump! Jump!" to the bear trapped inside the burning building.

Quickly the frightened bear leaped into the safety net below. In a hurry, rescue bears stopped the fire by spraying water on the raging flames. The ring master announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, our world famous elephants will perform for you!" The huge animals did balancing acts,

while clowns did cartwheels on their backs. The ring master asked, "Adam, everyone thinks you're great, won't you please join the circus and travel around the world with us?" Adam replied, "I would love to be in the circus, but I would miss Erin, James and Murphy." The ring master pleaded, "Then, would you be the leader of the grand parade?" "I would love to," replied Adam. He immediately climbed on the back of a huge elephant and proudly led the parade. Adam waved goodbye to his friends and promised to visit them when the circus returned to Gorebridge, Midlothian. Adam told Erin, James and Murphy, "I will never forget my wonderful adventure at the circus!"

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Holly Katherine Porter
 rescues The **Three Little Pigs**
 With love from,
 Beverley and Daddy
 Merry Christmas 2010

Holly Katherine Porter, age 5, from Corstorphine, Edinburgh, was visiting her friends, the three little pigs. She couldn't believe all the commotion at their house. Boxes and suitcases were everywhere! "What's going on?" Holly asked. "Today is moving day," answered Big Pig. "We're each going to build our own house." "What fun! Can I help?" Holly asked excitedly. "Sure," answered Middle Pig. "Let's go!" shouted Little Pig. So Holly and the three little pigs ventured out in the woods to find the best place to build houses. As they drove along they met a man selling straw. "I could make a fine house out of straw," Little Pig said. "Straw is not very strong," Holly said doubtfully. "But my house will be built in no time," Little Pig answered. And he began to build his straw house. Holly continued driving with the two other little pigs.

Soon they met a man selling sticks. "Sticks will make a fine house for me," Middle Pig said. "Well, sticks are stronger than straw," Holly said. "But sticks will not make a very strong house." "But my house will be built in a jiffy," the pig replied. And he began to build his stick house. Holly and Big Pig kept driving. After awhile, they met a man selling bricks. "Now bricks would make a very strong house," Holly told Big Pig. "A brick house will take a long time to build," sighed Big Pig. "Yes, but if we work together we'll have it done in half the time," Holly said. As Holly helped Big Pig build his brick house, she worried about Little Pig and Middle Pig. Ruth, Collin and Flora had often warned her about the wolf that lived in the woods. She knew a straw house and a stick house would not keep out a big, bad wolf. Holly didn't want anything to happen to Little Pig or Middle Pig and since Big Pig's house was just about finished, Holly went off to see if the two other pigs needed her help. First she went to see Little Pig who had built his house out of straw. She arrived just in time, because when Holly entered the little pig's house she heard a tap-tap-tapping at the door. It was the wolf! "Little pig, little pig," the wolf cried. "Let me in." Little Pig was scared. "N-n-no," he stammered. "Well then, I'll blow my way in," the wolf shouted. The wolf huffed and he puffed. The straw house started blowing down all around Holly and Little Pig. "Let's make a run for it!" Holly cried; so she and the pig ran to Middle Pig's house. Middle Pig saw Holly and Little Pig running towards his house with the wolf hot on their trail. "Quick, get inside," he called, and he shut his stick door behind them.

The wolf tap-tap-tapped at the stick door. "Little pigs, little pigs," he cried. "Let me come in." "N-n-no," said Little Pig. "Absolutely not," said Middle Pig. "Well then, I'll blow my way in," the wolf shouted. The wolf huffed and he puffed, and he puffed and he huffed. Soon the stick house started falling all to pieces. "Let's run to Big Pig's house!" Holly cried. So Debra, Little Pig, and Middle Pig ran as fast as they could to Big Pig's

brick house. As soon as they were inside, Big Pig bolted his strong door. Soon enough, they all heard the wolf tap-tap-tapping. "Little pigs, little pigs, let me come in," the wolf called. "N-n-no," squealed Little Pig. "Absolutely not," said Middle Pig. "Not ever!" shouted Big Pig. "Get lost!" yelled Holly. The wolf started huffing and puffing, and puffing and huffing. But he couldn't blow the brick house down. This made him terribly angry. "If I can't blow this house down, I'll climb down the chimney!" the wolf yelled. "Oh no," the pigs cried. "Holly, what will we do?" Holly was getting afraid because she could hear the wolf's claws scratching on the roof as he inched towards the chimney. If only Holly had Ruth, Collin and Flora here with her, together they'd know what to do. Suddenly, Holly had an idea. "Start a fire in the fireplace!" she called to Big Pig. The wolf slid down the chimney and landed right on top of the fire. "Yeowch!" he hollered. He shot straight back up the chimney and ran far, far away. "Hooray!" the three little pigs yelled. "Thank you Holly, you saved us." "No problem," Holly smiled. "Now I have to go back to my own strong house in Corstorphine, Edinburgh. I want to tell Ruth, Collin and Flora all about you, your houses, and the big, bad wolf."

