

Josh and Tucker

(“The Butterfly”)

by Sharon Scheep

Illustrations by Steve Babcock



Josh and Tucker **(“The Butterfly”)**

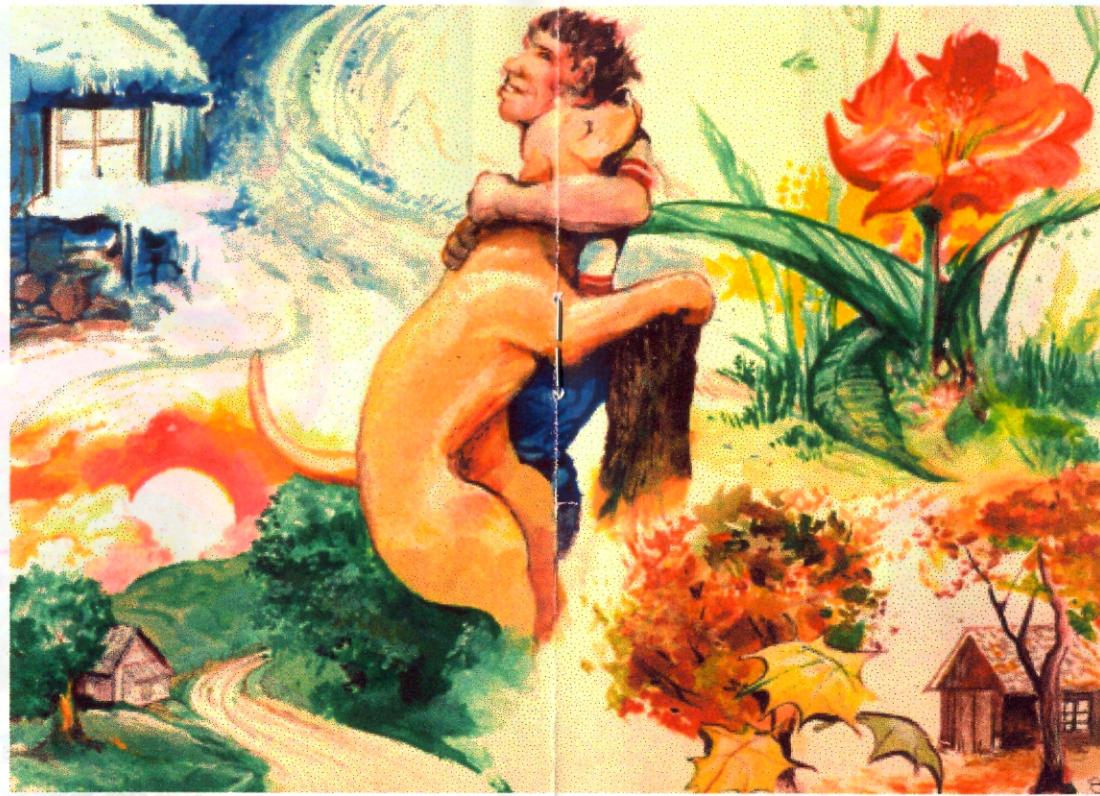
Once upon a time there was a small New England town and within it was a very special boy named Josh. What made him special in comparison to any other boy his age? He climbed trees like other boys, played hide and seek, cowboys and Indians, and was very popular in his neighborhood. In fact, Josh's home was very popular in his neighborhood. In fact, Josh's home was a warm and friendly place to be. His mother always cooked scrumptious meals and always seemed to have an extra helping for anyone who happened to stop by.

Josh was born deaf, and because he could not hear, his other senses were much sharper. Josh had a well-trained yellow Lab named Tucker that not only was his best friend, but also was his ears as well.

Josh had to attend a special school just to be able to understand how "human" they had made Tucker.

Josh and Tucker loved to take long walks in the forest. Tucker understood that he had to protect and guide Josh. Tucker would never leave his side or wander away. It seemed as if Tucker had a mission with the way he was devoted to Josh. Sometimes Tucker would see a chipmunk or rabbit, but he was never tempted to stray. Both Josh and Tucker appeared to have a very special bond between them.

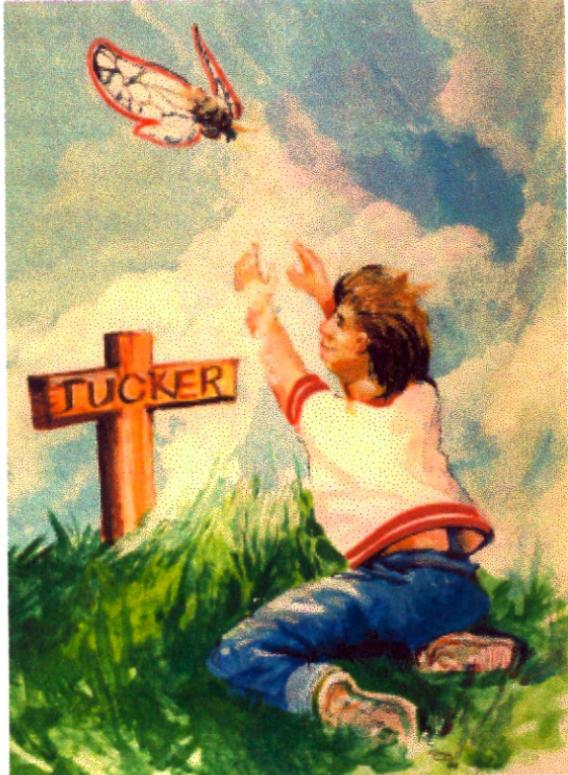
Winters became Springs, and Springs became Summers, the years rolled by. Josh just couldn't believe how time flew by, for he and Tucker had been friends now for almost five years!



went over to where Tucker was lying but Tucker could not get up to greet him. Josh couldn't understand this and ran inside to get his mother. As soon as Josh's mother saw Tucker, she noticed immediately that Tucker was very still.

Josh's mother took him by the hand and they sat down on the bench near where Tucker was lying. "Josh, do you remember the story of the Caterpillar and the Butterfly that I told you? Josh said that he did remember and wanted to tell the story to Tucker so he wouldn't be afraid.

One day Josh woke up, came down the stairs and into the kitchen. Josh looked around for Tucker but couldn't seem to find him anywhere. Josh spoke to his Mom in sign language asking where Tucker was. His mother told him that she had let Tucker outside in the backyard. Josh ran out to see Tucker, but something strange had seemed to happen. Josh



Josh knelt down beside Tucker and began to tell him the story in his own sign language. Josh knew in his heart that this was the last time that they would be able to share this special bond between them. Josh explained that although he was a caterpillar, being a butterfly was much better. Josh made sure he told Tucker that all living things turn into a butterfly and that one day they would be together again.

When Josh completed the story it was as if a look of peace and contentment came over Tucker's face. It was at this moment that Josh knew that Tucker understood him, and was no longer afraid.

The End

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION



This Certificate issued under the seal of the Copyright Office in accordance with title 17, United States Code, attests that registration has been made for the work identified below. The information on this certificate has been made a part of the Copyright Office records.

Marybeth Peters
REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS
United States of America