

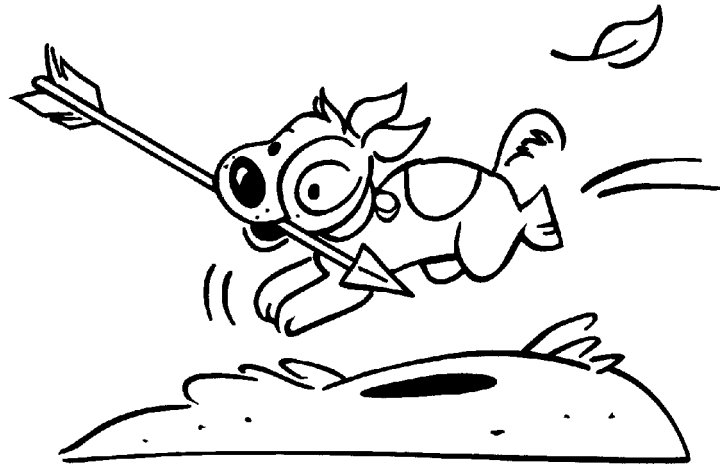


**Tommy Tales are downloadable and printable
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**Tommy Tales feature the lovable rascal
Tommy Tomkins and his friends.**

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BOOK 30



Tommy and the Great Wall



Tommy Tales

Tommy and his friends were in the park. They were sitting on the big blue bench. Kim was telling everyone that her mother had received a letter from China. It was from her Mom's second cousin. The cousin had sent a few photographs of his family. The family was posing on top of a huge wall. Kim told them it was the Great Wall of China.

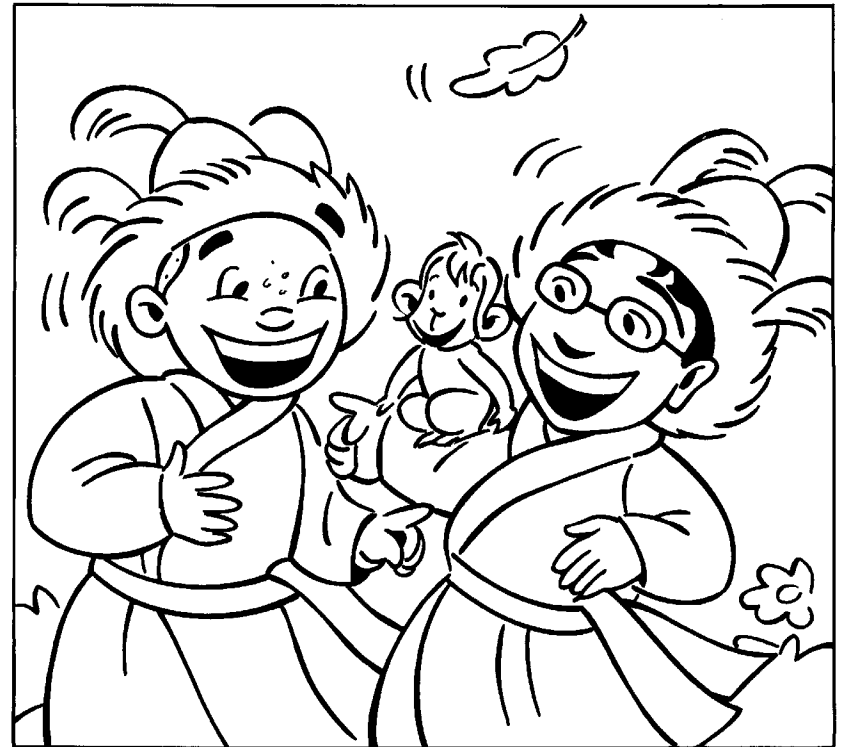


"It's okay, everybody," said Tommy. "We're back home."

"I enjoyed seeing the Great Wall," said Kim. "But I'm really glad we're home again."

"I'm going to enjoy seeing the Great Wall movie," said Sam. "I hope we don't have to wait too long."

"We should ask when we can see the movie when we give the costumes back," said Andy.



Tommy thought that they should get home before they got into any more trouble. He whispered to his little robot friend, "Take us home, RK-5."

Tommy pressed the numbers on RK-5's number pad. There was a flash of light and a cloud of blue smoke.

Within seconds they were all back at the park. Tommy saw that all his friends were still lying facedown on the grass.



