

- The fair has ended. It's time to pick everything up. Parents, children and teachers sweep, wipe and clean.
- They're all responsible and they leave the park nice and shiny. In the end, they're tired but very happy. What a nice fair they put on!

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### Come Down, Gregorio, Come Down!

by Carlos Ponce

Illustrated by Tony Griego

- Graciela was very happy. Her friend Gladis had invited her to her birthday party. Graciela had a very nice gift for Gladis.
- It was a glass ball with a black and white penguin sitting on an igloo. On the way to the party, Graciela heard, "Good afternoon! Good afternoon!"
- Graciela looked, but she didn't see anyone. She continued on her way, and again she heard, "Good afternoon!" Then Graciela turned quickly, and saw that it was Gregorio up in a tree.
- Gregorio is the cute parakeet that belongs to Doña Gloria, her neighbor. "He has escaped," said Graciela. "I'm going to tell Doña Gloria."
- Graciela ran to Doña Gloria's house. "Doña Gloria, Doña Gloria, Gregorio is in a tree!" shouted Graciela. But Doña Gloria wasn't home.
- Graciela looked at Gregorio who was still up in the tree. "What do I do? If I stay here, I'm going to miss the party!"
- Graciela turned to look at the parakeet. "But if I go, Gregorio will escape." And Graciela stayed and watched Gregorio.
- Sometimes it looked like the parakeet wanted to leave. "Parakeet, what's your name?" "Gregorio, Gregorio, Gregorio!" And so the time passed, and Gregorio didn't leave.
- Finally Doña Gloria came back. And the parakeet repeated what his owner always said to him, "Gregorio, Gregorio, fix your feathers!"
- Doña Gloria ran to her house to get some grains and seeds. But Gregorio the parakeet didn't come down from his branch.
- Little by little, a group of people gathered. "Come down, Gregorio, come down!" they shouted. But Gregorio didn't come down from his branch. "We'll have to call the fire department!"
- Doña Gloria was very happy when the fire truck got there. A fireman rescued Gregorio and solved the problem. Everyone clapped for Graciela and the fireman.
- Graciela had missed Gladis's party. But rescuing Gregorio had been more fun. "Thank you very much!" said Doña Gloria.

A  
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### Pablo's Birthday

by Guillermo Solano

Illustrated by Valeria Petrone

- Pablo's birthday is on the first of May, in the spring. When he wakes up, Papa and Mama tell him, "Happy birthday!" Pablo smiles. Plumitas barks happily.
- Aunt Prudencia comes by early to pick him up. As her present, she's going to take Pablo to the beach. "Shall we go?" asks Aunt Prudencia. "Yes, Aunt. I'm ready!" answers Pablo.
- While Pablo and Prudencia go to the beach, Papa and Mama are preparing a party. A surprise party with games and lots of prizes!
- Cousin Arturo gets there early to help. He's bought colored plates. Mama puts them on the table and writes each child's name on a little piece of silver paper.
- Papa prefers to make the cake. He does it quickly. He's worried that Pablo and Prudencia will arrive suddenly.
- Mama comes over to taste the batter Papa prepared. "It's turning out delicious!" says Mama.
- Pablo's friends arrive first. Then come the aunts and uncles, the neighbors and Professor Plaza. They've all brought presents for Pablito.

- There's a box full of things for Pablo. They've brought him books, a tin soldier, a silver car, and a beautiful airplane.
- Now it's almost five o'clock. "Everyone get prepared!" says Mama. "Keep quiet. Pablo and Prudencia will be here soon!"
- Plumitas begins to bark. Pablo and his Aunt Prudencia are here now. When they open the door, everyone shouts together, "Happy birthday, Pablo!"
- Pablo is surprised. At first, he doesn't recognize Arturo. Then, he laughs very hard to see his cousin dressed as a clown.
- Finally, they bring the present his papa made for him with lots of love. "Plantain cake!" says Pablo. "My favorite!"
- Everyone sings "Happy Birthday" to Pablo: "Happy birthday to you; happy birthday to you; happy birthday, Pablito, happy birthday to you."
- Pablo makes a wish. Then he blows hard. All the candles go out. Everyone applauds!

A  
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### Pedro and Ladrillo in the City

by Ángel Nieto

Illustrated by Jamie Smith

- It's seven o'clock in the morning. Ladrillo begins to bark and Pedro has to get up early. It's his job to take him for his morning walk.
- Pedro gets up, dresses and washes up with a little soap and water. He goes to get Ladrillo, his dog, who barks gratefully.
- Today is a special day. Pedro's father is going to take them to visit the city. First they go to the station, and the three of them get on the train.
- The train goes very fast. It's full of people who are going to the city for fun, shopping and work.
- Pedro likes the city very much. There's so much activity! There's a lot of traffic and commotion. People come and go through the streets of the city.
- Some go by car, others go by train, and some go by bicycle.
- People in suits fill the offices. They open stores and cafes, supermarkets, movie theaters and schools until three o'clock.
- All of them have their jobs, everyone must help. All the people do their part so the city will function.
- The firefighters put out fires. The children play their games. The police watch over everything. The stoplights guide the traffic.
- The pastry maker makes desserts. The fish seller sells trout. The shoemakers fix shoes, and the photographer takes portraits.
- A painter's shop is full of pictures. Pedro likes the one of the little colt running through the wheat.
- The subway, buses and trolley cars move people all day long. And the father, who is tired, sits down on a bench.
- Pedro hugs his dog. "Ladrillo, this is tremendous!" exclaims Pedro in amazement, and Ladrillo wags his tail.
- When they finish their walk, the three of them go to the station, and there they get on the train. And, sitting comfortably, they calmly return home.

A  
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### The Fire and the Sun

by Clarita Kohen

Illustrated by Enrique Martínez

- Many, many years ago, the earth was a very sad place, without light and heat. It was always cold and there was no color.
- The owl, the beaver, the raccoon, the armadillo and the vulture got together to look for a solution. What could they do?
- The beaver and the raccoon talked and talked. The armadillo and the vulture couldn't agree. The owl didn't say a thing.
- Finally, the wise old owl said: "I'm the only one who can see well in the dark, and I know what we have to do. We need fire to give us light and heat."