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Louie the **vampire** paced the halls of his castle.

"My mouth is killing me!" he screamed. "It hurts more than a scraped knee."



"Let me see," his **butler** said.

Louie opened his mouth.



"Master, I insist that you see the dentist."

"Not the dentist!" Louie shrieked.

"She **terrifies** me with all those horrible tools and that strange chair that goes up and down. I'm not going."



"You need to get your teeth checked, or you'll have to skip Halloween," said the butler.

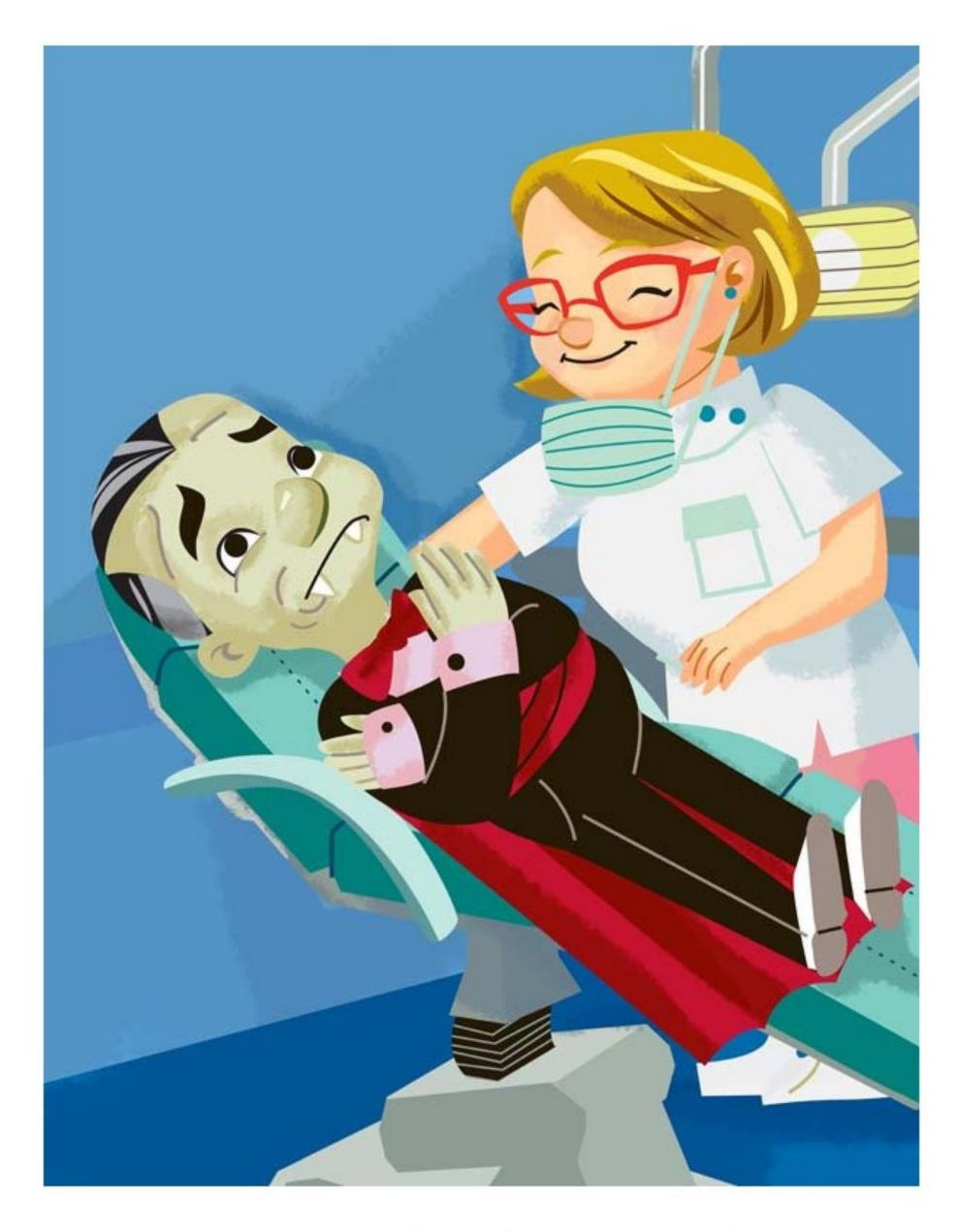
"Fine," Louie groaned, "but I'm only doing this for the candy."



