

Rosie's Pond



Once upon a time there was a little girl named Rosie. She was a happy girl and she lived with her Mommy and Daddy in a city called Springfield. Springfield is a city in Ohio. Rosie was a big sister too.



brother, Andy, sister Anna, and helped her Mommy take care of them and teach them things.



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One day the telephone rang. It was Grandma! Rosie's Mom talked to Grandma on the telephone. They talked for a long time. When they were through, Rosie's Mommy

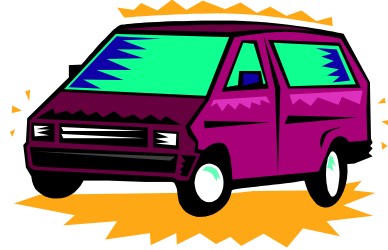


It



said, "Rosie, how would you like to go and visit Grandma and Grandpa and at their farm?" "Are you and Daddy coming too?" Rosie asked. "We will bring you", Mommy said, "but then Daddy and I are going to go on a special vacation while you and Andy and Anna stay with Grandma and Grandpa". "We will miss you a lot", said Rosie, "but it will be a lot of fun."

Finally it was time for the visit! Rosie and her family packed up their van with all their clothes, books, toys, food, suitcases, cots, music CDs and just about everything in their house in Ohio. They said goodbye to their cat, Pillow, and started out to Grandpa and Grandma's house. They drove for a long, long time. Then they stopped for lunch! Then they drove for another long, long time – and they stopped for supper! And after supper they drove for *more* time and finally, *finally*, they made it to Grandpa and Grandma's house.





Everyone was very glad to be there at last.
Grandpa and Grandma were up



waiting for them. All their dogs were waiting too
Grandma had so many dogs! They were so glad to see Rosie, Andy, and Anna that they jumped up and down and barked licked everybody and carried on until everyone was just about crazy! Grandpa had to put the dogs inside there kennels so that you could here yourself think!

Soon it was time to go to bed. Rosie, Andy, and Anna got into their pajamas, brushed their teeth, and said Thank You to Jesus for a safe journey and their Mom and Dad. Soon they were asleep and they all dreamed they were trying to eat ice cream cones while millions of dogs jumped all over them trying to lick their ice cream cones!

When they woke up in the morning it was almost time for Mom and Dad to fly away for their vacation. After breakfast,



Mom and Dad put their suitcases in Grandpa's truck for the trip to the airport. Rosie and Grandpa drove Mom and Dad to the airport and watched them get on a big beautiful plane. Then they went to a special watching place where they could see the plane fly into the air. Rosie waved to her Mom and Dad when they flew away. She wondered if they were looking out their windows and could see her waving to them.



Then Grandpa and Rosie came back to Grandpa and Grandma's house.

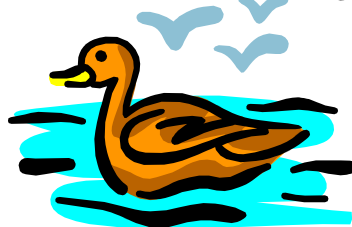
Grandma was already hard at work with Andy and Anna feeding all the animals. There were



cows and goats, geese and ducks, and sheep



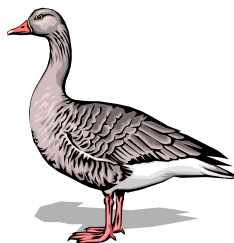
rabbits to feed.



and

and goats liked hay

The cows and feed.

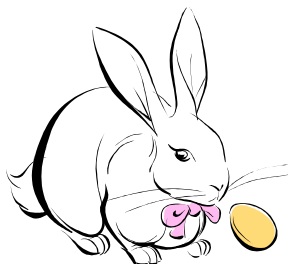


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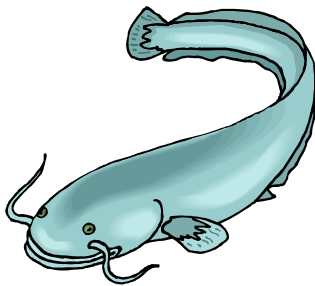


and



geese liked poultry feed. The rabbits liked rabbit pellets. All of the animals liked Grandma because she was the nicest person they ever met. She made sure they were always healthy and strong. She gave them vitamins and minerals to keep their coats and fur healthy. Maybe that is why all her Grandchildren were healthy too! But they didn't have fur.

