

NEW FRIENDS



A Little Squints
Storybook

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Page 1

"Hi Sneaker. Why are you looking so sad?" asked his mother. "I don't want to move. I'll miss my friends," said Sneaker, trying to hold back a tear. "Once we get there, you'll make new friends, and besides, we can come back to visit once in awhile," smiled his mother.

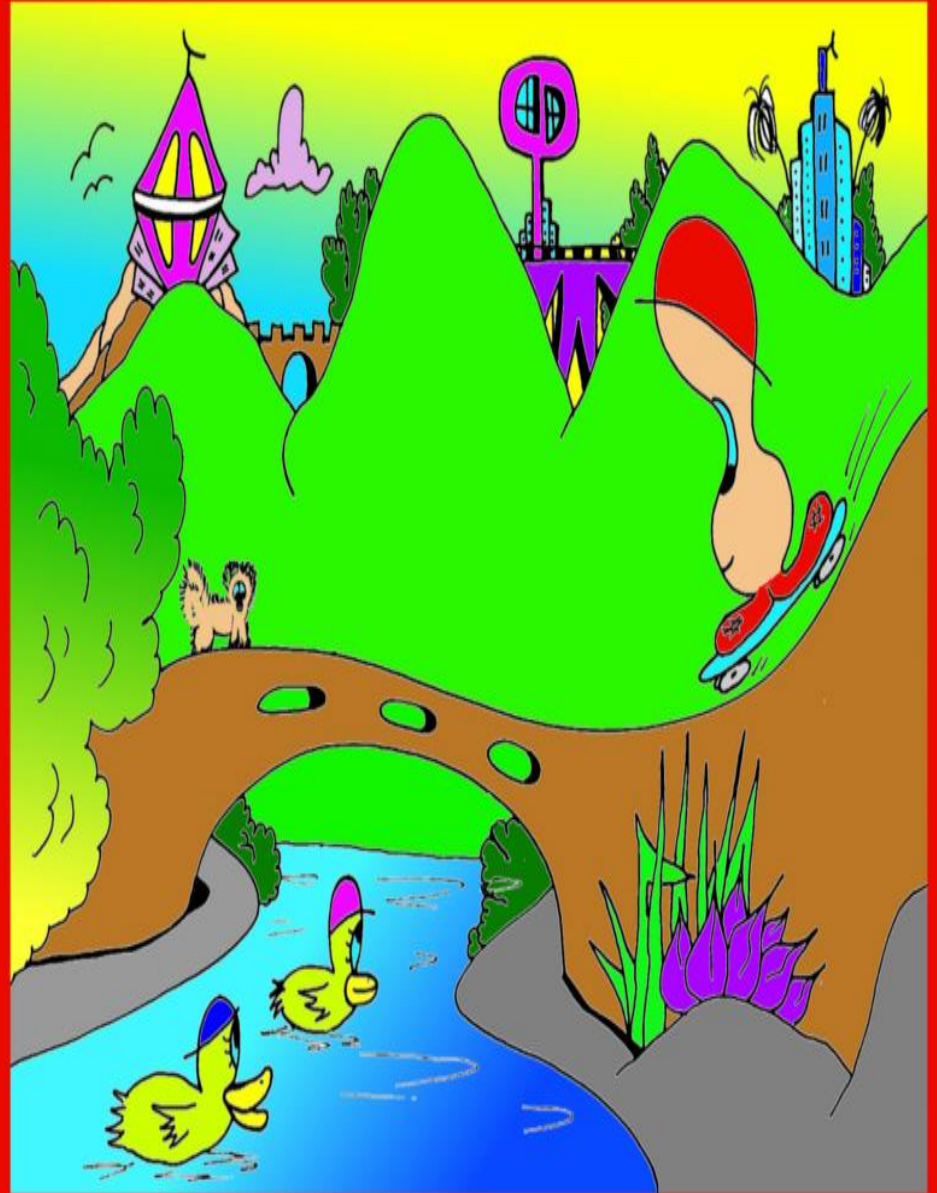


Sneaker decided to take a quick skateboard ride around the town where he had grown up. "I sure wish I didn't have to move," he thought. "But I guess my Dad's job is pretty important.

First he went to the park. This was the site of his first big skateboard competition.

The prize was a brand new skateboard with a big number "1" on it. It still felt like new as he raced into the turns.

He went over the bridge to say goodbye to the ducks. They quacked as if to say "we'll miss you."



"OK Sneaker. It's time to hop in the truck!" said his mother. It was hard for her to leave too, but she knew it was for the better. "Coming Mom!" hollered Sneaker, but his heart wasn't in it. He had said "goodbye" to all his friends the day before. He was starting to miss them already.



"Wow! What was that?"
screamed all the kids at
once.

