

One Story A Day



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Modern and traditional
365 stories for a year

Sample Unit

One Story A Day



February 2

One Story A Day



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Preface

This is the second book of *One Story A Day*, a series of 12 books with a total of 365 stories, one for each day of the year. The content, style, and structure of each book in the series encourage reading in children.

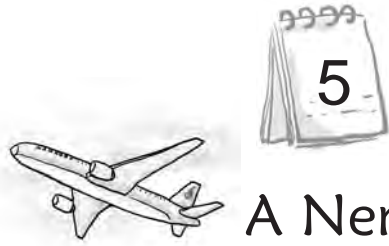
Each book contains one story for each day of the month. Targeted illustrations reinforce the concepts in the stories, making them easy to understand. There is a supplemental audio CD for each book, with all stories narrated in clear, natural voices by professional actors.

Written by professional Canadian writers, these books are comprised of high-interest topics and motivational content that gets children excited about reading. The vocabulary is controlled, but the content is always interesting. The stories are based on small life lessons that are valuable for any child, funny tales of friendship and family, fables and legends from around the world, and stories about nature, science, and history that encourage children to think. *One Story A Day* fosters children's total development—linguistic, intellectual, social, and cultural—through the joy of reading.

These books will be a practical addition to any home or classroom where the intention is to develop and encourage a love of language and reading. Children can read along, listen, and imitate. Parents and educators will enjoy sitting down in a quiet environment with their early readers, either reading aloud to them or listening to their kids reading aloud. Furthermore, children will enjoy following along while listening to the audio CDs.

While *One Story A Day* can be used in a variety of settings and with many approaches, the stories in these books bring the joy of words and reading to the ears and minds of children at a crucial stage in their development.

Sit back, relax, and discover the pleasure of reading.



A Nervous Flyer

I really don't like planes. I mean I like them, but I am a little bit nervous about the flying part.

One time, I had to take a flight. Even though I was worried about it, I knew I had to go. I went to the airport and boarded the plane. An older woman sat down beside me. She smiled at me.

The plane was ready to take off and I was feeling extremely nervous. I was so nervous that I was sweating and my hands were shaking. I was panicking.

The plane started to pick up speed. I was just about to grab someone's hand when the older woman grabbed my hand and said, "I'm so scared. Can I hold your hand?"

Well, I was shocked and said, "Okay." We held each other's hand tight. The plane took off and climbed into the sky.

Soon the plane settled down. The flight went along very well. The old lady and I talked about everything you can imagine. She seemed to know a lot about the world.

Just as the flight was coming to an end, the pilot came on

the speaker and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is Captain Williams. This is a special flight for me. Today, I am retiring after thirty years as a pilot. My whole family is on board to celebrate my last landing in a jet. I'm going to make it as smooth as glass for you."

There were big smiles in the cabin. People were excited as we neared the runway. The pilot brought the plane lower and lower. Finally the plane touched down on the runway. As the plane glided to a smooth stop, everyone on board broke into applause and cheered.

In the front of the plane, I could see people clapping as the pilot came through the plane. He stopped by my seat and the older lady stood up and hugged the pilot. She was his wife!

The woman said goodbye to me and left with the pilot. On the way out, I said to the flight attendants, "Isn't it strange that the pilot's wife had never been on a plane?" The two flight attendants laughed and said "Mrs. Williams was a flight attendant for twenty years."

And with that, I realized what she had done was to help me.





The Talking Machine

Today making a phone call is as common as having a glass of water. But when telephones were invented more than 130 years ago, people believed they were dangerous.

In 1876, when the first telephone was demonstrated to the public, electricity was still new and little-understood. Many people had died working with electricity in the early days. That's why they did not easily accept that it was safe to hear a human voice through the phone. Many honestly feared the phone would kill them.

