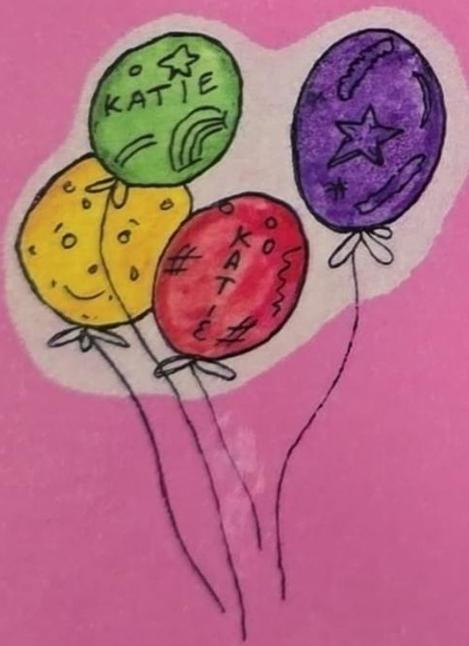


The Story of

Myrtle the Turtle



By

Bruce M. Wermuth



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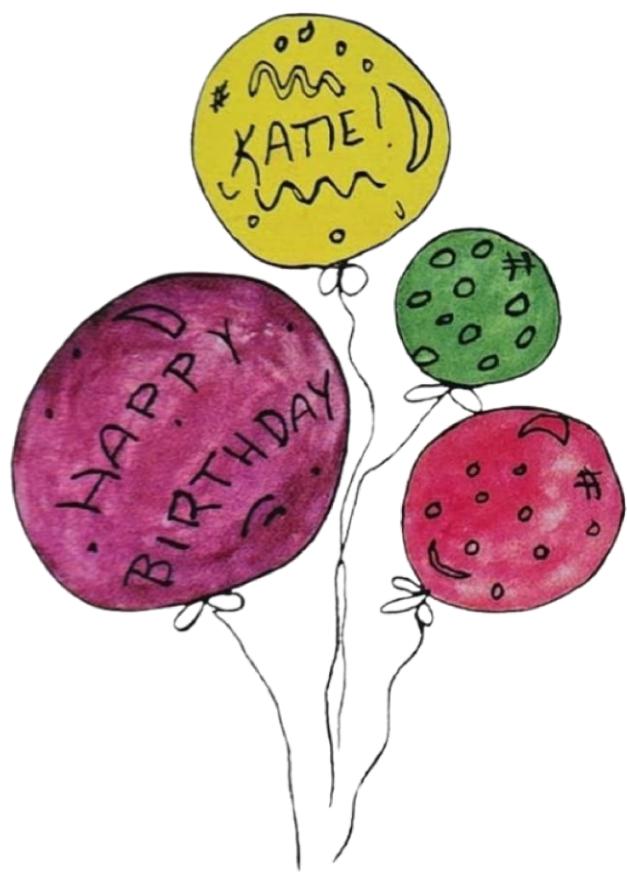




Katie, just for you.

To the nicest little girl in the whole world.
Sharing stories with you has always
been a great joy.