Louie **trudged** into the dentist's office.

"I'm scared," he said.

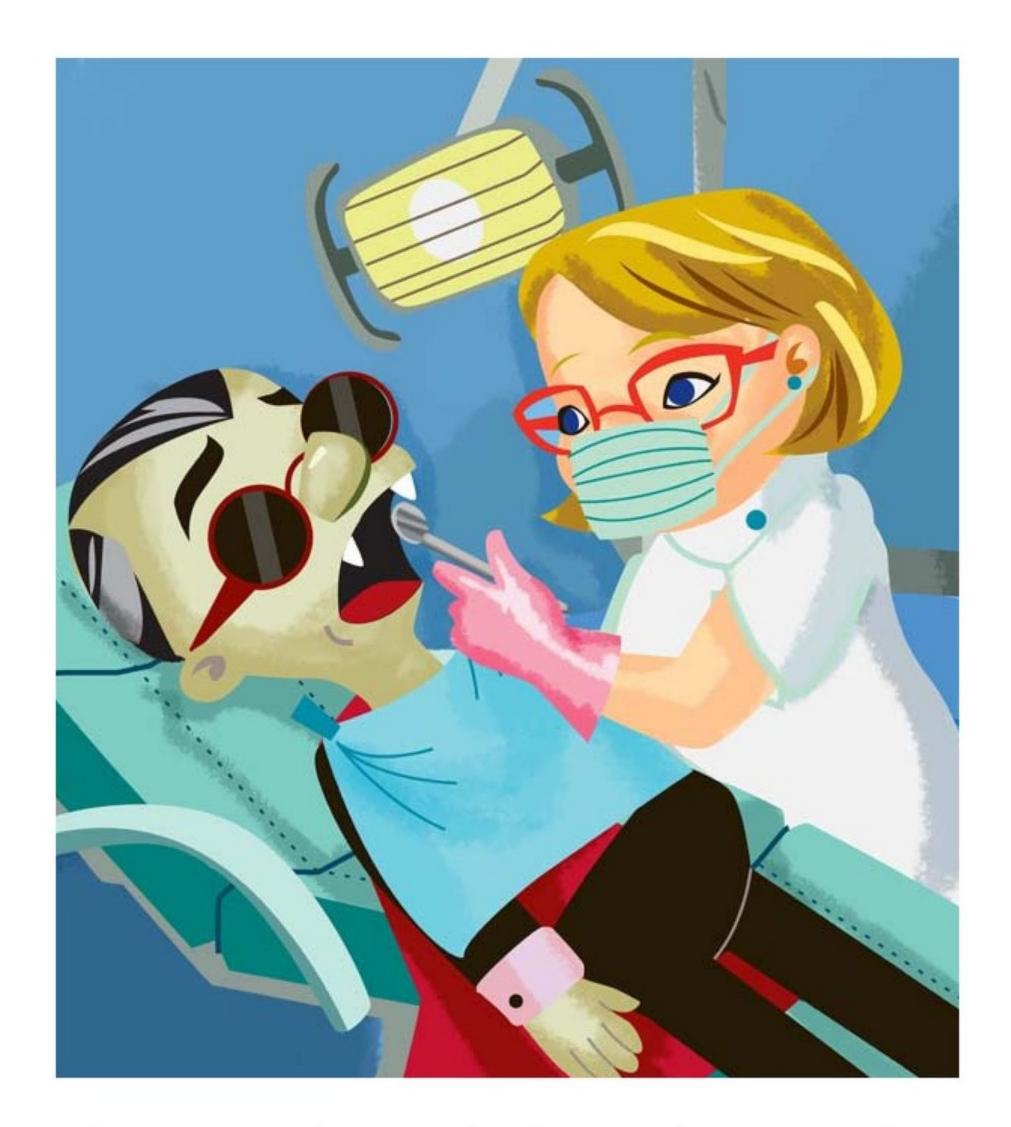
"Hi, Louie," the dentist said calmly. "There's nothing to worry about."



Louie crept to the dentist's chair.

"What's going on?" he asked.

