**Story Templates** *[2 April 2019]*

**For this story alone:**

**Initial alphabet letter = constant person, animal, thing, etc.**

**Number = category for word \_ (underscore) = alternative category for word**

**H = head of animal M = middle of animal T = tail of animal**

**F = face/head of person B = body of person**

**The Wacky Costume Party** [419 words] (**Audio Files: SPS\_1\_#)**

Do you like wearing costumes and pretending to be somebody different? The spelling kids really do, and enjoyed the goofiest, silliest, craziest, wackiest mixed-up costume party -- ever! And had their pets dress up too! The only rule was—no … scary … costumes. Some kids dressed like a **[X-1\_3\_5\_6\_7]** or **[Y-1\_3\_5\_6\_7]** or **[Z-1\_3\_5\_6\_7]**, but the spelling kids shared and traded different costume parts so their pets all looked really strange and weird and kind of especially — wondersome! Except — **[C-2 (audio only)]** didn’t plan to mean to intend to break the rule, or be really naughty, just maybe a tiny bit mischievous, so **[C-2]** convinced **[C-2]**  it would be okay if the *costume* wasn’t scary all by itself, only just scary if people *decided* to be frightened, and if people decided to, **[C-2]**  decided that **[C-2]** wasn’t to blame. Uh-hunh.

**[D-2 (audio only)** went to the party dressed as a **[D-1-3]**, and brought a pet **[E-H]** who looked *very interesting* with a **[E-M]** body and a **[E-T]** tail.

**[G-2]** came costumed as a **[G-1-3]**, and had a pet **[J-H]** who looked great with a **[J-T]** tail and a **[J-M]** middle.

**[K-2]** thought and wondered and cogitated and finally decided to be a **[K-1-3]**, and brought a strange pet **[L-H]** with **[L-M]** tummy parts and a **[L-T]** tail part.

And a wonderful time was had by all — until **[C-2]**  appeared in a Bigfoot Sasquatch costume!

*(wacky 2)*

Which didn’t scare **[D-2]** or **[G-2]** or **[K-2]** —they didn’t decide to be frightened—but those poor pets didn’t know they could decide, and just got *howlishously* scared without even thinking about it! The **[E-H E-M E-T]** spilled the fruit punch bowl and the **[J-H J-M J-T]** tumbled into the big party chocolate angel-food cake and the **[L-H L-M L-T]** knocked over the treats table and in all the commotion **[D-2]** hid behind the **[N-8\_9]**, and **[G-2]** peeeeked out of the **[P-8\_9]**, and **[K-2]** sneaked under the **[Q-8\_9]**, and when the grown-ups rushed in **[C-2]**  thought it was a very good time to hide in a costume, only maybe not in a Bigfoot Sasquatch costume. And the grownups made **[C-2]**  keep that costume on and do all the work all alone to wipe up the fruit punch and clean up the spilled cake and tidy up the treats table. And **[C-2]**  decided not to decide again that it would be okay fun to decide to scare anybody, whether they *decided* to be scared or not.

**The Special Invention** (**SPS\_2\_1\_#)**

“Get dressed and come to breakfast right now!” Mom called sweetly.

“I will,” **[A-2]** said.

“You said that twice already! You’ll make me late for work.”

“Okay!” **[A-2]**  said.

Great ideas kept **[A-2]**  thinking till late at night, so every morning it was hard to wake up in time for school.

**[A-2]**  liked inventing things, and they always worked really well---while **[A-2]**  was planning and imagining them---and sometimes almost worked after**[A-2]** actually made them. A funnel to toss toys in like the **[B-10]** and the **C-10]** so they’d slide into the toy box to save time cleaning up. A squirt-gun scraper to scrape dog poop off shoes and wash them at the same time. A special second string so a kite could drop a little parachute holding a toy **[D-3\_5\_6\_7\_8\_10\_11\_13]**.

Interesting inventions. Helpful inventions! Wonderful inventions!!

