



# Storytelling

## EVALUATION SHEET

### INSTRUCTIONS

Please review the instructions for evaluating the performances of the storytelling contestants. The following criteria are of equal importance to evaluating contestants. Terminology used is only intended to help the judge identify criteria for determining a winner. Please make your comments using language understandable to the contestant. Students and instructors appreciate constructive narrative comments. Please do not confer with other judges before ranking students. Judges' decisions are an individual responsibility.

**Speaker Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Speaker Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Round**  Prelims

**Section** \_\_\_\_\_

Finals

Yes No **Did the contestant communicate effectively with the audience?**

Yes No **Did the contestant command attention?**

Yes No **Did the contestant tell the story with ease?**

Yes No **Did the contestant exhibit enthusiasm?**

Yes No **Did the contestant utilize facial expressions, vocal variety and characterization?**

Yes No **Did the contestant make good eye contact?**

Yes No **Did the contestant use good posture?**

Yes No **Did the contestant speak clearly?**

Yes No **Did the contestant use gestures effectively?**

### CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS FOR THE CONTESTANT:

*Judge's signature* \_\_\_\_\_



Storytelling Contest  
Invitational 2021-22

“Beach Day”

Major Elements of the Plot

Grades 2 and 3

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**Directions to Judges:** Each speaker must include at least one of the following elements from the story in his or her presentation. Words may vary. It is up to the judge to decide if the speaker has included one of the elements.

1. The narrator loved the beach and was excited to be packing for her week-long trip there.
2. While helping her sister collect seashells along the beach, she noticed a lot of trash. She emptied her shells into her sister's bucket and dumped trash into hers.
3. After her and her sister saved a crab from a plastic bottle, she wished someone could do something about all of the trash on the beach.
4. Although she questioned her ability to help because of her size, she came up with a plan to clean up the trash from the beach. Others joined in to help.
5. The beach patrol thanked them for helping and asked for a picture in hopes to spread the word. When asked what her message would be, she replied, “No matter if you’re big or small, you can always try to make a difference.”



## Storytelling Contest

Invitational 2021-22

### “Beach Day”

Grades 2 and 3

by Sherri Maret

One of my favorite places to go is the beach. I love the water. I love to swim and ride the waves on my board. I like building sandcastles and collecting shells with my little sister, too. Sometimes we go for the day. I like it best when we can go there for a vacation. If we do that, I can do some fishing, too. Last time we spent a week, I caught a redfish. That has been the biggest, best fish I have ever caught. I love the beach so much that I want to tell you a true story.

My family and I went to the beach last summer.

I was excited to pack up. We were going for a week, so I wanted to make sure I had everything.

Since my sister is younger, I helped her pack the games and toys to take. We also picked out some books we wanted to read. We took two swimsuits so we would never have to put on a wet one.

When we arrived at the house my parents rented, it wasn't too late to go to the beach for a short time. We all scrambled to unpack and put on our suits.

Luckily, the weather was great but a little windy. The waves were perfect for riding. I was so glad my sister could ride her own board by

herself. When she was little, she would always beg me to let her ride with me.

After a while, my sister asked, “Will you help me look for some shells?”

I grabbed my bucket. After we found some shells and walked a while, I saw that there was a lot of trash.

“Let me put my shells in your bucket,” I said to my sister.

I gently emptied the shells from my bucket to hers and dumped some trash into my bucket. It quickly filled up.

“Help me!” My sister called. I ran over to see what the problem was. A crab was inside a plastic bottle and was scurrying to get out. I helped the crab get back into the ocean and carried the plastic bottle and bucket of trash back to our car.

“I wanted to make sure the crab lived happily ever after,” my sister told me.

“Look at all the trash I collected,” I said showing my parents.

“We saved a crab,” my sister chimed in.

“It seems like the trash gets worse every year,” replied my father.

“I wish someone would do something about it,” I told my family.

We packed up and picked up a pizza. While we ate, we talked about the trash.

“So, who is responsible for keeping the beach clean?” asked my mother.

“The beach workers!” exclaimed my sister.

“I think it’s too big of a job for them,” I replied. “I wish I could do something.”

“Maybe you can. Think about it,” my dad told me.