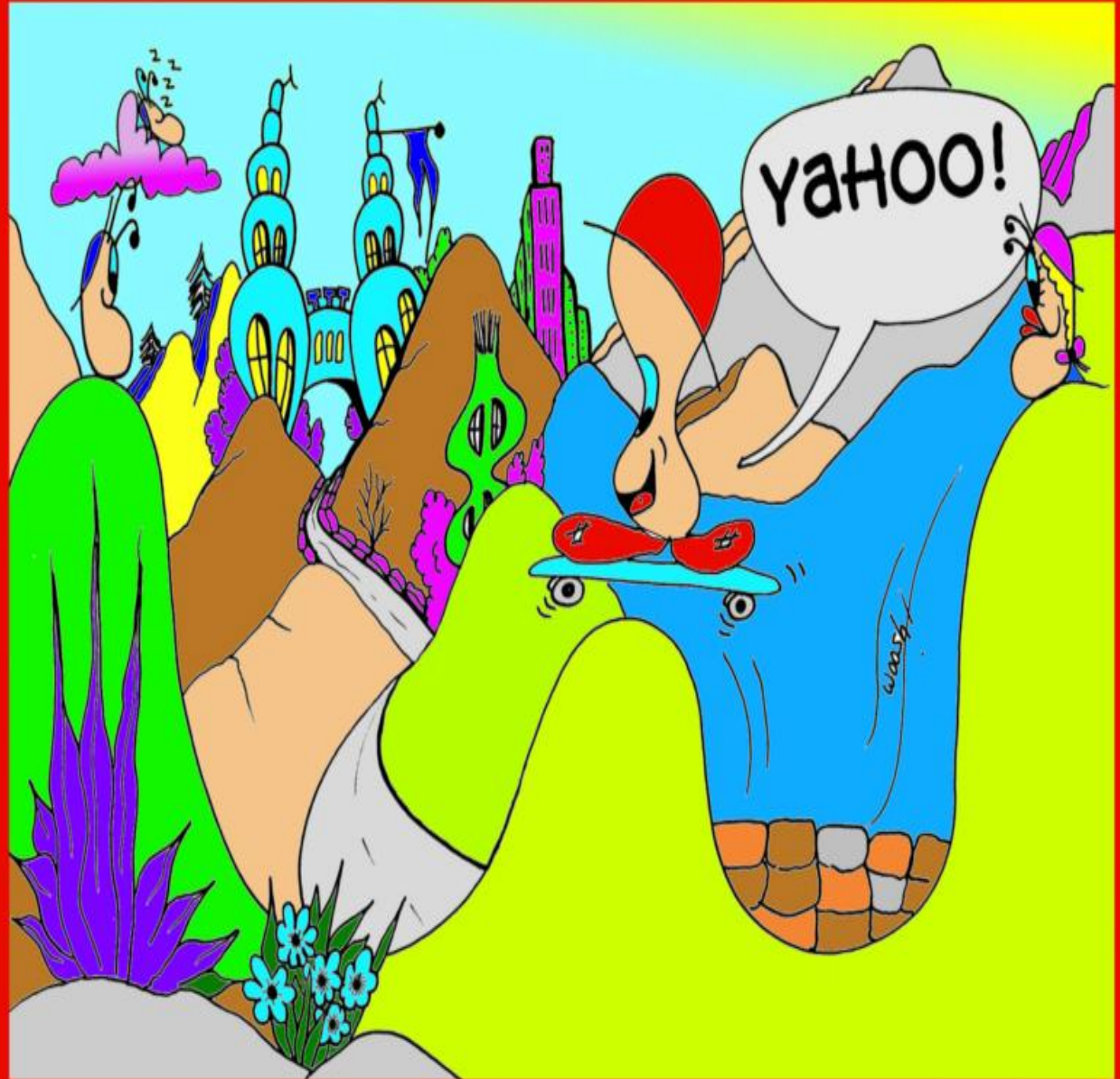
"Boy! What a skater!"
cheered Bruno.

"I've never seen moves
like that before. I
wonder who he could
be?" asked George.



"I think he's the new kid that moved into the old Jones' house across from Mitzy." suggested Rosy.

"Yes, I saw him practicing in the driveway yesterday," said Mitzy. "He's the best skateboarder I have ever seen!" "He's kind'a cute too!" laughed Rosy.



"Hi! Welcome to the neighborhood!"
laughed all the kids.

The new boy barely looked up.

"What's the matter?" asked Rosy
with concern.

"I just moved here and I miss my
friends back home," said Sneaker
glumly.

"Let me introduce us. I'm Rosy. This
is Mitzy. And that is Bruno, George
and Rocky. Up there are the little
squirts named Lazlo, Slipper and
Bizby. What's your name?"

"My name is Rodney, but my friends
call me Sneaker."

"Then that is what we'll call you, but
only if you smile," laughed Bruno.



