

Skip sat up in bed. He had to get up. He had a big quiz in math and he did not want to miss the bus. He had not slept well. He felt sick and his skin was hot. He left his quilt on the bed and went to get his mom. Mom had a shock when Skip came in. He had a red rash on his neck. “Back to bed, Skip,” said Mom. Skip went back and got in bed. Mom came in to check his temp. He was hot!

“I did pack your lunch, but I can not let you get on that bus,” said Mom. “You will just have to miss the quiz.” Skip slept the rest of the day. Skip had to rest all **day**. He slept a long time. Mom kept him in bed. She had him drink lots of **water**. He did not get up to play. The next **day**, Skip felt the best he had felt in a long time. It was a **day** off, **too!** He was glad that there was no class. He had a plan to fill his **day** with fun.

He went out to get on the swing. When he sat on the swing he felt a sting on his leg. He let out a yell! He swung at the bug and fell off the swing. **Now**, there was a bump on his chin and his leg began to swell. He did not get up fast. He swept the dust off his legs. The bump on his chin felt big and his leg stung. He had to limp back in. “Mom, I think I **need** help,” he said. “That is a bad cut, Skip. I will get the stuff to put on it. Did you fall?” asked Mom. “Yes, I fell,” said Skip, “but I also got stung by a bug! I think I should get back in bed. I am not having much luck!”

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Beth had wanted a pet for a long time. When her mom and dad asked her what she wanted for a gift, she said, “A pet! The kind I want most is a small colt, but if I cannot have a colt, I want a dog or cat.”

Mom and Dad wanted to get a colt for **their** child, but they did not **know** where to find one. They also did not have a stall. A colt could not be kept in the den! Then, a man at Dad’s job told them he had one to sell. It could **stay** in his stall if Beth fed it **each day**. It was not at all wild and would be a fun pet for a child.

The man sold Mom and Dad the colt. The plan was to put it in the **backyard** and then bring it to the stall at the end of the **day**. Mom had a thick string on the colt so that it would not bolt off and get lost. When Beth got up, Mom and Dad put a blindfold on her and led her to the yard. When they got to the back, they took the blindfold off and said, “Here is your gift, Beth!” But, there was no colt - just a string! “Where is the colt? We must find it!” said Mom and Dad. The colt was lost.

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Mom and Dad were shocked that the colt was not where they had left him. They checked the **yard** and the shed. They even called the man who had sold them the colt to see if it had **gone** there. The man went out and checked the stalls but the colt was not in there.

Beth called the cops to tell them that the colt was missing. The cops felt that it was one of the oddest calls they got. They told Beth that no one had seen a small colt. Beth begged them to find the colt. The cops said they would do their best.

Beth felt sad. She had wished for a colt. Most wishes do not come **true**, but this one had. It is sad to have a wish come **true** and then bolt!

She had a pet colt but had not even met it yet. Beth hung her chin and **began** to sob. Then she felt **something** cold and wet on her neck. She sat up and there was her colt! She hugged him and he licked her hands. “Mom and Dad”, she yelled, “My colt has come back!”

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