I did think about it. I thought I was just a kid. How could I do something? How could I make a difference? Then I had an idea. The next morning, I told my idea to my family.

“What if we take some big trash bags with us and clean up the beach where we are? If everyone did that, the beach would be cleaner,” I explained.

“That’s a wonderful idea,” said my mother. “I’ll get the box of trash bags under the sink. We can get more at the store, too.” My parents smiled at each other, and I felt good about my idea.

So, my family and I cleaned up our part of the beach. We piled the full bags by our car. I felt really good about what we had done.

A lady with two teenagers walked over and talked to my mom. I saw her give them trash bags, and they picked up trash on their part of the beach. One of them took photos of their trash pile. I could see they felt the same as me. We were both happy about helping.

A few days later, the beach patrol stopped by our car and thanked us for helping. They had noticed that many people had been picking up trash.

“Could we take photos of you with your bags of trash? We thought about putting this out on our social media in the hopes that more people will help keep our beach clean,” the man said.

We were happy to do that and hopefully spread the word.

“So, what would you say is your message?” the man asked me after my mom said it was all my idea.

I said, “No matter if you’re big or small, you can always try to make a difference.”

My little sister said, “Pick up your trash!”



Storytelling Contest  
Invitational 2021-22

“Super Timmy”  
Major Elements of the Plot

Grades 2 and 3

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1. Timmy wondered what it would be like to be a superhero. His dad told him he doesn't need superpowers to make a difference.
2. Timmy's dad took him on a walk to see how they could help others in the neighborhood. Timmy's friend Sam needed help getting his cat Pickles out of an oak tree.
3. Using a ladder, Timmy got Pickles down from the tree.
4. Timmy and his dad were grabbing a snack when they noticed a woman struggling with her groceries. Timmy wanted to help and offered to carry her groceries. She was very appreciative.
5. Timmy's dad took them to get an ice cream. Timmy was happy to help people and wanted to do it again.



## Storytelling Contest

Invitational 2021-22

### “Super Timmy”

Grades 2 and 3

by Kathryn Gonzales

Timmy stared out the front window of his home and daydreamed about having superpowers.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, his dad came up behind him and yelled “BOO!”

This made Timmy jump from his seat while he yelled, “Don’t scare me like that!”

There was a brief moment of silence- then they both busted out laughing.

“What were you thinking about?” Dad asked.

Timmy looked out of the window just for a second more before replying, “I was just thinking about what it would be like to be a super hero.”

Dad made a confused face before saying, “You don’t need powers to make a difference. Let’s go see how we can help our community today.”

Dad took Timmy by the hand and led him outside to walk the neighborhood to see where they could help.

As they were walking, they heard a loud “Meow Meow Meow” sound coming in the direction they were headed.

Timmy noticed his friend Sam outside looking up into a big oak tree. Sam noticed Timmy and his dad and waved them over.

“I need some help,” Sam says.

“My cat Pickles is stuck in this tree.”

Timmy and his dad looked up and saw the cat sitting scared on a large branch.

Timmy’s dad asked Sam, “Do you know if your mom keeps a ladder in her garage?”

“I think so,” Sam replied.

“Keep an eye on Pickles while we get the ladder,” dad told Timmy.

Sam and Timmy’s dad came back with the ladder a few minutes later and propped it up against the tree.

Timmy said, “I can get the cat down,” and took a deep breath before heading up the ladder while his dad held the bottom securely.

One by one, Timmy stepped higher and higher until he reached Pickles.

Sam yelled out, “it’s okay Pickles. You’ll be down soon,” as Timmy gently picked up Pickles and walked down the ladder.

Timmy handed the cat to Sam and looked at his dad with a big smile.

“Great job!” Dad told Timmy.

Sam thanked them both before heading back into the house.

Timmy and his dad started to continue their walk around the town when Timmy’s dad said “See what you did there? You helped your friend and didn’t need the ability to fly.”

Timmy and his dad headed around the corner to their local shopping area. Dad said, “let’s grab a snack from the store.”

As they made their way to the front of the store, Timmy noticed an older woman struggling to carry all of her shopping bags.

Timmy whispered to his dad, “I think that lady needs some help.”

