

JENNY'S SPECIAL DAY

One morning when Jenny was eating her breakfast she thought to herself, "Today is going to be a very special day!" So she told her mom, "Mom, I think today is going to be a very special day!" But her mom was busy making pancakes and didn't hear her. "Well," she thought, "nobody listens to me."

"I was listening," said the milk bottle on the table. "And you're right. Today will be a very special day."

"I knew it," thought Jenny. "Already special things are starting to happen." She finished her breakfast and went outside to ride her tricycle. She was about to get on when she saw something awful on the ground under her bike. It was a long green snake. Jenny started to cry. "Wait, don't cry," said the snake. "I'm not just any old snake, I'm a very special snake. Watch this!" Saying this, he took the end of his tail in his mouth and made himself into a circle. Then he flipped himself up and began rolling around the yard. Of course, he couldn't see where he was going so he bumped into everything. He bumped into trees and he bumped into bushes. He even bumped into a big black bird that squawked and flew off as fast as it could.

This was so funny that Jenny laughed and laughed. She wasn't afraid any more. Finally the snake stopped rolling and said, "See, I told you I was special." "That's not all," he said, "I can do this too." He stood up on his tail and made himself very straight. He kept standing up taller and taller and getting straighter and straighter until he fell over sideways on the grass.

"He doesn't look much like a snake anymore," thought Jenny. She went over for a closer look, and sure enough the snake had changed into a long golden wand. She picked up the wand and said, "I wonder if this is a magic wand?"

"I don't know," said a voice. "But I know who you can ask." Jenny looked around and saw a big red flower on the bush near the front door. "I know who you can ask," the flower said again. "Who?" Jenny wanted to know.

"Down by the corner of the pond lives a big brown spider," the flower said. "The spider will know. Ask the spider." "Yes," whispered the big tree in the front yard. "Ask the spider."

Now Jenny didn't like spiders or bugs or anything like that, not one little bit. But when a snake turns into a wand, and a flower and a tree tell you to ask the spider, and when you're having a very special day, you just have to go ask the spider. So Jenny went down by the pond where the spider lived, because she had seen that spider many times and knew right where it was. She walked up to the web and said, "Excuse me, Mr. Spider."

The spider looked at her and said, "You're excused, but I'm not Mr. Spider, I'm Mrs. Spider." "Can't you see my eggs in this little brown pouch?"

"Oh, I'm sorry," said Jenny. "But can you tell me if this is a magic wand?" She held up the long golden wand.

"Oh yes," said the spider. "That is definitely a magic wand; a very special magic wand."

"Oh goodie," yelled Jenny and started to run away.

“Wait!” shouted the spider, “Don’t you want to know how it works?”

“Don’t you just wave it?” Jenny asked.

“Oh no.” the spider said very seriously. “You wave it and say ‘Eight sharp eyes, and eight long legs, hairy brown back, and little yellow eggs; MAGIC IS ALIVE.’” “Then whatever you wish for will come true.” “Oh, and one more thing.”

“What’s that?” asked Jenny.

“You can keep the wand for only one day. Before you go to bed you must tie a yellow ribbon around the wand and lay it down next to the pond.”

“Now don’t forget, or something terrible will happen.”

“I won’t forget.” Jenny promised, and ran away.

First Jenny wished that the Ice Cream man would come. No sooner had she waved the wand and said the magic spell, than she heard the music from the Ice Cream man’s truck. The truck stopped right in front of Jenny’s house and she ran out and asked the man for a three color Ice Cream Sandwich. “Here you go Jenny.” said the Ice Cream man. “I was on my way to the beach, but suddenly I decided I would stop here and see if you wanted anything. That will be seventy-five cents, please.”

“Oh no,” thought Jenny, “I don’t think I have any money.” As soon as she thought this, she heard something jingle in her pocket. She reached in and pulled out three shiny quarters. “Is this enough?” she said.

“Just right.” said the Ice Cream man. “Now have a very special day.” And he drove off.

After Jenny finished her Ice Cream she waved the wand and said the spell and wished for some little friends to play with. She saw the grass start to wave as if there were many small things walking through it. “Oh dear,” thought Jenny. “I forgot this was spider and snake magic.” “I hope they didn’t send me a bunch of bugs to play with.” But she shouldn’t have worried, because just then a whole bunch of tiny ponies walked out of the grass and said “Hi, Jenny, Let’s play!”

“OK,” said Jenny, “but I wish one or two of you were a little bigger.”

The leader of the ponies waited for a minute, and said, “I think you have to wave the wand and say the spell first.”

“Oh yes, of course.” said Jenny. And soon she was riding the lead pony around the yard. After a while she stopped riding and played pony games with all of the ponies. Then it was time for lunch. When Jenny’s mom brought her lunch out to her, she was surprised to see all the ponies. But mothers know all about special days, so she brought something out for the ponies too.

All afternoon Jenny played with the ponies, and sang songs, and did magic tricks, and told stories and all sorts of fun things. Jenny got so tired that she went inside and fell asleep. After a while Jenny’s mom called “Time for dinner Jenny.” “And then you have to get ready for bed, it’s very late.” Jenny looked outside. The sun was going down.

Suddenly a big wind began to blow around Jenny’s house. It made the big tree in the front yard creak. It sounded like the tree was saying “Don’t forget the wand. Don’t forget the wand.”

“Oh no,” Jenny thought. “I almost forgot about the magic wand.” She ran in to her mom and said, “Mom, I need a yellow ribbon!”

Of course, moms know all about special days, so she just happened to have a yellow ribbon handy. Jenny tied the ribbon around the wand and took it out to the pond. By this time the sun had gone down and the moon had come out. She laid the wand down by the pond and it began to wiggle. It had turned back into the snake.

“Good night Jenny” said the snake. “Good night Jenny” said the big tree in the front yard. “Good night Jenny” said all the little ponies as they vanished into the grass. “Good night Jenny” said the red flower on the bush by the front door. “Come here Jenny. I have a present for you.” called Mrs. Spider. Jenny went over to the web. Mrs. Spider blew a bubble that just fit in Jenny’s hand. Then she caught seven moonbeams and put them inside the bubble. “This is for you, Jenny.” said Mrs. Spider, “For your special day.”

Jenny took the bubble inside and showed it to her mom. Jenny’s mom put the bubble inside a little box that Jenny’s grandpa had made. After that whenever Jenny was sad she opened the box and the sparkling moonbeams reminded her of her special day.

The End.