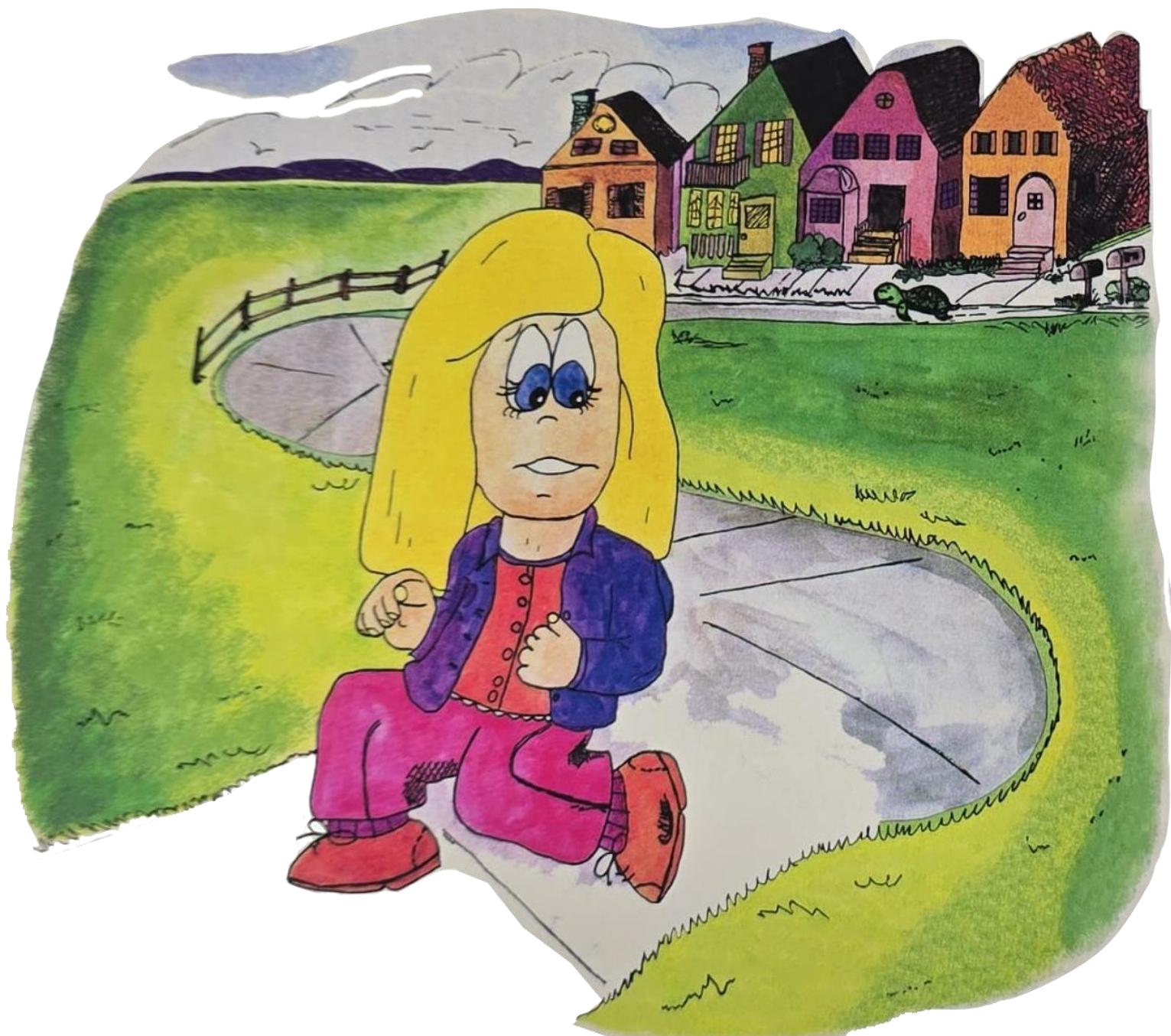


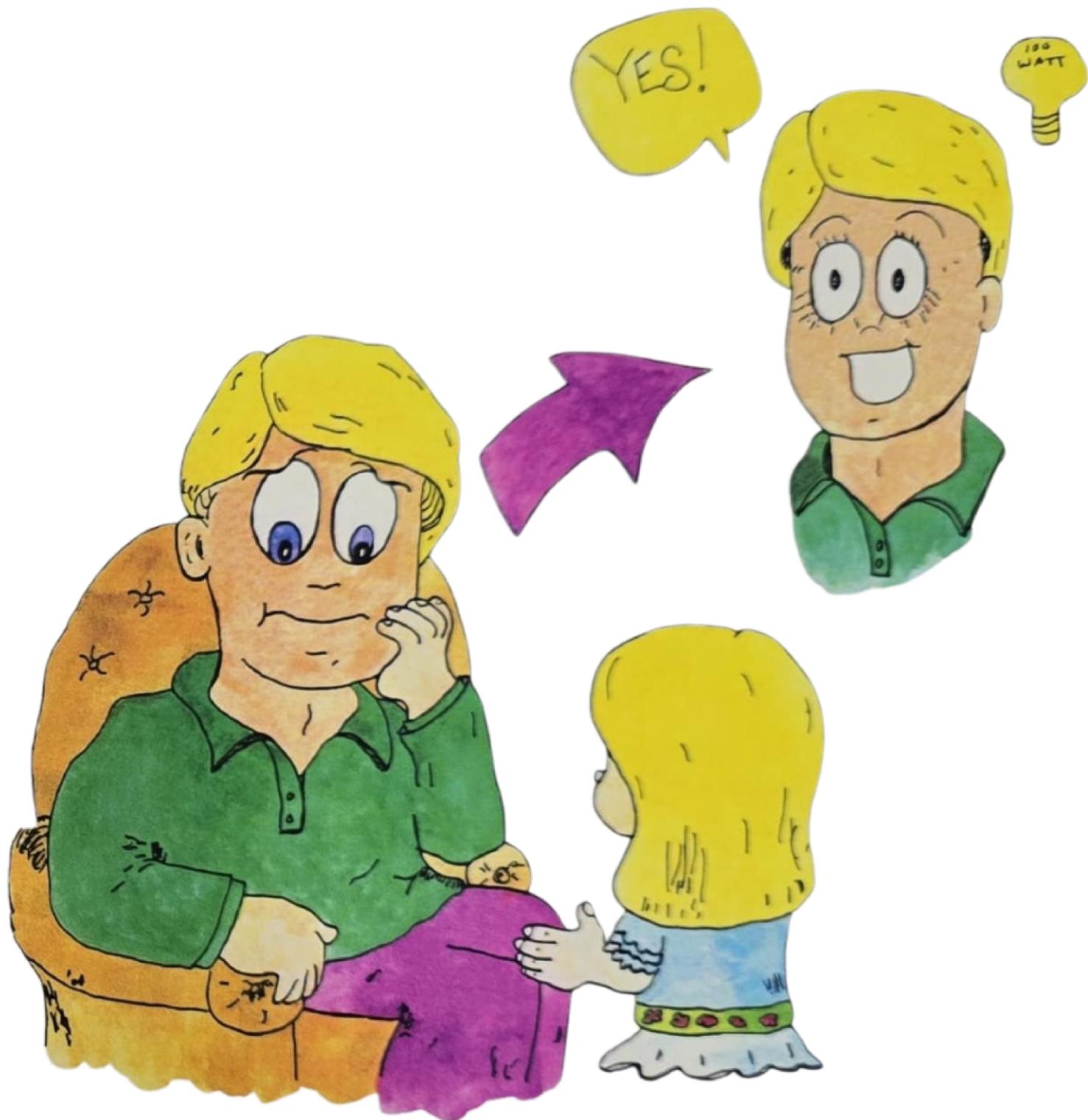




Once upon a time there was a very precious little girl who had a 5th (fifth) birthday. Her name was Katie. Of all the wonderful gifts she received, the most special of all was a pet turtle. She named it Myrtle, and they became very best friends. They went everywhere together!