His dad said, “let’s ask her if she would like some.”



Timmy and his dad walked gently towards the woman, and Timmy's dad nudged him to make the first move.

Timmy put on a friendly smile and asked the woman, "Would you like some help with that?" as he gestured towards her bags.

The kind woman looked at both of them and smiled back saying, "Yes please. I've got more than my arms can carry."

Timmy and his dad both reached out and took hold of most of her shopping bags.

The woman gave out a sigh of relief and said, "Thank you so much. My car is this way" as she pointed and started to lead them in that direction.

Once they made it to the woman's car, she opened the trunk for them, and they placed her bags into the back of her car.

"You've both been a great help, and I can't thank you enough," the woman exclaimed.

Timmy's dad said, "It was all Timmy. I just an extra set of hands."

Timmy said, "We were happy to help," They said goodbye, and the woman got in her car and drove away.

Timmy's dad said, "Let's go get some ice cream. We're right by the place we like."

Timmy and his dad walked into the Ice cream shop and ordered two ice cream cones.

After they sat down to enjoy their treat, Timmy told his dad, "I'm really happy we could help those people today. Can we do it again soon?"

Timmy's dad smiled and said, "Of course we can and even when we're not looking for it- we can help people every day."

Timmy and his dad started their short journey home to tell Mom all they did that day.



Storytelling Contest  
Fall/Winter 2021-22

“Martha Gets a Bath”  
Major Elements of the Plot

Grades 2 and 3

**Directions to Contest Directors:** Give a copy of this sheet to each judge before the contest begins.

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1. Martha was enjoying her ride to the pet store but soon realized it was bath day.
2. With help from the salesperson, Ms. Jan decides to give Martha an oatmeal bath.
3. Marth tried to jump out of the bath when Ms. Jan told her she has a surprise.
4. Martha gets to pick out a new toy after her bath and even gets a treat from the salesperson.
5. Ms. Jan surprised Marth with a trip to the dog park for being a good dog.



## Storytelling Contest

Fall/Winter District 2021-22

### “Martha Gets a Bath”

Grades 2 and 3

by Kathryn Gonzales

Martha’s basset hound ears were flapping in the wind as she stuck her head out of the car window. Martha loved getting in the car and going for a ride. Martha had no idea it was bath day.

Ms. Jan, Martha’s owner, was driving the car to the pet store and said, “You’re a stinky dog, and you need a bath”.

Martha looked at Ms. Jan with her sad basset hound eyes and realized what was about to happen.

As they pulled into the pet store parking lot, Martha started to look out the window and wag her tail as she saw people walking around because Martha loved people.

When they walked into the pet store, Martha’s owner started talking to the salesperson about which shampoo to use.

The sales associates told her, “The shampoos I would recommend are Soothing Oatmeal or Hypoallergenic.”

She really liked the Oatmeal last time, so let’s go with that” Ms. Jan said as she took the bottle to the big dog bath area.

“Could I get a stool for Martha?” Ms. Jan asked.

The sales associate said “of course” and set one in front of the tub so Martha could get in.

Once Martha was in the bathtub, Ms. Jan lightly brushed Martha's coat before turning on the water and rinsing her fur. Next, Ms. Jan got the shampoo bottle and put some between her hands and lathered it up.

Ms. Jan massaged the shampoo into Martha's fur while saying, "I have a surprise for you later if you're a good dog."

All of a sudden, Martha tried to leap out of the bathtub, but Ms. Jan caught her before she could escape. When Ms. Jan was done with the shampoo, she then rinsed Martha off.

As Ms. Jan turned to grab a towel from the table next to the bathtub, Martha started to shake off the water out of her fur. Martha looked at Ms. Jan with love in her big eyes because she knew the worst part of the bath was over.

Ms. Jan led Martha out of the tub, down the step stool, and back up onto a drying table.

Ms. Jan got the blow dryer set up, so the hose was close to Martha. When she turned it on, a gust of air blew out onto Martha's fur as Ms. Jan made sure Martha was fully dry.

After one last brushing, Ms. Jan got the nail clippers ready for Martha's manicure. One by one Ms. Jan trimmed and filed Martha's nails. Last-minute Ms. Jan decided to paint Martha's nails pink and used the blow dryer to dry them quicker.