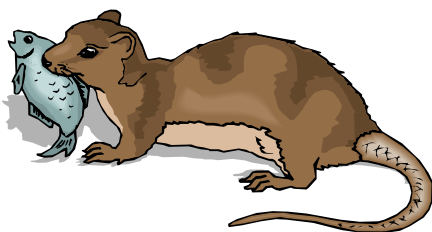
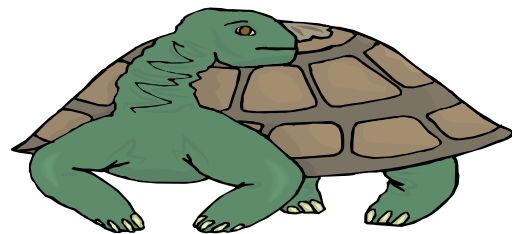
Rosie's favorite place on Grandpa's farm was the big pond. It had ducks and



herons living on it. It had big catfish living in it. There also were turtles and frogs living in the pond.



Along the bank lived a muskrat that liked to hunt for the fish and the frogs. If you sat by the pond very quietly sometimes the muskrat would swim by with some delicious treat for its babies safe in their muskrat den. Rosie liked



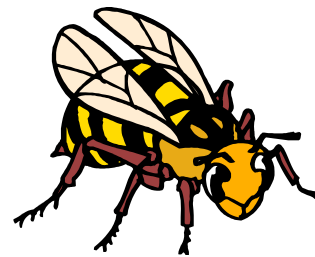
looking at the pond with Grandpa.

The next day Rosie asked Grandpa if he needed to do any work down at the pond.

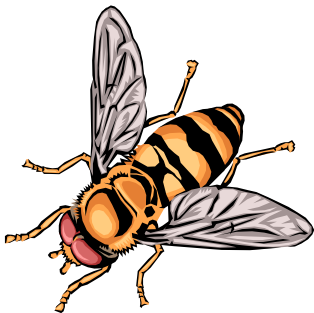
Grandpa said that this was the day he was going to bring some new bees to live at the pond. The bees would keep all the flowers and trees healthy and make



honey besides. Rosie was a *little* concerned because she was not sure about having lots more bees flying around. Grandpa told her that honey bees are very gentle if you don't annoy them and just go about their business.



“Well,” Rosie said, “we better keep Andy away from our bees!” Grandpa laughed at that.



Rosie, Andy, and Anna went down to the pond with Grandpa to look for a good place to put the new bees. The first place they found was near a mulberry bush, but it was too close to the muskrat's den. The second place was a nice flat spot next to the pasture, but there wasn't

enough room for Grandpa's tractor to get by. The third place was just right: it was level, and wide enough for the tractor, and it would be easy to take care of the bees there.

Grandpa and Rosie set up the bees' new home next to the pond. They put nice new honey frames into the hive so the bees would want to live there. The very next day

the UPS truck arrived with a strange package! It looked



like a coffee can, but it was buzzing! Grandpa said, "Wonderful! Now we can put the new bees in their house!"

Grandpa dressed up in his special bee suit and hat.

Rosie, Andy, and Anna were careful not to get too close to the new bee house while

Grandpa carefully opened the

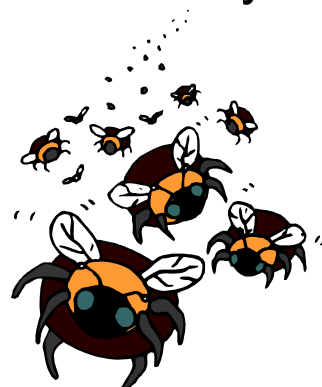
package of bees and put them in the beehive.

Now there would be bees living by Rosie's pond!

She could almost taste the delicious honey the bees would make for her!