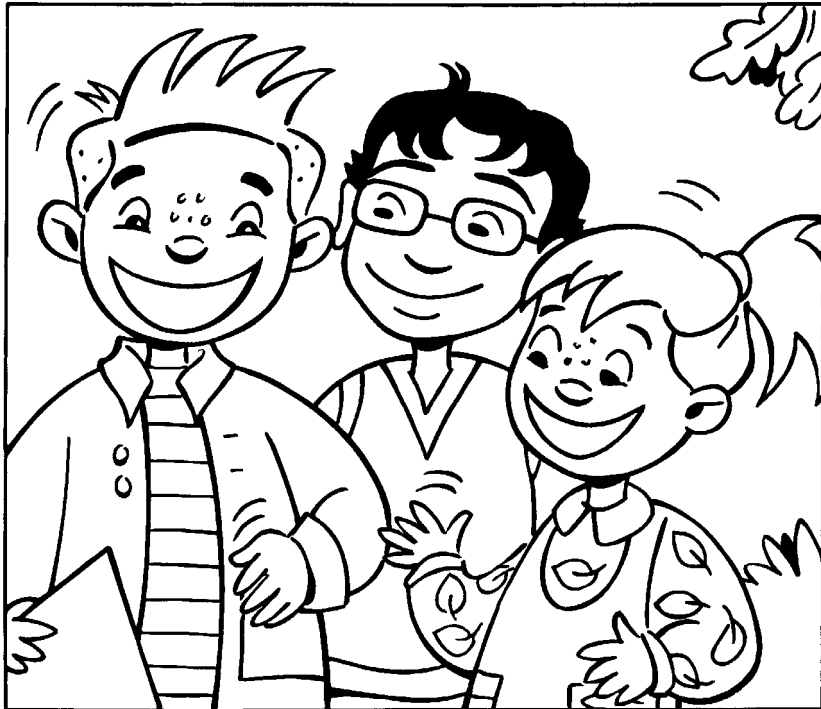
"The Great Wall of China was built over 2,000 years ago," explained Kim. "In Chinese, the wall is called *Wan-Li Qang-Qeng*. That means 10,000-Li Long Wall. 10,000 Li is equal to about 5,000 kilometers," Kim added. "But the wall is actually about 7,200 kilometers long."

"My teacher told us about the Great Wall," said Lucy. "It is as long as about one-fifth the distance around Earth."

Tommy was looking at the pictures. He said, "That's a really cool wall. Wouldn't it be great to go there and see it?"

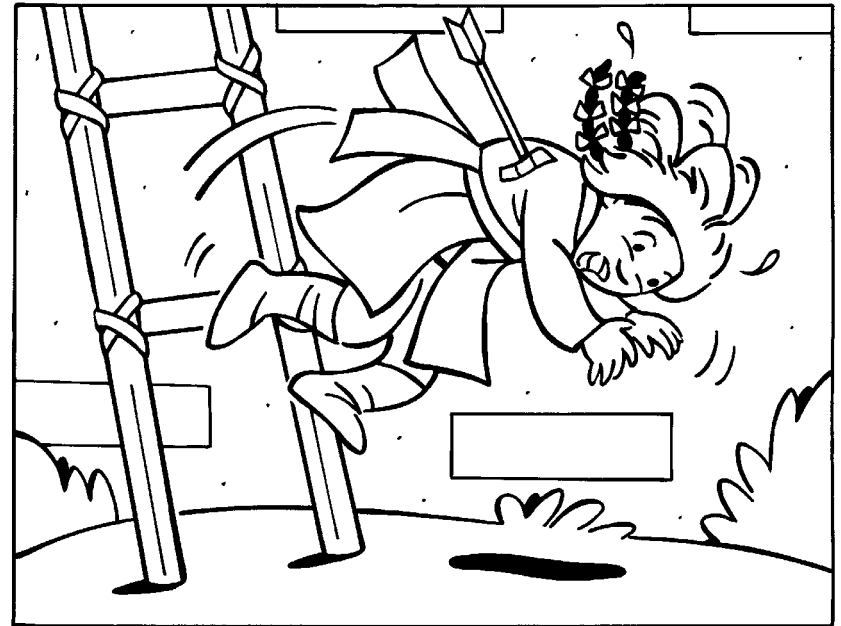
Tommy had a big smile on his face. His friends knew why. Tommy was thinking that his little robot friend, RK-5, could take them to China. He could take them to see the Great Wall.

"Yes, let's ask RK-5 to take us to see the Great Wall," begged an excited Sam.



The director and cameramen were on the top of the wall. The director yelled "Action!" All the actors charged the wall.

The children were told to start to climb the ladder and then fall off. They were to pretend they had been shot with an arrow.