"Let's take Sneaker over to the Powerplant Pond and introduce him to our teacher," suggested Rocky.

"Mrs. Sunland, this is Sneaker. He's going to be in our class," volunteered Rosy.

"Welcome to our town. It's always nice to see a new face," smiled Mrs. Sunland.



"Let's go over to the park and watch the new construction. I heard they are building a waterslide," said George.

"My Dad owns the company that's building the new slide. That's why we moved here," said Sneaker proudly.



This is going to be great! I can hardly wait!" laughed George, as he imagined zooming down the huge slide and splashing all his friends.



The waterpark was opening in an hour. Sneaker was passing the time practicing his jumps when a bird flew right in front of him. His feet zipped out from under him as his board went into the bushes. "Ouch!" cried Sneaker. "Ooooh my head!" His mother called an ambulance that came in minutes. The next thing he knew he was waking up in a hospital bed with a bad headache.

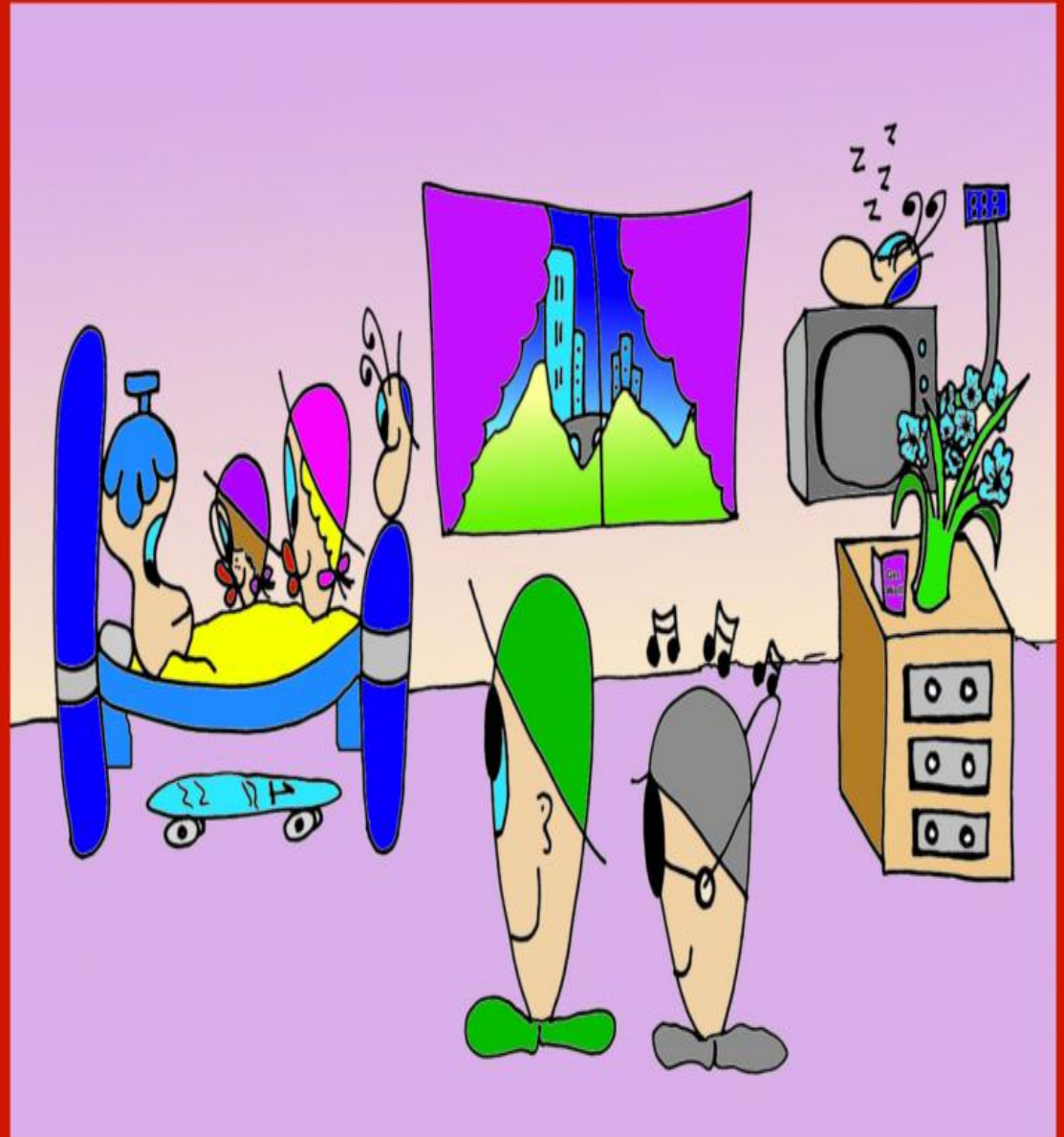


All the kids came to visit and brought get well cards.

