



Pedro and the  
Water Melon



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## Pedro and the Water Melon

**This is a story about a little boy called Pedro, who lived a long way away in a very hot, dusty country called Slobodnia. Pedro lived on a farm with his mummy and daddy, where they grew things like sweetcorn and tomatoes and oranges. They didn't have very much money, and so Pedro spent every day working in the fields, helping to grow things which they could take to the market and sell.**

One day, Pedro came back from the fields and found his mummy sitting outside the back door crying. "Whatever's the matter, mummy?" he asked.

"I've got to buy new clothes for you and all your brothers and sisters," said his mummy, "and I haven't got enough money. What shall I do?"

"Don't worry, mummy", said Pedro, "just leave it to me."

"But what can you do?" asked his mummy.

Now to be honest, Pedro wasn't really too sure himself, so he just told his mummy not to worry again, and went indoors for lunch. All lunchtime, he thought and he thought, and he thought, but still he hadn't thought of anything.

Afternoon came, and Pedro had to take some of the things which they'd grown into market in the nearby village. He got out Maurice, his donkey, put two baskets on his back, and filled them up with oranges and lemons. Then he set off, walking along the dusty road with Maurice going "Clomp! Clomp!" behind him.

He'd sold all the oranges and lemons and was just about to set off home again when he saw a big sign in the market place, and he went over to read it. "Grand Flower Show", said the sign. "Prizes for the best fruit and vegetables. Special section for the largest water melon."

Pedro read the last bit again – "Special section for the largest water melon." "That's it!" he shouted. "I've got plenty of big water melons at home – all I've got to do is to win the prize, and then mummy will have enough money to buy us all clothes."

He went home as fast as he could. When he got back, he went indoors and fetched a tape-measure, and then raced out to his water melon patch. There were lots of big water melons, but when he measured them, he found that the biggest one of

all was in one corner of the patch. "Right," he thought, "you'll do. You're going to win the prize for the biggest water melon."

He rushed back indoors again, and when he came back he had a spade, a bucket of water and a great big bag of plant-food. Very carefully, he dug a big hole beside the water melon and filled it up with water and food.

Next morning, Pedro was out in the water melon patch very early with his tape measure and another bucket of water and some more plant food. He measured the water melon – it had grown two whole inches since yesterday! Then he gave it the food and the water, and went off to do his work.

When he got back that night, he measured it again. Another two inches! He carried on like this for the whole week, carefully watering and feeding the water melon, and watching it get bigger, and bigger, and b-i-g-g-e-r. By the time Saturday came and it was ready for the show, the water melon was enormous!

Pedro looked at it and decided that it was much too big for Maurice to be able to carry all on his own, so he went and got the cart out of the shed and brought Maurice and another donkey called Chevron, which was his sister's donkey.

There was still a problem, though – the water melon was so big that Pedro wasn't strong enough to lift it on to the cart. In the end, he had to go and fetch his brothers and sisters. When they saw the melon they were amazed.

"What ever is that?" they asked.

"It's just a water melon."

"But it's enormous!"

Pedro explained all about how mummy needed some more money to buy them all clothes, and how he was going to win the prize for the biggest

water melon at the flower show, and then asked if they could help him put the water melon on to the cart. He got out his knife and cut the water melon off, and then “H-E-A-V-E” up it went.

“You’ll have to come with me,” said Pedro, “or else I shan’t be able to get the water melon off again when I get to the flower show.”

So he covered the water melon with a blanket, so that no one could see it, and then all his brothers and sisters scrambled up on to the cart, and off they clopped to the village.

When they got there, there was a great big tent in the middle of the market place, and a sign outside saying “Flower Show”. Pedro took the cart round to the back door, and then got down and went inside. He quickly found a judge, and asked where he should put the water melon. The judge looked around and said “Look, there’s a gap over there. That should be big enough.”

Pedro looked at the gap and said “I don’t think it will be big enough”, but anyway, he went outside and fetched the cart. Then he took the blanket off.

“I say,” said the judge, “what ever is that? It’s absolutely enormous!”

“That,” said Pedro, “is my entry for the water melon competition.”

“Well, you’re quite right,” said the judge, “it certainly isn’t going to fit in that little gap. We’d better go and get a table for it.”

Pedro and his brothers and sisters heaved the water melon off the cart and on to the table – and it nearly broke the legs off the table, it was so heavy. After he’d checked that the melon was OK, Pedro went off to look at the other flowers and vegetables while he waited for the judging to begin.

At last, two o’clock came, and the judges arrived with their tape-measures to look at the water melons. “Well, gentlemen,” said the chief judge, “this water melon here is so much bigger than the rest that I don’t think there’s any point in measuring them. Pedro, I’m pleased to announce that you’re the winner.” And he gave the prize to Pedro.

“Hurray for Pedro!” everyone said.

Pedro said thank you, and then he and his brothers and sisters heaved the water melon back on to the cart and went off to the shops. Pedro bought new clothes for everyone, and a new dress for mummy and a new axe for daddy.

There was still some money left, so he took all his brothers and sisters to the ice-cream shop, and bought them the biggest ice-creams they sold – and he even bought special ice-creams for Maurice and Chevron..

When they’d finished, everyone scrambled back on to the cart, and they set off home. Back at the house, Pedro’s mummy was still sitting on the doorstep looking very miserable, but she soon stopped crying when she saw all the children in their new clothes. “Pedro!”, she said, “How ever did you get all these new clothes?”

“Well,” said Pedro, “there was a competition for the biggest water melon at the village flower show today, and I thought that if I could just manage to win it, I’d be able to get enough money for the new clothes we all needed. And I did win it – look!”

Pedro took the blanket off the water melon and showed his mummy.

“It’s enormous!” she said. “No wonder you won the prize!”

Then Pedro showed his mummy the present he’d bought for her. “Ooh, it’s lovely,” she said. “Come on – let’s all go in and have a special tea to celebrate.”

So they all went in and had a special fish and chip tea, and afterwards Pedro cut up the water melon and everyone had a great big slice. And even after everyone had eaten as much as they could, there was still some left over, so Pedro slipped out to the stable and gave some to Maurice and Chevron to say “Thank you” for pulling the cart.