

“VELCRO”

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by Becky Enney

Today's story is about LOVE and shepherds who come to our rescue. Mr. Mawakasunga and Uncle Floyd, who love their children, secretly planned a surprise trip to Philadelphia yesterday to see the Phillies baseball game!

Saturday morning started with Mr. Mawakasunga coming to the Heffelfingers with Elizabeth for breakfast. Then they all drove to the train station in Harrisburg and hopped on the train to Philadelphia.

Barabas and Gator and Elizabeth have never ridden on a train before and so they were very excited. The three of them sat in one row of seats and the grown-ups sat behind them. It was fun to see out the window and watch at all the crossings where the gates went down and there would be a line of traffic waiting for the train to cross!

It was a little confusing when they arrived at 30th Street Station and got off the train but Mr. Mawakasunga had said “Be like Velcro! Everyone stick together!” And they did fine.

But then it happened. When they were getting on the subway to go to the stadium, they got separated. Uncle Floyd said: “I reckon this is our train.” But then Mr. Mawakasunga said “No, it is the next train.”

But when he had said this, Elizabeth and Barabas had already hopped onto the train. And in the split second before the doors closed, in that very moment, Gator saw that Uncle Floyd and Mr. Mawakasunga were both looking at their phones and the doors on the train were about to close!



Now, Gator, being in sixth grade, knows a lot more about what to do in an emergency than Elizabeth and Barabas, who are both only in 2nd grade. And Gator is very agile (that means he is able to move quickly and easily). And Gator loves Barabas and Elizabeth, so he VERY QUICKLY reacted by jumping onto the train just a second before the doors closed and the train moved out of the station.

When Elizabeth looked around the crowded train and saw that neither her father nor Uncle Floyd were on the train, . . . she cried out loud! And Barabas looked like he was about to cry! They were very frightened! To tell the truth, Gator was very frightened too. But he knew he had jumped onto the train to HELP, so he did NOT cry. Now, in a situation like this, being an alligator on the floor is very difficult. All you can see is people shoes. So Gator stood on his hind legs so he could see. This is very hard, even for an agile alligator! He looked around the crowded car and saw a police officer up ahead.

In fact, the police officer heard Elizabeth crying and was already walking towards them. Isn't it funny how all Potato Head policemen look like Officer Spud! But it wasn't him. Gator asked the officer to call Uncle Floyd's cell phone. They planned for the three of them to get off at the next station and very soon, Uncle Floyd and Mr. Mawakasunga were there too! Boy were they all glad to find each other.

"Thank you, thank you so much Gator" said Mr. Mawakasunga.
"You have saved the day!" And he meant it.

And as scary as that was, they still had a terrific time at the ball game. In case you haven't heard, the Phillies won over the Pirates 6 – 2! But for the rest of the day, they really DID stick together like Velcro!

LOVE is sort of like VELCRO. And sometimes, the shepherd shows up in an unexpected form! Thank you, Gator!! THE END

