

AN UNUSUAL DAY

by
Hal Ames



When I got up that morning, I did all the normal things I usually do. I got up, got dressed, ate breakfast, and cleaned my room. Then I put my books in my bag and left for school.

The walk to school was not anything special that day. I met my friend Jun Woo at his house. We walked to school together. It is a little more than one kilometer from Jun Woo's house to school. On the way, we passed the scary old house where the old woman lives.

She is not very friendly, and if we walk on her yard, she yells at us, "You boys get off my lawn or I'll call the police!"

She yells at us every day. We enjoy that the most on our way to school.

Just past her house is the firehouse where the firefighters live. They have a beautiful Dalmatian dog we love to pet. We like to walk inside and look at the bright red fire truck with all of the hoses.

When the firefighters see us they always say, "Hi, Jun Woo! Hi, Chan Young!"

Sometimes they give us doughnuts.

One time, when we were passing the firehouse, we were almost run over by the fire truck as it dashed out of the firehouse to a fire. The siren was so loud we had to cover our ears. Spot, the Dalmatian, was sitting in the front seat with the captain who was driving the fire truck.

Then we passed the library. We only go to the library when our mothers make us. The woman inside is not very nice. When we talk, she makes us stop. It is not fun in the library. I like to take the books home to read, but I do not like to stay in the library very long.

Not long ago, when we were in the library, my little sister knocked over one of the bookshelves. It made so much noise, and we laughed. The librarian was not very happy. She told us we had to leave. We did not mind.

The next place we came to was the shoe repair store. Mr. Kwan is a very nice man. He always says hello to us when we walk by. We stop and greet him as well.

A few weeks ago, one of my old shoes had the bottom coming off. I actually kind of liked my shoes that way because they made a neat noise when I walked. Slurp-flop, slurp-flop, slurp-flop.

My mom took my shoes to Mr. Kwan, and he fixed them just like new. I miss the old noise.

After we passed Mr. Kwan's Shoe Repair, we came to the grocery store. Outside there are tables of fruit. I love apples, and it is always tempting to take one and run away like the other boys. I like Mr. Lee, the storekeeper, so I do not take fruit from him. Sometimes he gives me an apple. I rub it on my shirt and make it all shiny. Jun Woo likes pears.

After the grocery store is the hardware store. Sometimes, on Saturdays, my father takes me to the hardware store. He looks for little things to make the house better. While he is looking for just the right thing, I usually play with the kittens in the back room. Mrs. Kim is always so kind to me. She asks me about school and all the other things that I am doing in my life. Sometimes I have nothing to say. I just like to play with the kittens.

Just past the hardware store is the Chinese restaurant. On Sunday nights, our family always goes to Shanghai Chinese Restaurant. We love the food, especially the fried rice. It is so delicious. We like the chicken and broccoli the best. On special holidays, we love to get the dumplings to find the candy inside. If we find the candy, we

are so happy.

We passed the Chinese restaurant, and there in front of us was our school. It is yellow and brown on the outside. I have been in this school all my life. I know all of the teachers and the principal very well.

We were a little early so we decided to play on the playground. There are swings and other things to play on. Sometimes, when Jun Woo and I play on the playground, we get very dirty, and then we have to see Mr. Kang the principal. He then he has to call our parents to tell them to bring us clean clothes. Our parents do not like to come to the school. They are busy and they do not like to have to bring our clothes to us. When I get home, my parents have a talk with me.

We decided to play on the swing, since no one was there yet. We always try to go as high as we can.

There is a story in our school that a long time ago a student went so high that he went over the bar and went around to the other side. I have never seen that done, and I am afraid to try. One time, Jun Woo tried, but he got scared when he got close. I thought he was going to hit his head on the big bar at the top. He was OK though.

Jun Woo and I played for about ten minutes, and then the first bell rang. Jun Woo and I got our books and ran toward the building.

It was strange. The doors were locked, and no one was there. We looked through the window in the door, and the building was empty. We searched and searched, but we could not find a teacher, a janitor, a student, or anybody. We looked at the clock on the wall and it said it was time for school.

Jun Woo and I looked at each other. What could be going on? No one was there.

We went to look into the window of the office and no one was there either.

We were very confused because we could not find anyone.

I looked at the big calendar on the wall behind the counter in the office and in big letters it said, "Monday – No School – Special Holiday!"

"Woo hoo!" we yelled, "No school!"

We ran back home and changed into our play clothes. We played all day.
That is why this was an unusual day for me.



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VOCABULARY: (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. normal _____ | a. put on clothes |
| 2. get dressed _____ | b. swings, climbing toys |
| 3. scary _____ | c. place for books |
| 4. playground _____ | d. supermarket, store for food |
| 5. firehouse _____ | e. home improvement |
| 6. library _____ | f. headmaster |
| 7. grocery store _____ | g. regular, usual |
| 8. hardware _____ | h. creepy, frightening |
| 9. principal _____ | i. fearful |
| 10. afraid _____ | j. place where firemen live |

TRUE / FALSE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Jun Woo is my friend. | T / F |
| 2. I love pears. | T / F |
| 3. The Dalmatian dog's name was Spot. | T / F |
| 4. My family likes Chinese food. | T / F |
| 5. I like to play on the playground. | T / F |
| 6. The old lady in the scary house is our friend. | T / F |
| 7. The firefighters give us chocolate candy, sometimes. | T / F |
| 8. It is five kilometers to school. | T / F |
| 9. It was a regular school day. | T / F |
| 10. I forgot to eat my breakfast. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. Where were the boys going on that unusual day? ____
 - a) to the library
 - b) to school
 - c) to the park
 - d) to the hospital

2. What did I put into my backpack? ____
 - a) books
 - b) lunch
 - c) violin
 - d) money

3. What was the noise that I liked from my shoes? ____
 - a) Flop – Flop – Flop
 - b) Slurp – Slurp – Slurp
 - c) Kerflop – Kerflop – Kerflop
 - d) Slurp-flop – Slurp-flop – Slurp-flop

4. Where did the boys see the words “Special Holiday”? ____
 - a) school calendar
 - b) blackboard
 - c) paper on the floor
 - d) teacher’s desk

COMPREHENSION: *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What is the name of the principal of my school?

2. What kind of fruit do I like to eat?

3. Where did Jun Woo and I play before school?

4. Where did my family like to eat on Sunday nights?

5. Who fixed my shoes?

6. Who lives in the scary old house?

7. How far was it to school from Jun Woo's house?

8. Who gave us donuts, sometimes?

9. Who takes me to the hardware store?

10. What did we do after we found out there was no school?