Tommy and his friends fell off the ladders one by one. Tommy looked around to his friends. They were all lying very still on the ground.

Tommy heard the director yell, "Cut! That was great. Take a break, everyone."

The children had no choice. They had interrupted the filming. And they quite liked the idea of being in a movie.

They were taken to the bottom of the wall. They were given soldier costumes. Make-up artists worked on their faces. Soon they were ready to act.



Each of the children joined a different group of actors. Each group had one of the long ladders.

Tommy gently pulled RK-5 out of his pocket. The little robot said, "I've been listening to your conversation. I can take you to China. I can take you to see the Great Wall. No problem."

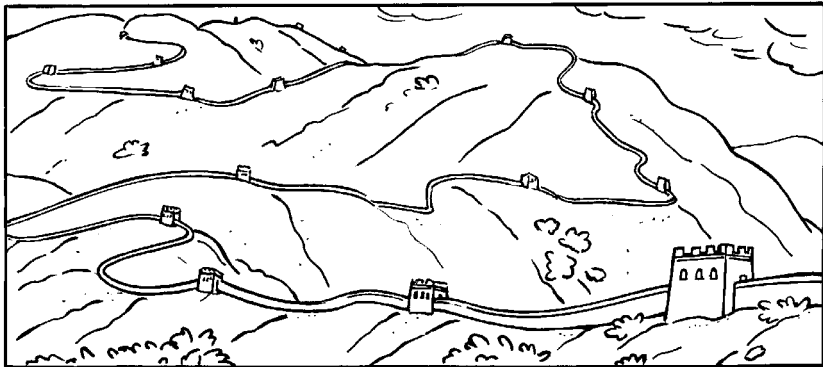
"Don't take us back in time," said Kim. "We want to see the wall as it is now. We want to be tourists."

"Okay, I will take you to present day China," said RK-5. "I'll take you to see the Great Wall of China."



RK-5 gave Tommy a series of numbers and letters to enter on the little robot's number pad. After Tommy had pressed the last number, there was a flash of light and a cloud of blue smoke. When the smoke cleared, the children, their dog, and their monkey were nowhere to be seen.

Tommy opened his eyes to find that he and his friends were on the Great Wall. He had expected to see lots of tourists, but there were none. They were all alone.



Andy saw that there were towers on the wall. They were positioned every 50 meters or so, which made them about half a football field apart. Andy suggested that they should walk to the nearest tower.

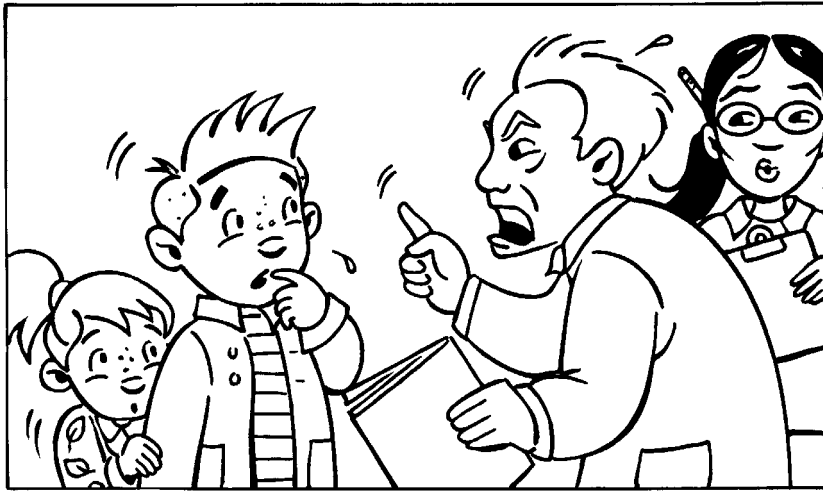


The young woman with the clipboard stepped forward. "Five of the actors you pushed off the ladders are too injured to continue today. We'd like you five children to take their places. We must finish this shot today," said Jenny.

"But we're too small," said Kim.

"And we aren't actors," said Sam.

"Don't worry about that," said Jenny. "We won't have any close shots of you. We'll also have make-up and costumes for you."



The man was the director of the movie. He was doing a lot of yelling. His face was getting very red.

