**Beaver Pond**

My Uncle Herman takes me to Beaver Pond every summer. We fish and talk and eat a picnic lunch that my Aunt Jan fixes. It is a fun day that I look forward to all year. Uncle Herman has taught me all about how the pond was formed by beavers.

Years ago there was only a stream where the pond is now. He said some beavers came to the area and began cutting down trees with their big yellow teeth. Beavers tear off bark, branches, and logs and pile them on top of each other in the stream. The beavers use mud to fill in the holes in the sticks and branches. This stops the flow of water. The water backs up and forms a pond.

The beavers do all of this so they can make a home for their family in the water. In the middle of the pond they build a “lodge.” Beavers are good swimmers and putting their home in the water protects their young. They raise their newborn “kits” inside the lodge. “Kits” are beaver babies.

Visiting Beaver Pond is so much fun. I enjoy being with my uncle and learning all about the beavers.

**Messy Jessie**

Jessie liked spending time in her room. Her room was filled with all of the stuff she liked to do. Jessie loved art, tea parties, and sports. She had art supplies like colored pencils, markers, and paints. She owned tea sets with designs on them. She even had a softball signed by all of her teammates.

Jessie’s only trouble was finding things when she needed them. She never put anything away. When Jessie’s mother asked her to clean her room, she shoved things under her bed or desk. She piled things in her closet too. Jessie’s house was always tidy, but not her room! Jessie’s brother walked by her room every day and yelled, “Messy Jessie!”

Finally Jessie’s mother said, “We have to clean your room.” Jessie knew she was right. She couldn’t stand it when she couldn’t find her glove before softball practice or her favorite markers to draw pictures. Jessie’s whole family helped clean. When they were finished, they looked around her room smiling proudly. Now Jessie could find anything she needed right away! “What will I call you now?” her brother laughed. “What about clean and mean!” Jessie yelled as she chased him out of her room

**Charlie’s First Day of School**

It was Charlie’s first day at a new school. His family had just moved from Ohio to Florida, and he was scared. That morning, Charlie’s mom laid out his clothes and made his breakfast. Charlie showered, brushed his teeth and hair, and got dressed.

“What is my new school going to be like?” he thought.

Charlie’s mom drove him to school and dropped him off in front of the main office. Inside the office, a teacher was waiting to take him to his new class.

When the teacher opened the door to his new classroom, the whole class looked at Charlie. He wanted to run and hide, but knew he had to go in. His new teacher, Mr. Taylor, introduced him to the class.

Charlie sat down next to Maria in the front row. Maria smiled at Charlie as he sat down. He paid attention to Mr. Taylor for the whole morning. When the bell rang for lunch, Maria said she would show him where to eat. Charlie was happy to meet someone so nice. For the rest of the year he and Maria were best friends.