**[A-2]** needed a special stay-up-after-wake-up-in-the-morning invention.

**[A-2]**  thought about the **[E-5\_6\_7\_8\_9\_10\_11]** part all through breakfast, and cogitated about the **[G-5\_6\_7\_8\_9\_10\_11]** section on the way to school, and devised the **[J-13]** unit at school, and imagined the **[K-5\_6\_7\_8\_9\_10\_11]** segment on the way home, and by after school snack time knew the **[L-5\_6\_7\_8\_9\_10\_11]**  made the final step and then knew *exactly* how to create it!

Every morning on her way to the kitchen Mom opened the bedroom door to politely say, “Wake up!”

**[A-2]**  tied a string to the door knob, so when the door opened it would drop a toy **[E-5\_6\_7\_8\_9\_10\_11]**  on a teeter-totter lever tossing a toy **[G-5\_6\_7\_8\_9\_10\_11]** up in the air to flip over and land in a box on top of a toy **[J-13]** that would tip to roll down a ramp and knock loose the **[K-5\_6\_7\_8\_9\_10\_11]** hooked to the stopper on an old plastic bottle filled with water that would start slowly trickling into a bucket

[2]

with its handle rubber-banded to a stick taped to a toy **[L-5\_6\_7\_8\_9\_10\_11]** taped to a sharp pin on the end that would swing up to smack and pop a balloon that would for sure startle awake even sleepy **[A-2]**.

Who could sleep after creating such a magnificatious, splendificatory, brilliastonishing, phenomitastic invention?! Not **[A-2]**, not until very late.

Too late.

**[A-2]**  didn’t wake when Mom opened the door and gently suggested, “Wake up!” Didn’t notice the toy **[E-5\_6\_7\_8\_9\_10\_11]** dropping on the teeter-totter lever that tossed the toy **[G-5\_6\_7\_8\_9\_10\_11]** up into the air to flip and land on the **[J-13]** so hard that it slipped off the track but still bumped the **[K-5\_6\_7\_8\_9\_10\_11]** loose, only smacking the stopper so hard the water didn’t trickle out but shot out like a squirt gun and soaked a toy stuffed **[N-5\_6\_7]** on the edge of the shelf that got so wet heavy it fell on the cat that startled and screeched and leaped up high and knocked its hindquarters into the **[L-5\_6\_7\_8\_9\_10\_11]** so the pin sharp stung the cat’s tail and it howled and claw snatched at the balloon that loud-popped scaring the cat to twist land slap on guess-whose sleeping face.

**[A-2]**  swiped the cat away and jolted straight up and looked at the disrupted contraption— and thought: “Even if everything didn’t go exactly *perfectly* according to plan, my stay-up-after-wake-up-in-the-morning invention worked!” And it did!

**Santa’s Mixed-up Helper Elf** (**SPS\_2\_1\_#)**

Late one Christmas Eve, frazzled and exhausted and sleepy-tired more than ever, poor shy Elmer, one of Santa’s helper-elves, began climbing into his top bunk-bed bed when a paper stuck in his sleeve fluttered at his wrist. Uh-oh. He checked. Uh-oh. A list of toys he’d forgotten to pack up in Santa’s sleigh. A mother had written and mailed to Santa the list for her children at a homeless shelter, a place families go when they can’t stay in their own home any more and don’t have any place else to go. Staying there means they don’t have much room, and usually can’t bring more than just one little toy.

The letter she sent for them to Santa said that —

— **[A-2 (boy or girl)]** wanted first a soft fluffy stuffed **[D-5\_6\_7]** little enough to carry anywhere, and second a wooden **[E-5\_6\_7\_10\_13]** big enough to sit and rock on and pretend to ride far away.

—The first request for **[B-2 ]**  was a **[G-10]** like nobody else’s, and second a battery powered remote control **[J-13]** to race across the floor and under chairs and tables and maybe chase a cat or scare-bump somebody’s shoes from behind.