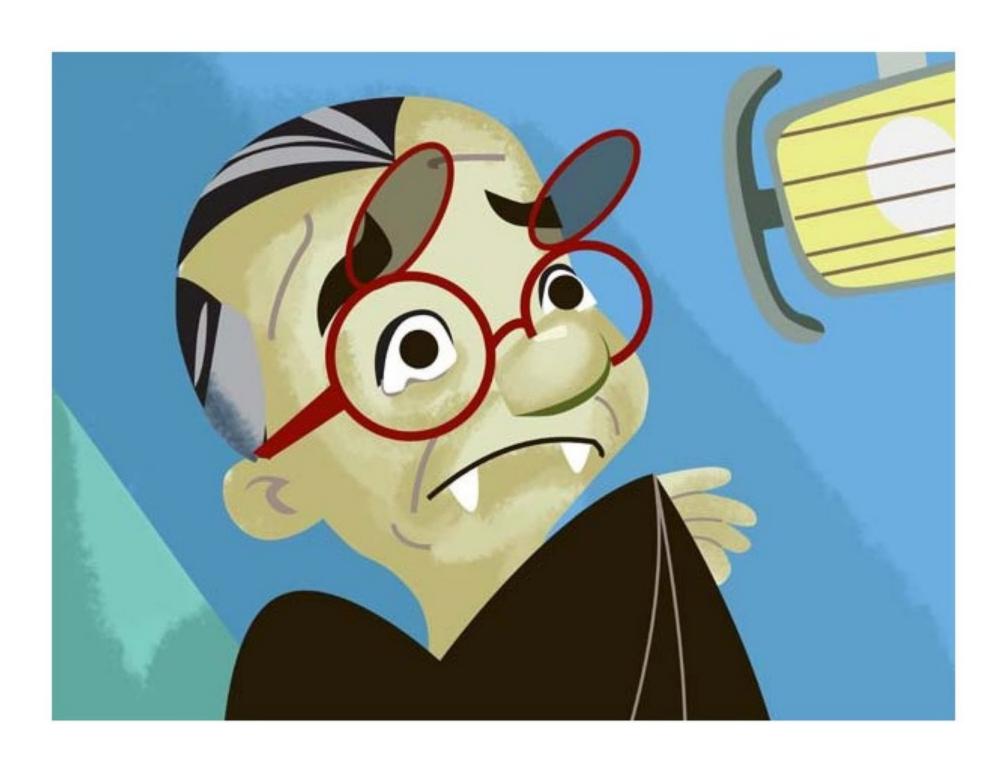
"I'm leaning the chair back to get a look at those teeth."



She turned on a light and pointed it at Louie's mouth.

"It's too bright!" Louie yelled.

The dentist gave him a pair of dark, flip-up sunglasses and **inspected** his teeth.

