

CALVERT CITY'S YOUTH VOICE MONTHLY WRITING CONTEST



FEBRUARY WINNER Novelyn Kate Sittig

Novelyn is 15 years old and is an aspiring author and actress. She enjoys reading, writing, and watching superhero movies. She is home-schooled and her mom has always been her main teacher.

Rose and Rio: Uncle Tiger's Visit By Novelyn Kate Sittig

There once was a boisterous bunny named Rose, whose husband was a Red Panda named Rio. They had five clamorous children, and they all lived together in a large house, just the right size for their family. Their children were named, from eldest to youngest, Fluffy, Smartypants, Buttercup, Zoey, and Snowball. Fluffy was a tremendous cook, and she was always at her best in the kitchen. Smarty-pants was not very skilled at anything in particular, aside from being a sullen know-it-all. Buttercup was a sweet little rabbit, and loved to paint. Zoey and Snowball were twins, and they quite enjoyed mischief. As for Rose and Rio themselves, Rose was a professional bunny blogger, and a very successful one at that. Rio was the mayor of their little town, and was often away at meetings. One day, all of the bunny children were at home by themselves. Their mother and father had left to go to the store. Fluffy took charge and gathered her siblings together to decide how they would spend their time. Zoey suggested that they visit their neighbor, Kitty.

Kitty was a simple cat. She lived alone in her feline bungalow, where she spent her days doing crossword puzzles, napping, and snacking on sushi. Whenever Rose and Rio's children came over, Kitty felt rather out of place. They were loud and exuberant, but Kitty just wanted to nap. When she spotted the little band of rabbits hopping across the sidewalk toward her home, Kitty pretended to be asleep, hoping they would leave her be. Fluffy rang Kitty's doorbell, while her siblings busied themselves by munching on Kitty's overgrown lawn. "Kitty?" Fluffy called. "It's Fluffy! My siblings and I have come over to visit you." Kitty, irritated by the yelling, forgot her notion to attempt to trick the children, and grouchy hollered, "Come in, then. There's no use yelling at my front door." The door flew open and soon Kitty found herself surrounded by little bunny faces, whiskers and tails. "Have a seat, if you like," Kitty told them. "Where's your parents, kids?" They explained how Fluffy had used the last of the flour to bake cookies that morning, and they needed more flour for supper. Kitty nodded and appeared to be attentive, though she was really thinking about what type of sushi she could have for dinner.

Rose and Rio scoured the entire Petmart, and could not find any flour. However, Rose found some new makeup, and Rio found a new tie. "I suppose we can just go out for dinner." Rio suggested, examining the washing instructions on his tie. "Yes, that sounds great!" Rose agreed. "Could we go to Clover Garden?" Rio sighed. "Sure." Rose grinned happily. "I wonder if Fluffy has texted." She checked her phone. "Nope. I wonder how the kids are doing. Hopefully they didn't leave the house. Uncle Tiger is supposed to come over today." Rio pointed out. "Oh, you're right!" Rose exclaimed. "I'll call Fluffy and tell her." Rose called, but it went to voice mail. "I'll try again," She said. Still voice mail. Rose frowned. "I guess we'll be home soon anyway, so it's not a big deal. Hurry, let's check out."

Fluffy had left her phone at their house. She and her siblings were still encamped at Kitty's place. Kitty was getting annoyed, but she forgot her annoyance when Zoey and Snowball turned on My Little Horse on her TV. Back at their house, Uncle Tiger had arrived. He walked up the sidewalk, and knocked on the door. No one answered. Confused, Uncle Tiger rang the doorbell. Still, no one came. Uncle Tiger forlornly sat down on the sidewalk. He pulled out his phone to text his brother, Rio, but his phone had run out of battery. After sitting for quite some time, he became very hungry. He didn't want to leave and miss getting to see his family, but he also didn't want to starve. Reluctantly, Uncle Tiger climbed back in his red Cheep and drove away. At Kitty's house, the children were growing restless, and so they bid good-day to Kitty, and left for their house. By that time, Uncle Tiger was already gone, and Rose and Rio were pulling into the driveway. The kids all waved (Except Smarty-pants, he was sulking. Don't ask why, nobody knows) and waited for their parents to get out of the car. Rose ran out, waving her phone. "Fluffy, did you get my text?" Rose asked. "No, we were all at Kitty's house. I left my phone at home." Fluffy explained. "Oh, no!" Rose cried. "Uncle Tiger was going to come over at 5:00, but now it's almost 7:00! Oh dear!" "No worries, I'll call and explain." Rio said. Rio called several times, but they all went straight to voice mail. With a sigh he told his family, "Well, I couldn't get through to Uncle Tiger. It's just a very unfortunate turn of events that we weren't able to see him. I will try calling again in a bit. But right now, I know we're all really hungry, and your mother and I had talked about going to Clover Garden for dinner, so let's go and eat." Everyone agreed, they were all very hungry (even Smarty-pants!). So, Rose, Rio, Fluffy, Smarty-Pants, Buttercup, Zoey, and Snowball, all got in the car and headed for Clover Garden, where they parked right next to a red Cheep. They went inside and all sat down, munching on breadsticks and hovering over menus.

"Look!" Snowball suddenly exclaimed. "It's Uncle Tiger!" Everyone turned around, and spotted Uncle Tiger, devouring a plateful of spaghetti. "So it is!" Rio said, smiling. "Hello, brother! Won't you join us?" Thrilled at the sight of his family, Uncle Tiger eagerly pulled up a chair at their table, and brought over his spaghetti. They talked, laughed and had a wonderful time. And so, they were able to see each other after all.

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