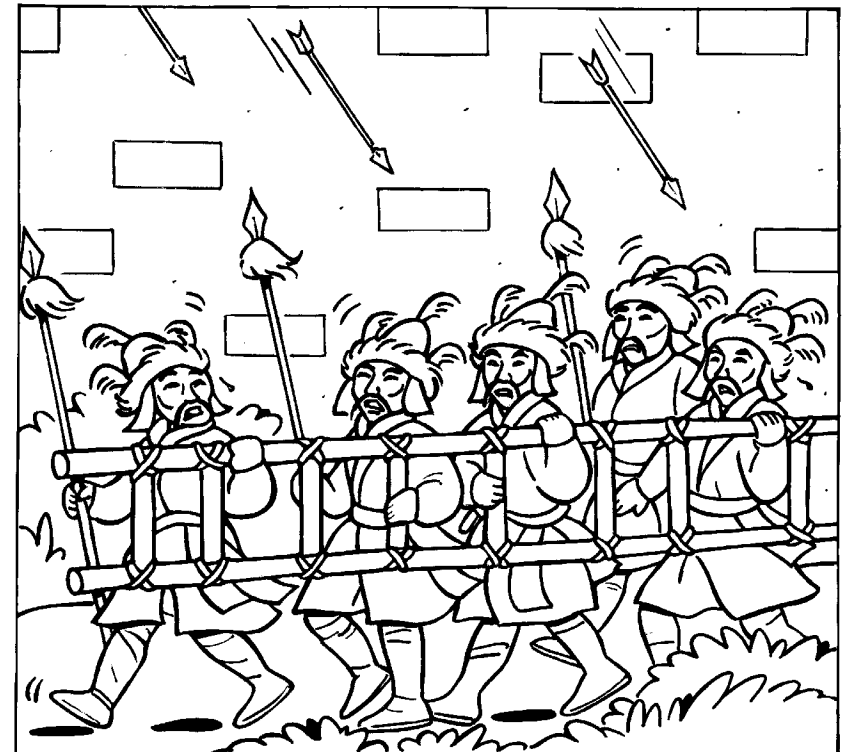
"We're so sorry," said Tommy. "We didn't know you were making a movie. What can we do to make it up to you?"

The director continued to yell. A young woman with a clipboard approached him. She whispered something into his ear.

The director calmed down a little. He then said to the children, "There is something you can do to help us. Jenny will explain what we want you to do."

When they got close to the tower, they heard a lot of yelling from below the wall. Tommy looked over the edge. He saw hundreds of soldiers emerging from behind bushes. They were carrying weapons and long ladders.

"Oh, no!" cried Kim. "RK-5 has made a mistake. He has taken us back in time." Then they saw that there were three soldiers in the watchtower. These soldiers were shooting arrows at the advancing enemies below.

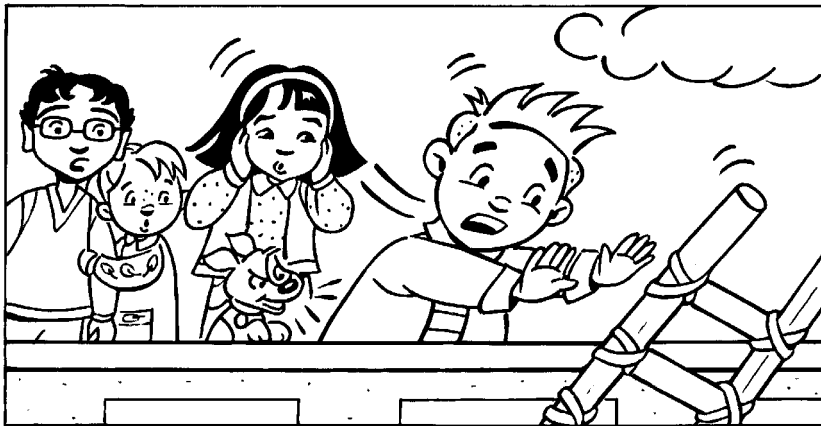


The advancing soldiers reached the wall. They positioned their long ladders against the wall. Soon there were dozens of soldiers clambering up the ladders.

"If they get up the ladders, they'll take over the wall," said Andy.

"They'll capture us, too," added Tommy.

Tommy ran to the closest ladder and pushed it away from the wall. The soldiers on the ladder fell to the ground.



Andy then did the same with another ladder. In an instant, all the children were pushing the ladders from the wall. They sent the attacking soldiers tumbling to the ground.

The soldiers in the tower had dropped their weapons and were looking at the children. They had a very annoyed look on their faces.

The children froze when they heard a loud voice yell, "Cut! Cut! What's going on? Who let those kids onto the set?"

They saw a very angry man approach them. Inside the watchtower behind him, the children could see people with movie cameras.

"RK-5 didn't take us back in time," said Lucy.

"This is a film crew making a movie."