Ms. Jan turned and asked the salesperson for a bandana to put on her freshly groomed dog. The sales associate picked out a beautiful pink bandana for Martha to wear that matched her nails.

As they made their way out of the store, Ms. Jan let Martha sniff around and pick out a new toy. Martha loves stuffed animals, so she chose a hedgehog that squeaks.

Ms. Jan and Martha made their way to the cash register where the sales associate asked, "May I give your dog a treat? She is so cute."

Ms. Jan replied "Of course, she deserves it."

After Ms. Jan paid for everything, they walked back to the car where Martha got buckled in and they headed home.

To Martha's surprised Ms. Jan looked into the back seat where Martha sat, and said, "Surprise! We are going to the park!"

Martha wagged her tail in excitement and gave out an excited howl for Ms. Jan.



Storytelling Contest  
Fall/Winter District 2021-22

“How I Found My Best Friend”

Major Elements of the Plot

Grades 2 and 3

**Directions to Contest Directors:** Give a copy of this sheet to each judge before the contest begins.

**Directions to Judges:** Each speaker must include at least one of the following elements from the story in his or her presentation. Words may vary. It is up to the judge to decide if the speaker has included one of the elements.

1. The narrator was sad and nervous about moving during the summer.
2. While playing soccer in the backyard at her new house, she found a dog hiding between some logs.
3. Her mother made posters in attempt to find the owners of the lost dog. The narrator was hoping nobody would pay attention to the posters. The dog was the narrator's only friend.
4. After weeks of the dog being unclaimed, she noticed a missing dog poster in the ice cream shop with Scruffy's picture. She eventually told her mother about the poster.
5. The mom called the people who made the missing dog poster who ended up being Mrs. Banks and Frank who eventually came to get their dog Duke. The narrator and Frank became great friends and she was even given one of Duke's puppies. She named her new dog Scruffy.



## Storytelling Contest

Fall/Winter District 2021-22

### “How I Found My Best Friend”

Grades 2 and 3

by Sherri Maret

When I moved to a new house, I was super sad. I would miss my friends, the school I went to since kindergarten, and my awesome soccer team.

“You’ll make new friends,” my mom told me.

“We’ll check to see if there are any soccer camps,” my dad added.

I was nervous about going to a new school in a couple of months.

We moved during the summer. The first days in our new house were spent unpacking, and then my mom thought we should paint some rooms. I helped too. We picked out a light green for my room. When we finished putting everything away, I got bored.

I set up my soccer goal in the backyard and thought it would be so much fun if I had a friend to play goalie. That’s when I heard a noise.

It was a whining noise. I searched and searched. I finally found where the sound was coming from. We had a storage shed in the corner of the yard. A dog was squeezed in and hiding between some logs stacked next to the shed.

“Where did you come from?” I asked.

I sat and talked softly to him or maybe it was a her. After a while, the dog quit whining. I sang some of my favorite songs from music class.

Slowly the dog inched out from the hiding place and came closer and closer.

“Are you hungry and thirsty?” I asked.

My mom wasn't too happy about having the dog. The dog turned out to be a boy. I named him Scruffy. He had matted hair and was a dirty mess. My mom sent me to ask the neighbor if we could have some dog food. She was a very nice older lady who was happy to help. She had a poodle named Fifi.

After his meal, I washed him outside in a tub, and he cleaned up pretty well. He had a collar but no tag. Mom and I took him to a vet to see if he had a chip. He didn't.

Mom said that the dog may belong to someone and got lost. I hoped to keep him.

Mom took some photos of him, and then we made some posters. The poster stated: Found! Did you lose this dog? It had our phone number on it. We posted them all over our neighborhood. Was it horrible that I hoped no one paid attention to those posters? I felt bad about having those feelings.

Dad was working at his new office, and I was lucky Mom worked from home. We explored our new town. We visited the park and went bike riding and checked out books from the library. I got a book about taking care of dogs. One of my favorite places was an ice cream shop. Each month they made a new flavor.

Days turned into weeks and no one called. My mom and dad said I could keep Scruffy if no one called about him. He slept in my room every night and was my only friend.



