

AN UNUSUAL DAY

HAL AMES



When I woke 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 Lee, Jun Woo at his house. We walk to school together every day. It is a little more than one kilometer from Lee, Jun Woo's house to school.

On the way, we passed the scary 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 grass or I'll call the police!"

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

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

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

Sometimes they give us doughnuts.

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

Then we passed the library. We only go to the library when our mothers make us. The librarian 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. Books went flying in every direction. It made so much noise it made us laugh. The librarian was not very happy. She told us we had to leave. It was okay. We did not care. We had other things we wanted to do.

The next place we came to, was the shoe repair shop. Mr. Kwan is a very nice man. He always says hello to us when we walk by.

We stop and say, "Hi" to him as well.

A few weeks ago, one of my old shoes had the bottom coming off. I 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 and they were fixed just like new. I miss the old noise.

After we passed Kwan's Shoe Repair, we came to the grocery store. Outside there are always tables filled with fruit. I love apples, and it is always tempting to take one and run away like the other boys. I like the storeowner, so I do not take fruit from him. Once in a while, he gives me an apple. I rub it on my shirt and make it all shiny.

Lee, Jun Woo likes pears.

After the grocery store is the hardware store. On Saturdays, my father takes me there, so he can look 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. The owner's wife is always so kind to me. She asks me about school and all the other things I am doing in my life. Most of the time 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 the Golden Wok Chinese Restaurant. We love the food, especially fried rice with egg. 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 or money inside. If we find the candy or the money, we get very excited.

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

We arrived a little early so we decided to play on the playground. There are swings and other things to play on. Sometimes, when Lee, Jun Woo and I play on the playground, we get very dirty, and then we must see Mr. Kang, the principal. Then he calls 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 having to bring clean clothes to us. Every time this happens, when I get home, my parents have a talk with me about how I should behave in school.

Since no one else was there yet, we decided to play on the swing. When we play on the swing, 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 around to the other side. I have never seen that done, and I am afraid to try. One time, Lee, Jun Woo tried to do it, but he got scared when he got close. I thought he was going to hit his head on the big bar at the top, but he was okay.

Lee, 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 school was empty. We looked and looked, but we could not find a teacher, a janitor, a student, or anybody. The clock on the wall said it was time for school.

Lee, Jun Woo and I looked at each other, "What's going on? No one is here."

We looked into the window of the office and no one was there as well.

We were 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! YEAY”

We had forgotten there was no school on that day. We ran back home and changed into our play clothes. We played all day.

That is why it was an unusual day for me.

VOCABULARY (*Match the word to its definition*)

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|------------------------|---|
| 1. normal _____ | a. put on clothes |
| 2. get dressed _____ | b. swings, climbing toys, place to play |
| 3. scary _____ | c. place to read or borrow books |
| 4. playground _____ | d. supermarket, store for food |
| 5. firehouse _____ | e. things for home improvement |
| 6. library _____ | f. headmaster, schoolmaster |
| 7. grocery store _____ | g. regular, usual |
| 8. hardware _____ | h. creepy, frightening, spooky |
| 9. principal _____ | i. fearful, scared |
| 10. afraid _____ | j. place where firefighters 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 from Jun Woo's house. | 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 firehouse

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 does my family like to eat on Sunday nights?

5. Who fixed my shoes?

6. Who lives in the scary old house?

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

8. Who gives us doughnuts, sometimes?

9. Who takes me to the hardware store?

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