— **[C-2** **(girl)]** wanted most a brand new **[K-12\_5\_6\_7\_10]** to show off and look pretty with, and a pretty white sweater with a picture of her very favorite animal, a **[L-5\_6\_7].**

Timid helper-elf Elmer felt terribly, horribly awful that he’d found the list so late and quickly raced around Santa’s big toy warehouse to gather the gifts, but poor Elmer’s sleepy eyes didn’t read the list’s words very well, and poor Elmer’s sleepy memory didn’t remember very well, and— oh no!— at the very last minute poor timid Elmer had mistakenly loaded into Santa’s sleigh—

*[Santa 2]*

— for **[A-2 - audio only]** -uh oh–a soft fluffy stuffed little **[R-5\_6\_7] (not duplicate object of same above)** to carry and a big wooden **[S-5\_6\_7\_10\_13] (not duplicate object of same above)** to ride,

— for **[B-2 - audio only]** -uh uh oh–an RC **[V-13] (not duplicate object of same above)** and **[W-10]** **(not duplicate object of same above)**

— for **[C-2 - audio only]** -oh no– one **[X-12\_5\_6\_7\_10] (not duplicate object of same above)** and a pink sweater with a **[Y-5\_6\_7] (not duplicate object of same above)**.

Santa, just a tiny bit late as usual, loudly called out ‘Hi Ho’ and his team of reindeer swooshed off into the sky just at the very moment when poor timid Elmer looked at that list one more time—uh oh— and discovered —oh no!— he had made a mistake on every … single … gift. Elmer crumpled down on the floor and wanted to cry, because nothing hurts and saddens and breaks a helper-elf’s heart more than not making a child happy. And sometimes they just can’t. Poor Elmer felt so terrible he didn’t even want to think about it, and after a few minutes of feeling sad and horrible and not liking himself at all, the tired, exhausted little helper elf nodded off to sleep.

On Christmas morning poor timid Elmer woke up late, not on the warehouse floor where he’d fallen asleep, but in his own proper top bunk-bed bed. Santa held a tray with **[N-14 - audio only]** and **[P-14 - audio only]** and **[Q-14]** --- Elmer’s favorite breakfast.

“Well, Elmer—” Santa began.

Elmer cried now. Ashamed. Ashamed Santa would treat him so nicely after he had failed the children and Santa and Christmas.

*[Santa 3]*

“You know,” Santa said, “I didn’t bring three children the presents they asked for.”

Poor sad Elmer sobbed and wailed louder than ever.

“**[A-2]** says that **[R-5\_6\_7]** is boring,” Santa said, “and wants nothing to do with it, but really, really likes the new **[S-5\_6\_7\_10\_13]** and rides it everywhere...even to the potty.

“And **[B-2]** already has an old **[V-13]**, and won’t play with the new one, but really likes the **[W-10]** which **[B-2]** says is now the very favoritest bestest toy of all.

“**[C-2]** likes her pretty new **[X-12\_5\_6\_7\_10]** well enough, but her mother says she can’t take it outside yet. She liked her pink sweater with the **[Y-5\_6\_7]** only okay until everyone said how pretty it is, and now it’s almost the only top she ever wants to wear anywhere.”

“Ohhhh.” Elmer said.

“But—the boss at the shelter said she’s sorry, but there’s just not enough room and each child can keep only one present.”

“Oh.....” Elmer said.

“But three new children came to the shelter. They didn’t have a home for Santa to visit Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day they found no presents at all.”

“Oh!”

“So **[A-2]** and **[B-2]** and **[C-2]** gave their extra gifts to those three children who were very surprised, and very, very happy and excited to get them!”

*[Santa 4]*

“Oh!!!”

“And **[A-2]** and **[B-2]** and **[C-2]** discovered what you and I have always known.”

“Oh?”

“That getting a gift feels wonderful, but giving to someone who really needs it feels even better.”