When we visited the ice cream shop again, we ate inside. I was enjoying red, white, and blue blast for July when I noticed something. Across the room I saw a missing dog poster on the bulletin board.

It was Scruffy! My dog!

My mom didn't see it. I was so sad, and the ice cream didn't taste good anymore. I was glad when it was time to go. I didn't say anything to my mom, and my stomach felt like I had knots inside.

That night I couldn't sleep. I felt horrible. If I had lost Scruffy, I would have had a lot of nights of not sleeping.

"You two have a great day," my dad called to us as he left for work.

I was having problems eating my cereal, so my mom asked, "Is everything okay?"

Of course it wasn't, so I told her about the poster.

"I know that was hard to tell me because you love Scruffy. Actually, I am going to miss having him around. He has been a good furry friend to you," my mom told me as she gave me a big hug.

After getting the number from the ice cream shop worker, mom made the call. I could hear happy screams from the people who were about to get their dog back.

Scruffy and I played in the back yard until my mother called to us.

"This is Mrs. Banks and her son, Frank," my mom told me. "When they went on vacation, a friend was taking care of their dog. He dug a hole under the backyard fence and escaped. He had been missing ever since."

Frank wasn't paying attention. He was hugging Duke, his dog, and Duke wagged his tail so much his back end looked like it was going to fall off.

"Good boy, Duke! We have been looking all over for you!" Frank said.

While Mrs. Banks and my mom talked, we played with Duke. I found out that Frank played soccer, we would be going to the same school, and we were in the same grade. He seemed like a really nice guy.

Mrs. Banks said we should come by and visit.

We did. That's when I found out Duke was a father. Their other dog, Cleo, had puppies. They said I could have one when they were old enough to be adopted.

So Scruffy, oh, I mean Duke, was the reason I met my new best friend. Frank and I had a lot of fun together. Now I wasn't nervous about going to my new school since I had Frank as my new best friend. I also had a great dog who I named Scruffy.



Storytelling Contest  
Spring 2021-22

“It’s a Mystery”  
Major Elements of the Plot

Grades 2 and 3

**Directions to Contest Directors:** Give a copy of this sheet to each judge before the contest begins.

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1. Mrs. Green dropped her students off at the cafeteria.
2. After lunch, the kids had to wait outside the classroom while Mrs. Green picked up glass from a broken picture frame.
3. The narrator wanted to help solve the mystery of who broke Mrs. Green’s picture frame. She put together a plan to interview some of the kids in the class like a detective.
4. Based off her interviews, she was able to find a suspect and asked him to help straighten up the library. Afterwards, they went to say bye to Mrs. Green.
5. Mark apologized for breaking the picture and explained how it was an accident. The mystery was solved.



## Storytelling Contest

Spring District 2021-22

### “It’s a Mystery!”

Grades 2 and 3

by Sherri Maret

I love mysteries. I have been reading all the mysteries in the library. I think I would make a great detective. Guess what? I solved my first mystery at my own school. Here’s what happened. Maybe you would be a good detective too!

Last month we were in class, and it was time to go to lunch. All of us put away our math work and got in line to go to the cafeteria.

Mrs. Green, our teacher, dropped us off at the cafeteria. Some kids went to the line to get a food tray and others who packed a lunch went to our table.

“See you soon,” Mrs. Green called to us before going into the lunchroom for teachers.

I was happy my mother surprised me with all my favorite foods in my lunchbox. I had a ham and cheese sandwich, grapes, some chips, and a chocolate chip cookie. I happily ate my food and was looking forward to recess.

When we returned to our classroom, Mrs. Green seemed sad. She was sweeping the floor and asked us to wait until she finished before going inside.

“What happened?” Rita asked her.

“When I returned from lunch, one of my picture frames was broken. The glass from the frame was scattered on the floor,” Mrs. Green replied.

“Who did it?” I asked.

She shrugged and finished cleaning up the mess. She got us started on our science class. We all quickly forgot about the broken picture. We loved learning about animals, and we were writing a report on our favorite one. I chose the armadillo. Rita chose the polar bear. Jamal chose the crocodile. Others were still deciding and that is when I thought about the broken picture.

Maybe this could be my first mystery? I wondered if I had what it takes to solve one.