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Jessica Brown
and **Mother Goose**
With love from,
Mummy and Daddy
Merry Christmas 2010!

Old King Cole Was a merry old soul And a merry old soul was he; He called for his pipe, And he called for his bowl, And he called for his fiddlers three.

One sunny day Jessica Brown, age 5, lived in Lasswade, Midlothian was enjoying the afternoon with Cameron, Lara and Sammie. Suddenly, Mother Goose landed in front of her. "Oh fiddle de de, fiddle de dum, I was visiting Old King Cole and I have lost my way home!" exclaimed Mother Goose.

There was An Old Woman, Who lived in a shoe. She had so many children, She didn't know what to do. She gave them some broth, Without any bread; She whipped them all soundly, And put them to bed.

"Please do not worry, Mother Goose. I will help you find your way home," Jessica offered eagerly. They soon came upon an old woman living in a giant shoe. "Let's ask for directions," suggested Jessica. There were so many children playing that Mother Goose and Jessica didn't know what to do.

Humpty Dumpty Sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty Had a great fall, Ann the King's horses and all the King's Men, couldn't put Humpty Dumpty Together again.

In the distance Jessica saw brightly colored balloons flying high in the air. So, they strolled down the cobblestone road toward Humpty Dumpty's house. "Oh help, I'm falling!" yelled Humpty Dumpty. "We will put you back together again," reassured the king's men. Everyone was very busy helping Humpty Dumpty, so Jessica and Mother Goose decided to ask someone else for directions.

Little Miss Muffett Sat on a tuffet, Eating her curds and whey; along came a spider, Who sat down beside her And frightened Miss Muffet away.

"Up ahead I see Little Miss Muffet sitting on a tuffet. I'll bet she can help," said Jessica. But everyone was frightened away by a huge spider wearing a little brown hat. Jessica was so scared she wished Cameron, Lara and Sammie could have been there to help.

Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary, How does your garden grow? With silver belles and cockle shells, and pretty maids all in a row.

They wandered a while and came upon a beautiful garden of colorful flowers with smiling faces. "The blossoms are beautiful, Mary, Mary! How does your garden grow?" inquired Jessica. "With silver bells and cockle shells, and pretty maids all in a row," answered Mary, Mary, quite contrary.

Star Light, Star Bright, First star I see tonight, I wish I may, I wish I might, Have the wish I wish tonight.

Jessica and Mother Goose followed the path and heard pretty music from a distant fiddle. As they strolled closer, Jessica saw a cow jump over the moon and a dish run away with the spoon. Everybody laughed so much to see such a sight that Jessica forgot to ask for directions.

Hey Diddle, Diddle! The cat and the fiddle, The cow jumped over the moon; The little dog laughed To see such sport And the dish ran away With the spoon.

Jessica looked up and saw a huge pumpkin house with windows in a lovely garden. "Let's ask Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater, for help" suggested Jessica. "Can you help Mother Goose find her way home?" Jessica asked Peter, Peter. "I would love to help, but I am busy eating pumpkins," replied Peter, Peter.

Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater, Had a wife and couldn't keep her; He put her in a pumpkin shell, and there he kept her very well.

A merry melody caught the attention of Jessica and Mother Goose. Everyone was skipping in a circle and playing ring around the rosies. "Come on, let's join the fun!" giggled Jessica. So, Mother Goose and Jessica played until they all fell down.

Ring Around The Rosies, A pocket full of posies. Ashes! Ashes! We all fall down.

Jessica turned around and heard the tic-toc, tic-toc of hickory, dickory, dock. "I see a giant clock with a happy face," announced Jessica. The clock struck one and a small, grey mouse ran down. Jessica remarked, "Gee whiz, it's getting late. I must return to my home in Lasswade, Midlothian. Cameron, Lara and Sammie will be worried."

Hickory, Dickory, Dock, The mouse ran up the clock; The clock struck one, The mouse ran down, Hickory, dickory, dock.

Jessica told Mother Goose, "Twinkle, twinkle little star will guide us to your home." Mother Goose thanked Jessica for helping her return home. Jessica waved good-bye and promised to visit Mother Goose again. Jessica thought, "I can't wait to tell Cameron, Lara and Sammie about my wonderful adventure."

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star, How I wonder what you are! Up above the world so high, Like a diamond in the sky.

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William Brown
and the **Story of Noah's Ark**
With love from,
Mummy and Daddy
Happy Birthday!

One day William Brown , age **6** , sat watching the rain fall outside his bedroom in Edinburgh, Scotland. Since he had to stay inside, William decided to play his favorite game, land of make-believe. Joe, Patty and Kyle loved to play make-believe, too. Today he decided to pretend to be one of his favorite Bible characters, Noah.

William remembered the wonderful story of Noah's Ark and imagined himself being there instead of Noah. William closed his eyes really tightly and then ...ZOOM... he was in another land long, long ago with Joe, Patty and Kyle. Most of the people in this new place seemed to be mean and hateful. They were being selfish and greedy and they were fighting in the street.