“Oh.” Elmer said. “Ohhhh.”

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**Magical Wheels**

[There will be almost no background template for the artwork for this story -- except for a large screen in the Space Alien’s chest/stomach area for pictures the story says are displayed there. Pages for the video will be text on one side of the screen, artwork on the other. Otherwise, all the artwork will be displayed against an empty background. Paragraph one = 2 pictures; paragraph two = 7 pictures; paragraph three = 4 pictures; paragraph four = 5 pictures; paragraph five = 7 pictures; paragraph six = 2 pictures.]

**Magical Wheels**

Suppose you had a favorite trike or bike or wagon or skateboard or skates or [A-13\_10] with wheels. Suppose one night a tricky, magical, mischievous [C-3\_1\_5\_6\_7] enchanted the wheels with strange super powers so you could ride anywhere in the whole wide world, or out of the world. Anywhere— but the special rule is, you must always keep your eyes closed and see everything just with your imagination.

Would you ride to the zoo and visit one of your very favorite animals? Wouldn’t it be wonderful to visit a nice [D-3\_5\_6\_7]! Would you pet it? What would that feel like? What it would smell like? If it was gobbling down piles of [E-14] and offered to share—would you eat some?

Would you fly up and way over some [G-8\_13\_15\_16] and then far above some big [J-8\_13\_15\_16] and over lots of sea water to a desert island? If your magical wheels glided fast over the sea waves, what would the water spray feel like on your [Ka-4] and [Kb-4] and [Kc-4]? On the beach would you walk barefoot in warm squishy sand and look for a lost [La-11\_12\_8\_9] washed ashore by the surf and waves, or maybe dig in the sand to find some lost [Lb-11\_12\_8\_9].

Maybe your wheels would dive you deep under the salty water to watch some lazy [N-6-5\_3\_1] swim by. Some huge [P-8\_9\_10\_11\_12\_13] bigger than a bus might float past an octopus swirling its eight arms that never tangle, and a big [Q-6\_8\_9\_10\_11\_12\_13] leap high out of the water and splash back down, and you’d feel the underwater splashy waves on your body—and maybe see a strange sea-[R\_3\_5\_6].

Your enchanted wheels might fly you so high in the sky that you could feel the cool swirly wind on your [S-4] and your [U-12] might blow away, and you’d float through a cloud shaped like a soft [V-1\_3\_5\_6\_8\_9\_10\_11\_12\_13\_15\_16] or glide through misty damp fog. You could hold out your [W-4] and a little [X-7] flying by could sit there to rest, cock its eye in your direction, and wonder what kind of bird you might be.

Your magical wheels could roll you deep down into underground caves where all around you’d see nothing but rocks shaped like a little

[Y-1\_3\_5\_6\_8\_9\_10\_11\_12\_13\_15\_16] or some

[Z-1\_3\_5\_6\_8\_9\_10\_11\_12\_13\_15\_16] or a ginormous

[AA-1\_3\_5\_6\_8\_9\_10\_11\_12\_13\_15\_16]. You could travel so far back you hear nothing but silence until you pick up two rocks, maybe one kind of

[CC-1\_3\_5\_6\_8\_9\_10\_11\_12\_13\_15\_16]-like, another kind of

[DD-1\_3\_5\_6\_8\_9\_10\_11\_12\_13\_15\_16]-like, and hit them together to hear the echoes echoes echoes click farther farther farther awaaaaaay.

Would you see any creatures at all in a deep cave? If you had a flashlight maybe you’d see a dark [EE-3\_5\_6\_7], or maybe a hiding [GG-3\_5\_6\_7].

Would you ride far, far back in time and visit the dinosaurs, and maybe bring back a little baby dinosaur [JJ-3\_5\_6\_7] to be your pet? Would you hide it under your bed and secretly feed it some [KK-14] for dinner? Would you ever tell anyone about your strange and wonderful pet dinosaur [JJ-3\_5\_6\_7], or just keep it hidden and secret?

