

"The Big Parade"



"The Big Parade"
was created especially for

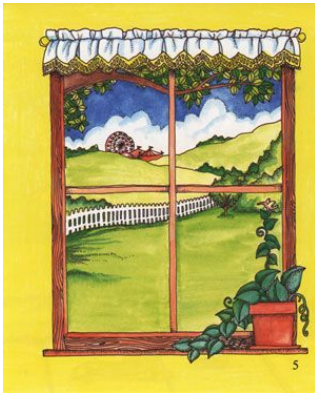
Michael Joseph Smith

at the age of 8

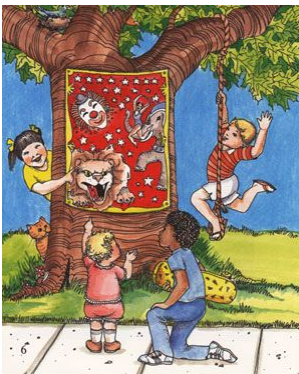
with love from

Grandma and Grandpa

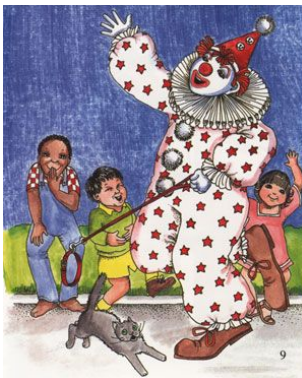
December 17, 2015



Michael Smith sat up wide awake in his bed. The sun was just coming up in **Hawaii**. He could tell that it was going to be a gorgeous day. He glanced out his bedroom window. **Michael** remembered exactly where he was planning to go today with **Claire, Lucy and Tommy**.



Michael had been so excited for the past week. With **Claire, Lucy and Tommy**, he had made a game of finding the most circus posters all over town. Today was the big parade and that meant the start of all the circus activities. **Michael** had even tried to go to sleep as fast as he could last night to make the morning come more quickly.



Michael began to think about all the fantastic fun he would have. Last year, his favorite act was the clown with the invisible dog. **Michael** wondered if the clown would be there again today. Then **Michael** thought about the child who would be selected by the mayor this year to lead the parade. Who would that lucky person be?



Just then the phone rang. "Michael Smith, will you lead the big parade for us this year?". asked the mayor of Hawaii. "Oh, yes, yes!" exclaimed Michael. "Will I get to ride in the fire truck?" The mayor chuckled, "You most certainly will, Michael! "



Claire, Lucy and Tommy waited with Michael while a huge helicopter landed in his back yard. It was there to pick up Michael. The helicopter took off minutes later with Michael in the front seat grinning from ear to ear. After waving goodbye, Claire, Lucy and Tommy hurried downtown to see the parade.



From the helicopter, Michael could see the circus parade beginning to assemble at the edge of town. The helicopter landed and Michael ran to the mayor. On their way to the shiny, red fire truck at the head of the parade, they walked past all the practicing performers and animals that would be following Michael. Michael was thrilled.



Someone shouted, "Look, **Michael Smith** is leading the parade this year!" At that very moment, a big drum roll was heard. **Michael** carefully climbed aboard the fire truck next to the driver who was dressed like a clown. **Michael** enjoyed the marvelous, marching music played by the band as the fire truck drove down the main street of **Hawaii**.



Immediately behind the band was a beautiful bareback rider. Her two magnificent, prancing horses were so well trained that the rider could balance on both their backs while standing up. **Michael** imagined that the fine, fancy feathers on the noble horses' heads were bobbing to the beat of the music. He bobbed his head also.



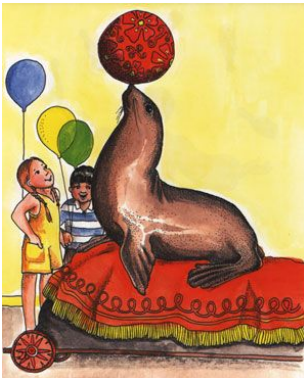
The fire truck turned a corner. **Michael** saw three small children mimicking the dancing bear who was dressed in a pink ballerina costume. The big, brown bear was very entertaining as she proudly performed bouncy ballet steps while balancing on a ball.



The circus elephants followed next. As he watched the playful pranks of the darling baby elephant, **Michael** daydreamed about taking him home. When the elephant fanned his big floppy ears, **Michael** could almost picture him flying through the sky with the greatest of ease. If the baby strayed too far, the mother elephant would lovingly wrap her trunk around his.



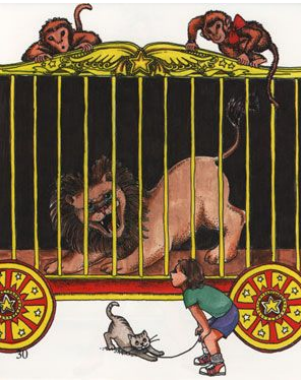
A jolly juggler on a unicycle juggling five full bottles fascinated **Claire, Lucy and Tommy**. He pedaled so fast that there were times when it was hard to keep up with him. It was incredible that he never dropped a bottle, no matter how fast he pedaled. **Claire, Lucy and Tommy** knew it took practice to be that good.



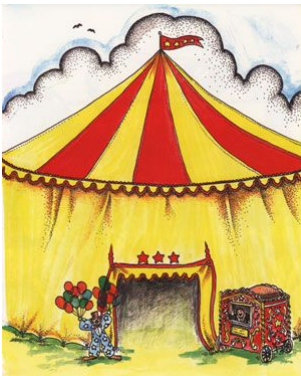
Michael was amused by the antics of the slippery seal. The seal would flip the ball backwards and then, with his hind flippers, smack it right back to the tip of his nose. Everyone loved watching the seal clap after each trick he performed. **Claire, Lucy and Tommy** had fun imitating his funny, barking noises.



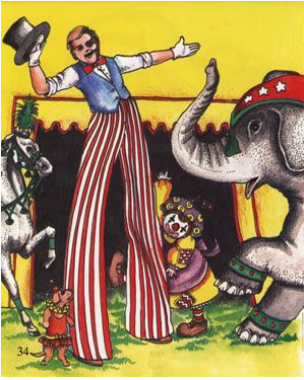
The acrobatic troupe was next. Their tumbling and flipping routines had the crowd cheering. **Michael** was enjoying his place of honor, but was really tickled when the driver told him he would have a chance to watch the entire parade pass before him as each act entered the big top circus tent.



A majestic lion with all his marvelous mane was in the last wagon. He was so-o-o-o big, and his roar was so-o-o loud that **Michael** could hear him from the very front of the parade. The mild-mannered monkeys on top of his cage did not seem at all frightened of the ferocious feline.



The fire truck stopped at the entrance of the big top circus tent. **Michael** talked to the circus stars as they went inside. It made him feel like an important star to be so close to them. Then **Michael** joined **Claire, Lucy and Tommy** in his special section inside the tent.



When the circus was over, **Michael** was escorted outside by the mayor and the ringmaster. **Michael** did not want this special day to end. As he turned to look one last time, some performers were waving goodbye. **Michael** waved back and smiled, for he knew he would never forget the day he led THE BIG PARADE!

Michael Smith

In THE BIG PARADE, there were many different characters. Can you unscramble the following names?

olin _____

reba _____

ymnkoe _____

esorh _____

lesa _____

nlwoc _____

glreguj _____