"I guess I missed opening day," said Sneaker.

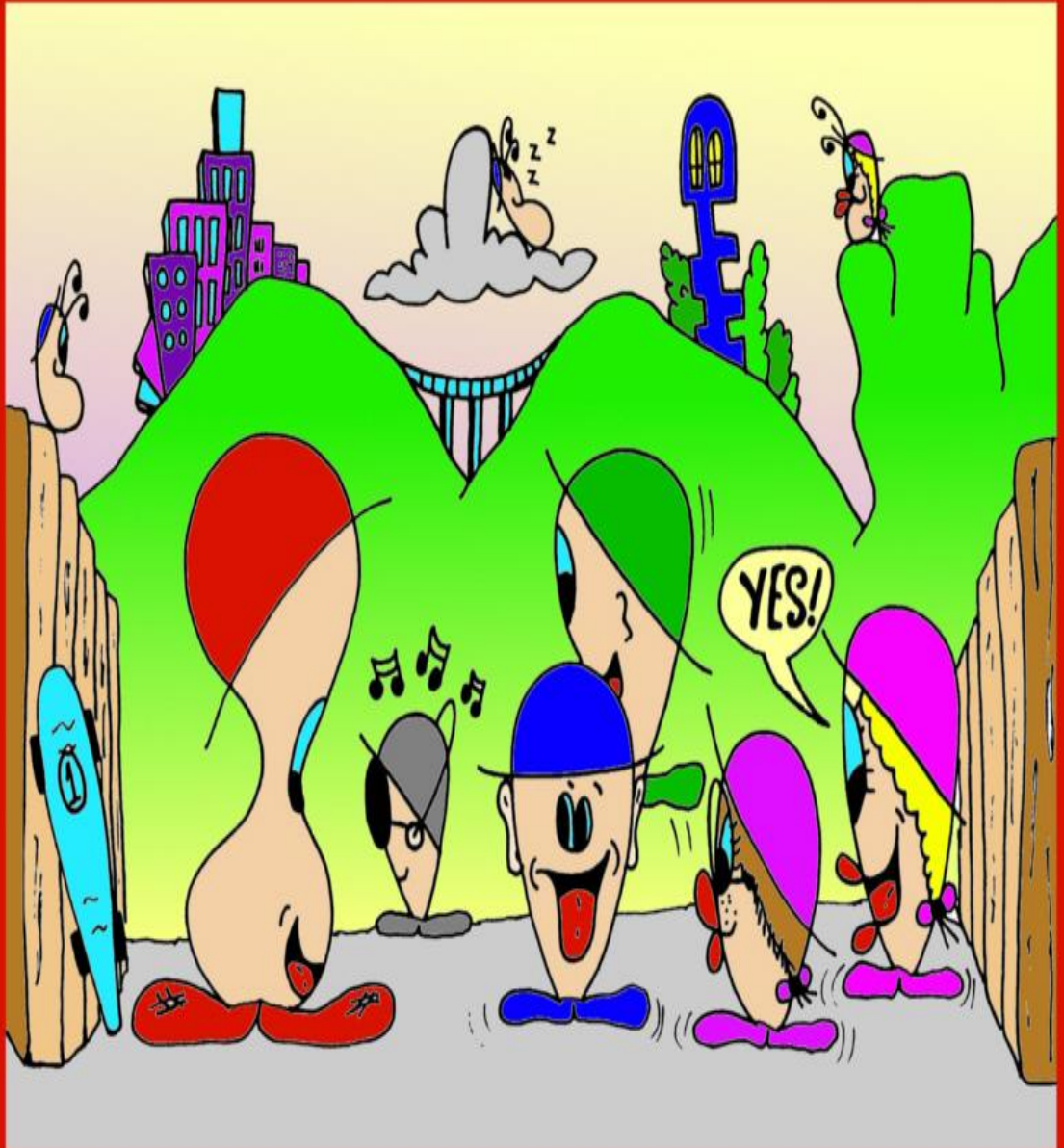
"You better hurry up and get well. We miss you," said Mitzy.

"It's nice to know I have so many new friends," said Sneaker and he meant it.



"I have some good news, said Sneaker. "The park is putting in a skate track. The hospital is donating helmets and free tickets for opening day."

"YAHOO!" Cheered everyone all at once.



"Surprise!" Came familiar voices from around the corner. "We heard about your accident and thought you might need a few friends, but it looks like you already have some," laughed Robby who was Sneaker's best friend from his old hometown.

"I want you to meet my new friends," said Sneaker as he introduced everyone.

"I really miss you guys. Maybe moving wasn't so bad after all because now I have twice as many friends, thanks to the Internet we can stay in touch." cheered Sneaker.

THE END

