



A Present for Charlie



by Dawn McMillan
illustrated by Susy Boyer

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SCHOOL PUBLISHERS

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🔊 Grandpa had photographs from all over the world, but there was one photograph in his album that his grandsons liked best. It was definitely awesome!



“Is that really Grandpa?” Craig asked in amazement. “He’s so young!”

“It’s Grandpa, all right,” said Charlie, “and he’s riding a go-cart. Wouldn’t it be great to have a go-cart!”



▀ That night, Craig thought about a present for Charlie. His birthday was one week from Saturday. Craig couldn't buy him a go-cart, but he did have a terrific idea for a present.



▶ The next day, Craig found Grandpa working in the shed.

▶ “Grandpa,” he said, “I was wondering if you could help me make Charlie a go-cart for his birthday. I know I’ve seen some wheels in this shed.”



🔊 “Oh, yes!” said Grandpa. “I had lots of fun on my go-cart when I was your age, and Charlie will too.”



▀ “If we make Charlie a go-cart, how will we keep it a secret?” Craig asked.

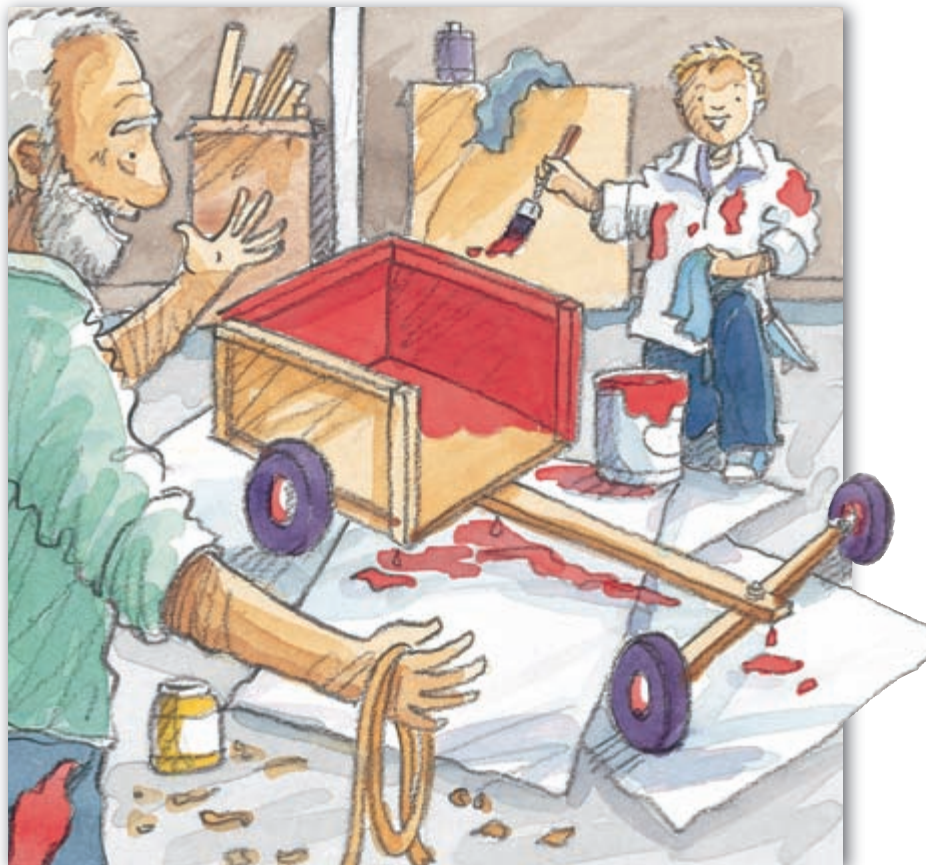
▀ “We’ll make it here, in the back room of the shed,” said Grandpa. “He’ll never know what we are up to.”



▀ Grandpa found the wheels Craig had seen, and then he and Craig sorted out the wood that they needed. They gathered some tools, and Craig discovered a can of bright red paint.



▶ Grandpa and Craig worked together to make the go-cart the entire week. If Craig saw Charlie coming, he would quickly shut the door of the shed.



■ When the go-cart was finished, Craig carefully began to paint the go-cart a bright fire-engine red.

■ “It looks like a million dollars!” laughed Grandpa. “When the paint is dry, we’ll attach the steering rope.”



▶ On the morning of Charlie's birthday, Grandpa helped Craig bring the go-cart up the driveway to the garden gate. The go-cart looked fantastic!

▶ "Happy birthday, Charlie!" shouted Craig as he jumped up and down.

▶ "Wow!" exclaimed Charlie with surprise. "It's a go-cart!"



▶ Charlie put on his helmet and rode the go-cart down around the curve of the driveway.

▶ “It’s wonderful!” he puffed, as he pulled it back up the hill. “Come on, Craig! Let’s take a ride together!”






▶ Dad rode the go-cart, and Mom, and then Grandpa wanted a turn.



▀ “Whee!” squealed Grandpa as he went quickly around the curve.



▀ He didn’t look so different from that boy in the picture from many years ago.

Think Critically

-  1. Why did Craig decide to make a go-cart for Charlie?
-  2. How did Grandpa help Craig keep the go-cart a surprise?
-  3. What did Grandpa mean when he said the go-cart looked “like a million dollars”?
-  4. What did you predict would happen when Grandpa rode in the go-cart?
-  5. What toy would you like to try and make? Why?

Social Studies

Then and Now Paragraph Write a paragraph telling how things children do for fun today are different from things children did for fun long ago.

-   **School-Home Connection** Tell a family member what Craig did for Charlie in the story. Talk about a time when someone gave you a nice surprise.