When the bell rang for us to go home, I took my time to get my stuff together. I needed to talk to Mrs. Green. Alone. When everyone was gone, I asked her, "Did you find out who broke your picture?"

Mrs. Green shook her head. "I will need to buy a new frame. It's my favorite photo of my mother who was also a teacher. She inspires me every day I see it. I know my students don't see it because it faces me, but I was planning on sharing her story with you soon. She is why I became a teacher."

I nodded and asked, "Was her photo damaged?"

She shook her head. "Luckily, no. I just wonder what happened."

I wondered too. I was going to see if I could find out. I would have to plan how I would go about that. A detective needed a plan.

A couple of days later, I had one. I was going to interview some of the kids in the class. I couldn't let them know I was trying to solve the case.

At lunch I said, "I was really sad that someone broke Mrs. Green's photo frame."

Rita asked, "Did she ever find out what happened?"

I said, "Not that I know of."

Jamal shrugged and said, "Maybe we have a ghost!" Then he laughed.

Mark said, "I saw she got a new frame for the lady."

Rita replied, "I'm glad she got a new frame. That is good."

Lisa said, "Our door is always open, so it could have been anyone."

It could have been anyone, but I think I know who did it. I replayed the evidence in my mind. Maybe you heard the same clue I did?

Here is what I knew and what people said about my case.

1-Mrs. Green said the photo was of her mother, and it faces her so she can be inspired every day. We could all see those frames but because her desk faced the class, none of us really knew who or what was in those frames.

2- Rita asked, "Did she ever find out what happened?"

3-Jamal said, "Maybe we have a ghost!"

4-Mark said, "I saw she got a new frame for the lady."

5- Rita said, "I'm glad she got a new frame. That is good."

6-Lisa said, "Our door is always open, so it could have been anyone."

At the end of school day, I had my plan ready. I asked my suspect to help me straighten our little library.

I thought this could be the person who broke the frame.

"Thanks for your help. Let's go say goodbye to Mrs. Green," I said to the suspect.

As we stood at her desk, I asked, "Are you going to share your story about your mother soon?"

"Next week is her birthday, so I'm going to talk about her then," Mrs. Green said.

"I think I know who broke your frame," I announced.

Mark froze. That's when I knew I was right.

"Do you want to tell her anything, Mark?" I asked.

Mark turned a little red and blurted out an apology. He said it was an accident. When he had returned to get his forgotten lunch card, he had been startled by a loud crash. A custodian had been pushing a big cart full of chairs down the hall and some had fallen off.

“I bumped into your desk, and the frame fell and broke. I felt awful about it. I didn't know what to do, and I left it and went to lunch. I'm sorry I didn't tell you,” Mark admitted.

“It was an accident, but it is nice to know what happened. Go on home Mark, and thank you for telling me,” Mrs. Green said.

When he left, my teacher turned to me and asked how I figured out it was Mark who broke it.

I told her, “When I did some detective work at lunch, I talked about your broken frame. I was surprised Mark knew that the photo was a lady. How would he know that if he hadn't been the one to break it?”

I also went on to tell her I wanted to be a detective and solve mysteries.

“I think you're off to a good start!” she said. “If I have any other mysteries, I'll let you know.”

“So now I'm taking on new cases. Does anyone need a mystery for me to solve?”



Storytelling Contest  
Spring District 2021-22

“The Grandparent Adventure”

Major Elements of the Plot

Grades 2 and 3

**Directions to Contest Directors:** Give a copy of this sheet to each judge before the contest begins.

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1. Nora and Everly were awoken by their grandma and grandpa to see their parents getting ready to leave for the hospital for the birth of their sister. They would be spending the day with their grandparents.
2. After their parents left, Nora and Everly helped grandma and grandpa make breakfast.
3. Grandma suggested that they all spend the day at the beach. They spent time splashing in the water and building sandcastles.
4. Nora started to cry after grandma and grandpa told the girls that they would be meeting their new sister soon. She didn't think she wanted another baby in her house.
5. After seeing her new baby sister, Nora smiled and told her grandpa that she thinks three girls will be better than two.