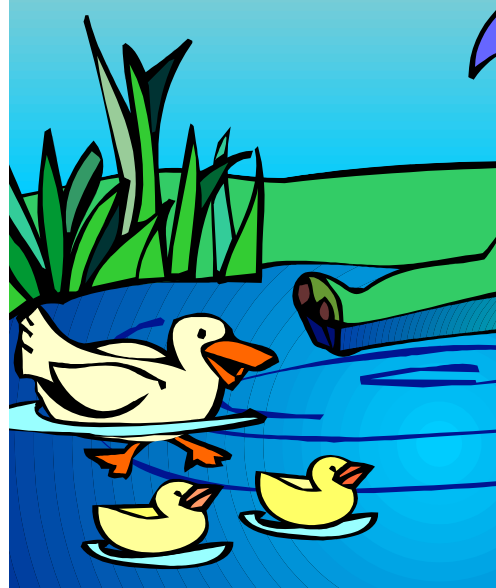


The next morning after breakfast Rosie ran down to

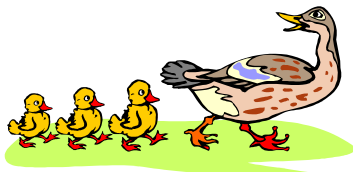


pond to see if the bees were happy in their new home. They were buzzing around, as busy as bees! Then she noticed something new on the pond. Mrs. Duck had new little ducklings!

Rosie ran back up to the house to tell Grandma. Grandma was very happy to hear about the new ducks, but she asked the children to help her catch them. “Little ducks aren’t safe”, she



said. The foxes and snapping turtles will eat them if they can. We will try to put them in a cage so they will be safe. But even though the children tried very hard, Mrs. Duck would not come out of the water.

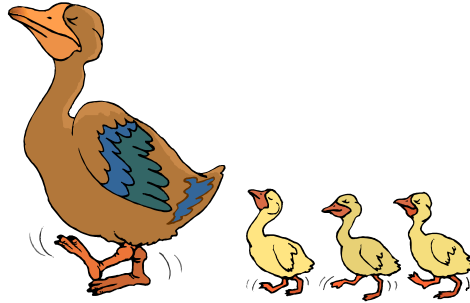


That afternoon, Rosie went down to the pond to see the new ducks. She was very quiet. She didn't see Mrs. Duck swimming. There she was! Mrs. Duck and her little ducks were taking a walk in the pasture.

Then Rosie saw something else! A quick red fox was jumping



over a lazy log, watching Mrs. Duck come closer and closer! Rosie shouted to Mrs. Duck, "Watch out! Watch out! Come back!" But Mrs. Duck just kept walking closer and closer. What should she do? By the time she ran to get Grandma, Mrs. Duck would be caught! Then



Rosie had an idea! Jock could help her! Jock was a very nice dog that lived with Grandpa and



Grandma and helped herd their cows. "Jock! Jock! Come here!" Rosie called. Up at the barn, Jock pricked up his ears. Someone was calling him! He started to run to the pond. He could hear

that Rosie needed him as quickly as he could get there. What was wrong? Then Jock saw Mrs. Duck. He heard Rosie say, "Jock, get the ducks!" and he knew that he needed to get Mrs. Duck and her children back to the pond. When the fox saw Jock running toward Mrs.



Duck, it decided that it didn't want to eat ducks after all. It turned around and ran into the woods

as quickly as it could. “Thank Goodness!” Rosie said. “What a good dog you are, Jock!”

When Rosie got back to the house she told Grandma all about the fox and how Jock saved Mrs. Duck. Grandma was very happy because she had worked hard to help Mrs. Duck hatch her ducklings. Then Rosie helped



Grandma finish making supper. They made a chicken pot pie, and for dessert they had a big bowl of fruit. It was very good.

It had been an exciting day for Rosie, Anna, and Andy. At bedtime Grandpa told the children one of his stories about elves, and as she fell asleep Rosie said to herself, “I wonder what kind of adventures we will have tomorrow?”

The next morning Rosie was dreaming about going on a trip in Grandpa’s big truck when she woke right up realizing that she was hearing Grandpa’s truck. She jumped out of bed and went to the window. Grandpa’s had hooked the big trailer up to the truck and had parked it in the driveway. Rosie quickly got dressed and ran

down to the kitchen where she found Grandpa and Grandma eating their breakfast.

“Where are you going with the trailer, Grandpa?” Rosie asked.

Grandpa smiled. “Hello Sunshine”, he said. “Well, I have to go and pick up a little heifer that needs a home. Do you want to come along?”

Rosie thought for a minute. “Well, I don’t really want to miss breakfast – will it take a long time?”

Grandpa laughed. “We aren’t in that much of a hurry, Rosie. You have lots of time for breakfast.”

By the time Rosie had