But on the morning of March 10, 1876, Alexander Bell, and his assistant Thomas Watson, had no such fears. Bell and Watson had been struggling to make their new invention, the telephone, work. Bell sent his assistant to a room in the basement. In a room upstairs, the telephone inventor spoke seven little words into his invention. These simple words changed the world forever. "Mr. Watson, come here, I want you."

It's hard to imagine the excitement in the laboratory that day. Mr. Watson did, in fact, hear these words on his receiving

machine in the basement. He quickly ran upstairs to announce the good news to his boss.

The telephone was born in March, 1876 but it took a few more years for it to gain respect. Bell had to overcome the fears about electricity before people took his invention seriously. He also had to convince people there was a need for such a machine.

We can laugh at this now, but in 1876, people seriously asked, "But what use could it possibly have?"

Today, we take telephones for granted. But on that day in March, 1876 there were only two telephones in the whole world.

As we walk along a busy street talking with our friends on our cellphones, it is hard to believe, but not so long ago, telephones were thought to be dangerous and useless.

Our world sure has changed, don't you think so?





At the Border

(adapted from a Middle Eastern folk tale)

There's an expression in English that says: Sometimes you can't see the forest because of all the trees. Do you know what that means? It means that if you focus too much on the details, you might not be able to see the 'big picture'.

Such was the problem long ago at a border crossing far away. Smugglers are people who sneak things across borders illegally. The border agent's job is to search for and find the items smugglers are hiding as they cross the border into a country.

One day, a smuggler leading a donkey approached the border. On the donkey's back, there was a large load of straw. As the man came closer to the border, the agent grew suspicious. Surely this man is trying to smuggle valuable goods into my country, he thought.

He stopped the smuggler and made him unload the hay. The agent searched through the hay but could not find anything. He could do nothing but allow the man with the donkey to pass. "You are a smuggler," said the agent. "And one day, I will find what you are smuggling."



Every day for many years, the same man approached the border leading his donkey with the load of straw on its back. And every day, the agent searched in vain for the valuables that he was sure were hidden inside the hay. But try as he might, the agent was never able to find anything.

Many years passed, and the agent retired. One day, he met the smuggler on the road. "I am retired now," he said, "and I can do no harm to you. What is it that you were smuggling all those years? I would very much like to know."

The smuggler smiled and said simply, "Donkeys."

And so it was. The agent had not seen the forest because of all the trees.



The Cat and the Christmas Tree

In my culture, around mid-December we go out and buy a Christmas tree and put it in the house. We decorate it with lights and other things. These trees can be quite beautiful, and they always give the air a special pine smell. It smells like Christmas to me.

My mother doesn't like our cat, especially at Christmas, because the cat can't resist trying to play with the shiny decorations on the tree. This Christmas was no different. Every time the cat got close to the tree, my mother yelled at it. The cat soon decided that this was a fun game. I actually think he enjoyed getting my mother mad.

Mom worked very hard this Christmas. It seems that she tries harder than anyone in the family to make Christmas special for us. She made special Christmas meals and wrapped all the presents. Needless to say, Mom was very tired. I think she was even stressed about the coming Christmas Day.

Now it was the night before Christmas, and not a creature was moving except our cat. He had been chased from the

Christmas tree three times that evening. We didn't see him the rest of the night.

About midnight, my mother got up from bed to get a glass of water. Suddenly, we heard her screaming that there was someone in the house. We cautiously followed Dad out to the living room.

There was someone hiding in the Christmas tree! We could see the branches moving slightly. My father moved towards the tree with a baseball bat in his hand.

Suddenly, the tree moved again. I saw two small eyes looking out at us from the tree, and I shone the flashlight at the eyes. It was not a burglar. It was our cat! He was inside the tree, stuck between two small branches.

Before I freed him, I took a picture. Everyone, including my mother, laughed at what had happened.

The next day, we exchanged gifts. The biggest laugh came when Mom opened a special present from all of us—a picture of the cat in the Christmas tree.





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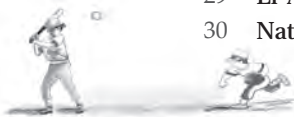


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