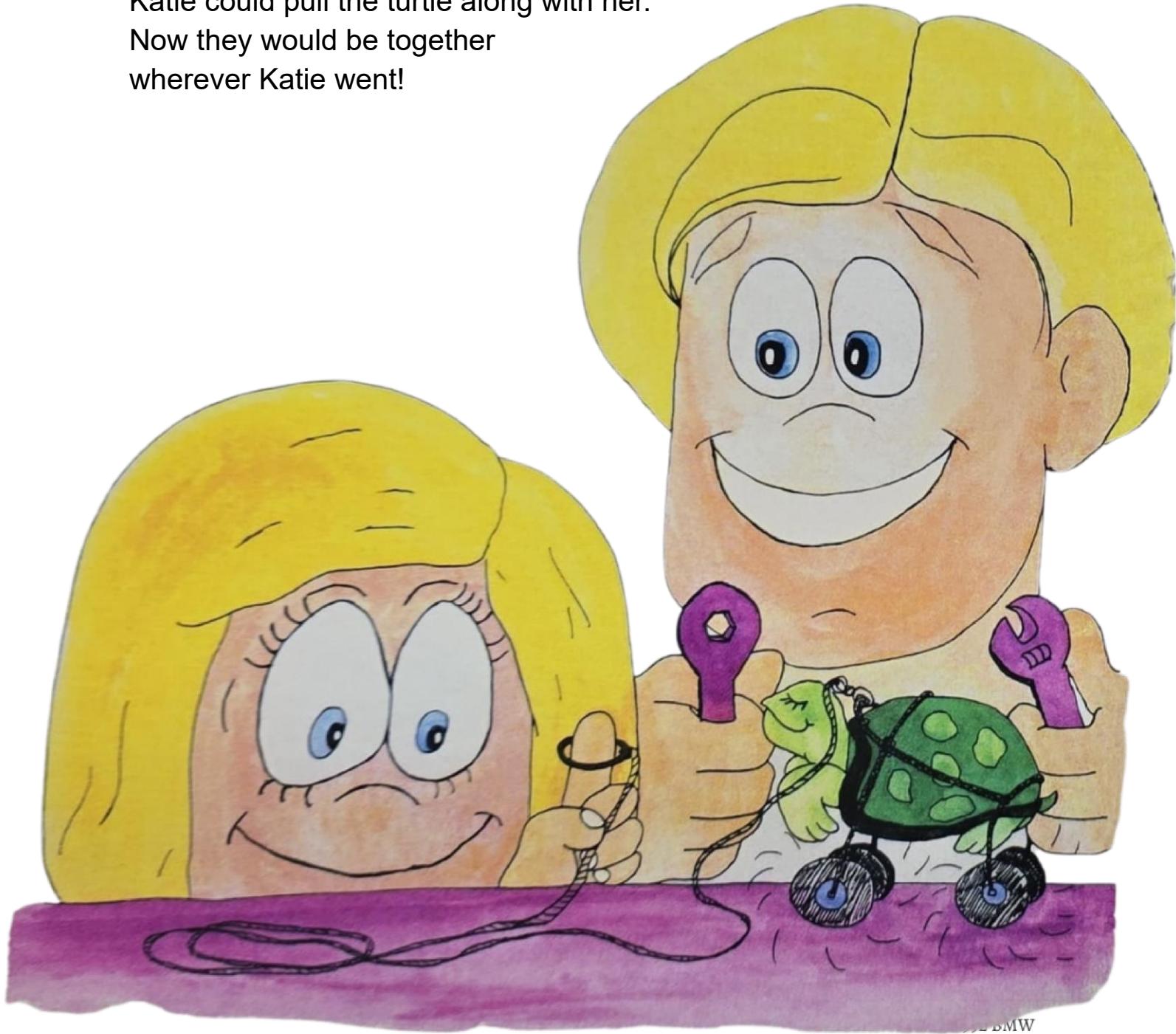
But a problem soon arose because Myrtle was just not fast enough to keep up with Katie. So, they often became separated. This made them both feel sad because they wanted to be together.





One evening after dinner, Katie decided to ask her father for help. She told him how Myrtle and she had a hard time staying together. Katie was so fast and Myrtle was so slow. Her father thought about the problem for a moment, and then a bright sparkle came into his eyes.

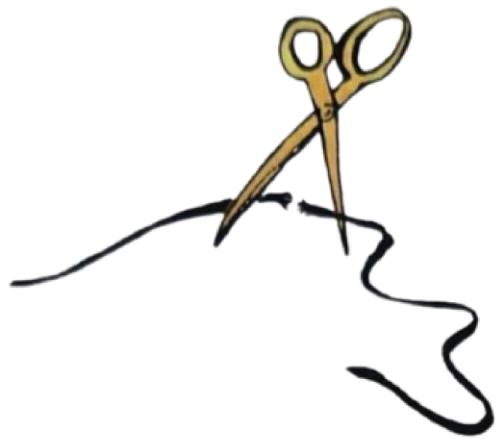
He took Katie and Myrtle down to his basement workshop.
There, Katie's father attached four small wheels
and a long string to Myrtle's shell. This way
Katie could pull the turtle along with her.
Now they would be together
wherever Katie went!



Katie was thrilled with this plan. The next day she tried it out, and it worked wonderfully! She and Myrtle were so happy now that they could go everywhere together.



But one day, a mean little boy hid in the bushes with a pair of scissors. He was jealous of Katie and Myrtle because he didn't have any friends and he didn't have a pet turtle like Myrtle. So he waited in the bushes until Katie skipped by pulling Myrtle behind her.



Once she had passed by, the mean little boy jumped out and quickly cut the string and ran away with the turtle. Katie didn't notice that anything was wrong until she was way down the street when she stopped to rest. Then she saw that Myrtle's string had been cut and there was no Myrtle to be found. She became so upset and worried. She looked all over and searched everywhere but she could not find Myrtle. Katie was so sad that she ran all the way home crying.