If you visited all these places on your ride you might feel awfully tired after a while, and want to imagine riding back home where somebody loves you. And after so many strange and wonderful adventures your last ride home might just be the very best most magical ride of all.

**The Space Alien**

One Saturday evening [A-2] and [C-2] made a tent to camp out in the back yard. They griped and whined and complained to each other about a school assignment due next week: to stand in front of the whole class and show pictures and talk about a special place they had visited. Neither one had any special pictures of any place special, and they both just knew the teacher would embarrass them, and the other kids would tease them, and Monday would be terrifishously, awfulishously, horrifishously *bad*. Feeling glum, [A-2] snuggled tight in some blankets and [C-2] curled up in a sleeping bag, when about midnight a strange-shaped shadow flickered on their tent wall.

“What’s that” asked [A-2]. “Maybe some [AA-1\_2\_3\_5].”

“Or a maybe some kind of “[BB-1\_2\_3\_5],” guessed [C-2].

They stuck their noses outside to find a weird looking space alien just their size.

“Please help me!”

“How?”

“For my school project I need pictures of earth stuff, and I took a few pictures but I need more.”

“Show us.”

Space Alien punched a shiny elbow button and twisted a fancy shoulder dial, and Space Alien’s tummy screen displayed a glowy [CC-8\_9\_11\_15\_16].

“That’s a strange looking earth planet [DD-8\_9\_11\_15\_16].”

“Nope. Actually, a pretty nice [duplicate CC-8\_9\_11\_15\_16 above].”

“No! Are you sure?”

Both kids nodded yes.

“But my sister said— I just feel so [FF-18\_19]. It makes me want to [GG-18-19]. Well, what about my [HH-8\_9\_11\_15\_16]?”

“Sorry. But you’ve got a really nice [JJ-8\_9\_11\_15\_16].”

“I’ll fail my school project!”

“No way! We’ll help.”

“What kinds of pictures do you need?”

“Anything! Everything!”

While everyone else in the house slept tight, the kids showed Space Alien lots of things—some toys, some real.

“ [KK-8\_9\_11\_15\_16], I’m sure! My big brother told me.”

“[LL-8\_9\_11\_15\_16]. Big brother must have been teasing. Guess this.”

“[MM-8\_9\_11\_15\_16]. Absolutely positively!”

“Nope,” “[NN-8\_9\_11\_15\_16].”

Then Space Alien started to [OO-17(audio only)] and [PP-17 (audio only)].

“Why are you doing that?”

“That’s how we show we’re confused on my planet.”

“We mostly just scratch our heads.”

“What do you do when you’re angry?”

“[QQ-17 (audio only)].”

“And when you’re happy?”

“Mostly we [RR-17 (audio only)].”

[A-2] and [C-2] just shook their heads.

“Want to ride along while I check out some more freaky strange stuff?”

“Sure!”

Space Alien clicked heels, and a weird unearthly contraption quick-scooted over and hovered in the air beside their ankles.

“What a great skateboard!”

“Fantabulously SUPER skateboard!”

“**Space**-board!”

All three hopped on and flew away soaring high over a big [SS-16] and an even bigger [TT-16], curly-cueing around some [UU-8\_9\_11\_15\_16] and nearly knocking over an in-the-way [VV-8\_9\_11\_15\_16] Space Alien snapped picture after picture, [WW-8\_9\_11\_15\_16] and [XX-8\_9\_11\_15\_16] and [YY-8\_9\_11\_15\_16]and [ZZ-8\_9\_11\_15\_16].

“That’s enough. Thanks for helping me do the best school project ever!”

“Glad to help. But you know—”

“What?”

“We’ve got our own school project due next week.”

“About some place we’d like to visit.”

“Do you think, maybe—”

“Maybe—”

“I’ll be back same time tomorrow night! Bring your cameras!”

And they did!