Suddenly, God was talking. The Lord told William He was going to cause a flood over the earth because of all the bad people. But William, along with Joe, Patty and Kyle would be safe if they built a huge boat, called an ark. Big elephants helped William collect wood to make the ark. William built the ark just as the Lord commanded. It was covered with tar, called pitch, to make it waterproof. Other animals helped to build the ark by carrying buckets of the pitch. Even when William finished building the ark, there was still more work to do.

Then William and his family collected all the food and supplies they would need on the ark. They gathered sacks and baskets of apples, melons, hay, grain and everything else they needed. When the work was done God sent His animals two-by-two, a boy and a girl of each kind, so they could be saved from the flood. William put the animals on the ark just as God wanted. Giraffes, lions, rabbits, raccoons, penguins and many other creatures walked up the steps to the ark. Then William, along with Joe, Patty and Kyle, got on the ark, too. When everyone was safely aboard, God shut the door.

It rained for 40 days and 40 nights without stopping. Sometimes William was a little frightened, but he knew that everyone would be safe in God's ark. The storm continued to rage on and on. The sky stayed gloomy and scary while the flood covered the earth. All the cities and towns were now under water. Finally the rain stopped and the waters became calm. The ark came to rest on top of Mount Ararat. William, along with Joe, Patty and Kyle felt excited to see blue skies and the sun shining again. Then God caused a wind to blow over the earth, which began to dry

up the water. A while later, William sent out a dove three different times to see if the ground was dry. The first time the dove could not find a place to rest and came back. The second time it came back with a fresh olive leaf. That meant the ground was almost dry. The third time the dove didn't return at all. The earth was dry!

At last God told William, along with Joe, Patty and Kyle to come out of the ark. God promised never to destroy the earth with water again. He sent a rainbow to remind everyone of His promise. Just then William opened his eyes and noticed the rain outside his bedroom had stopped. In the sky was God's beautiful rainbow, reminding him of God's promise of long ago.

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Holly Katherine Porter

visits **Santa and the North Pole**

With love from,

Aunty Ruth and Uncle Collin

Merry Christmas 2010

Of all the holidays in the year, Holly Porter, age 5, enjoyed Christmas the best. Everyone in Corstorphine, Edinburgh, was still busy preparing for the holiday season. Holly had already finished decorating the tree and wrapping presents for Daisy, Beverley and George. That is why Holly was selected to have an exciting Christmas adventure. One special night Holly was lying in bed thinking about Christmas. Suddenly, she heard a voice outside her window. "Holly, please come to the North Pole with me. Santa Claus has a big problem and only you can help." pleaded a reindeer." In amazement Holly replied, "Wow! You must be one of Santa's reindeer. Of course, I would be happy to go to the North Pole to help Santa Claus." So, Holly jumped into Santa's sleigh and off they flew through the beautiful moonlit sky. "Reindeer, what are those buildings below us?" questioned Holly. "That's the North Pole where Santa lives and makes toys for all the good children. Hold on tight, we're landing!" replied the Reindeer. Silently, they glided to a stop near Santa's workshop. "Let's have a snack in Mrs. Claus' kitchen and then I'll show you around," said the Reindeer. "Gee whiz! The candy smells delicious," Holly said with a smile. Cheerfully, Mrs. Claus remarked, "I make candies and cookies in every color of the rainbow. Here is a special treat just for you, Holly." The Reindeer announced, "That was a perfect snack, Holly.

Now let's visit Santa's toy workshop." Holly saw a huge robot-like machine building different kinds of toys. The Reindeer said, "Santa knows which boys and girls have been good during the year and the toy each child wants most for Christmas." Holly peeked into the next room and exclaimed, "I've never seen so many pretty dolls and stuffed animals! I wish Daisy, Beverley and George could see this, too." The Reindeer said with confidence, "Santa's elves make every kind of toy you can imagine." The Reindeer and Holly left the doll room and hurried along to visit Santa. "Ho! Ho! Ho!" welcomed Santa. "You arrived just in time. I need your help, Holly. Let me tell you about my problem. My reindeer and sleigh are ready to deliver presents to all the good boys and girls on Christmas Eve. But, I have been so busy that I did not do the most important thing of all." "What is the most important thing of all, Santa?" Holly asked eagerly. "Santa continued, "I haven't had time to make the special Christmas WISH. This WISH puts love into people's hearts and makes my reindeer want to fly. So, you see how important the WISH is.

Would you please make the Christmas WISH for everyone?" Santa pleaded. Holly promised Santa, "I will gladly make the WISH." Then, she remembered the nicest things about Christmas such as love, happiness and kindness. Then ...POOF, out popped the WISH, glowing brightly like a star. Santa said gratefully, "That was the perfect WISH Holly. I'll put the WISH in this beautiful box for safe keeping until Christmas Eve." By the

bright moonlight, Santa waved good-bye and said, "Thanks to you, Holly, everyone will have a Merry Christmas. Hop aboard my sleigh and my reindeer will fly you back to Corstorphine, Midlothian." As the North Pole disappeared out of sight, Holly thought, "I can't wait to tell Daisy, Beverley and George about my wonderful Christmas adventure."

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