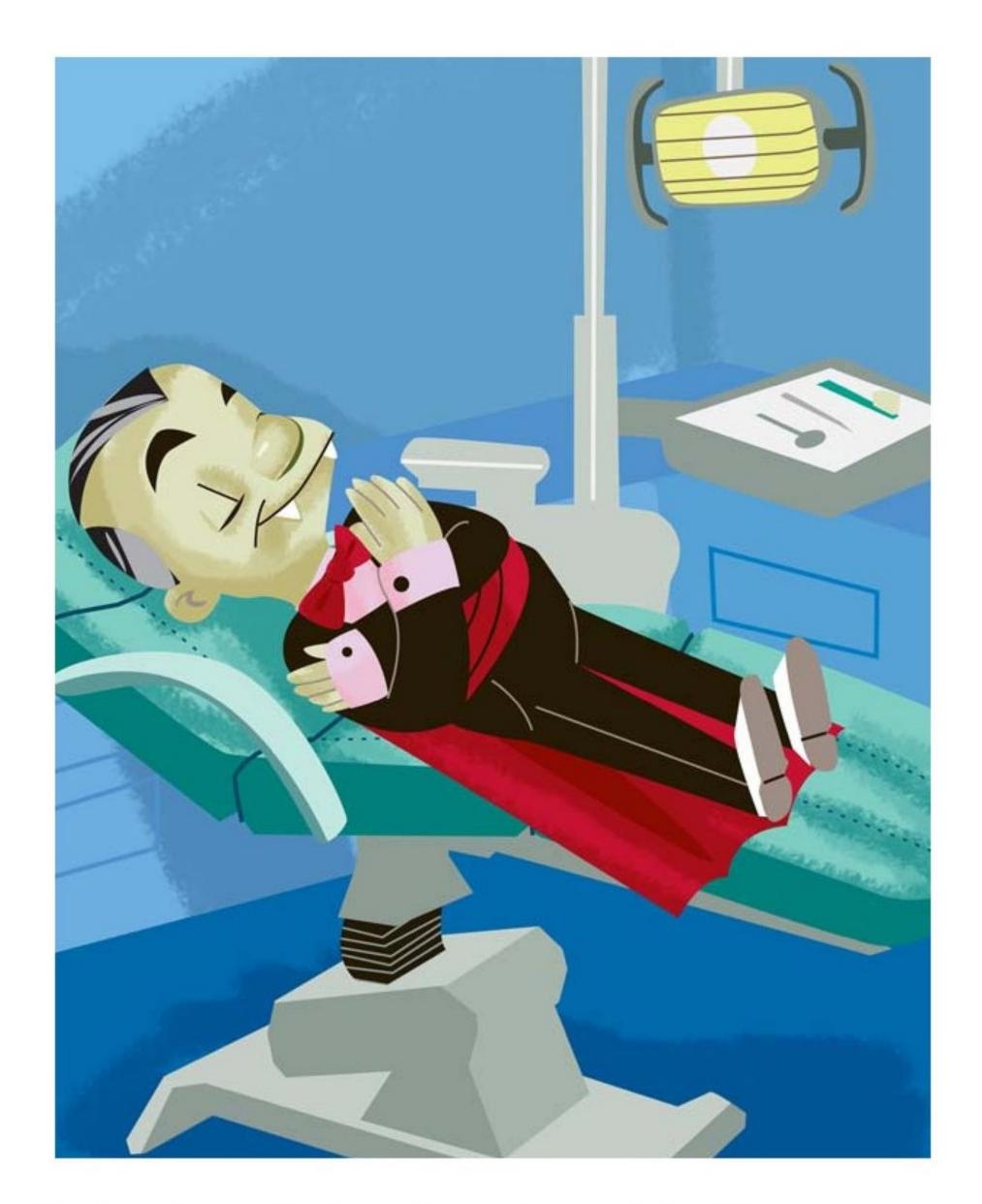


"Hmmm," she said, "there's some trouble with your upper left cuspid."

"What's an upper left cuspid?" Louie asked, trembling.

"It's the scientific name for one of your **fangs**. I'm going to give you a special new tooth."

Louie cried into his cape. "Not my fang!"



"It's okay," the dentist said. She gave him some medicine, which made him sleepy.

"This chair is really great," he said and then fell asleep.



"When are you going to take out my tooth?" Louie asked when he woke up.

"It's already done," the dentist said.



Louie felt the tip of his new tooth with his tongue. The dentist held up a mirror so he could see his new gold fang.

"I love it," Louie said, shaking the dentist's hand.

She gave him a sticker and his own roll of dental **floss**.



On Halloween, Louie dressed up as a dentist. He went from door to door in his white dentist jacket. He got all kinds of lollipops, chocolate bars, gumdrops, and other candy. Louie bit into each piece of candy and sucked out the center.

"Delicious," he said.



That night, Louie was about to fall asleep when he jolted upright.

"I almost forgot."

From a secret pouch, Louie pulled out the roll of dental floss that the dentist had given him. He closed the lid of his **coffin** and started to floss.

Glossary

butler (n.) the main male servant in

a household (p. 4)

coffin (*n*.) a long, narrow box in

which a dead person

is buried (p. 15)

dentist (*n*.) a doctor who treats the

teeth and gums (p. 5)

fangs (*n*.) long, pointed teeth (p. 10)

floss (*n*.) a soft thread used to clean

between teeth (p. 13)

inspected (v.) checked closely (p. 9)

terrifies (v.) frightens greatly (p. 5)

trudged (v.) walked slowly and

heavily due to tiredness

or difficult conditions

(p. 7)

vampire (*n*.) a mythological being said

to feed off the blood of

living things (p. 3)

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