## Storytelling Contest

Spring District 2021-22

### “The Grandparent Adventure”

Grades 2 and 3

by Kathryn Gonzales

One day before the baby came, Nora and Everly's Mom and Dad sat them down to tell them that the new baby would be here any day now. A few days later, Nora and Everly woke up to see their grandma and grandpa looking straight at them with their sweet faces.

Everly sleepily asked, “What’s going on?”

Grandpa told them to “Come and look for yourself”.

So, the sisters jumped out of bed and ran to the living room where they saw their parents getting ready to leave.

It was a bit crazy, to say the least. Mom was on the phone with the doctor saying they are on their way to the hospital. Dad was getting the bags together and trying to find the keys to the car. Nora jumped into action and helped dad finish packing while Everly found the keys to the car.

Grandpa and Grandma told Mom and Dad to get to the hospital and they would make a day of it with Nora and Everly. Mom and Dad kissed the girls goodbye before leaving.

After waving goodbye, Grandma turned to the girls and said “Who’s hungry?” Both girls jumped up and called out, “Me!” simultaneously.

Everly said “Can we have toaster waffles?” and Nora said “How about eggs? My favorite!” Grandpa just chuckled and told the girls “We can have both and you can help cook.”

Everly rushed quickly to the freezer and opened it, reaching inside to get the box of waffles out. Nora was right behind her retrieving a carton of eggs from the refrigerator. Grandma and Grandpa looked at each other knowing a mess was about to be made.

After the children made breakfast with assistance from their grandparents, Grandma suggested that they spend the day at the beach. Everly and Nora headed to their bedroom to pick out their swimsuits while Grandma and Grandpa gathered the sunscreen and snacks.

Grandpa walked to the front door and hollered “The beach bus is leaving soon, let’s go!” The girls yelled out “Don’t leave without us! We’re almost ready!”

A few moments later, Grandma and the kids were at the door and ready to go. They all piled into the car and headed to the beach.

As Grandpa was finding the perfect parking spot, Grandma told Everly and Nora “Look out the window. Can you see the water?” The girls turned their heads, stretched their necks to look out of the window and got excited to get to the shore.

When they found a nice spot on the sand, Grandpa started to put up their giant beach umbrella when suddenly a gust of wind blew the umbrella down the beach. Everyone started chasing the umbrella when finally it came to rest on a sand hill.

When they caught up with the umbrella, Everly and Nora burst out laughing and yelled back to their grandparents “We caught it!” The girls used what strength they had to help drag the giant umbrella back to their spot.

While relaxing in the shade of the umbrella Everly said “Let’s go get our feet wet!” Then both girls took off running towards the waves. Nora kicked the edge of the water causing a big splash toward Grandma and Grandpa as they walked up.

“Sandcastle time!” Grandpa shouted as he put down the bag of castle building tools. The kids and grandparents got down onto the sand and started digging and packing sand into the castle molds.

Nora and Everly dumped out their sand packed molds to reveal an impressive castle. Nora and Everly stood up to look at their castle. Then, suddenly Grandma said, “This is the best part” as they all trampled the castle together laughing.

“It was fun while it lasted”, Grandpa said before they walked back to their shady spot under the umbrella. The rest of day went by pretty quickly as they chased the waves, swam in the water and gathered seashells to show their parents.

After gathering everyone and everything back in the car, Grandpa and Grandma told the girls that they’re going to meet their new sister before they go home. Nora started to cry. Grandma looked back and asked “What’s wrong?”

“I am the baby, and I don’t think I want another baby in our house.”

Everly turned to Nora and said, “I was not happy at first when you were born but look at all of the fun we have now.”

Grandma smiled at the girls and said “See, it’s okay to be nervous about change because change can be good.” Grandpa gave Grandma a wink before starting the car and heading out.

The hospital visit was brief, but the girls were happy to see Mom and Dad again. Nora and Everly were given a treat from the nurse before Dad told the girls, “I will be home soon to tuck you in.”

While looking at her new sister, Nora smiled and whispered to Grandma, “I think three girls will be better than two.”

The drive home was quiet as Nora and Everly fell asleep in their seats. Grandma held Grandpa’s hand and said “I enjoyed spending time with the girls” Grandpa replied, “So did I.”