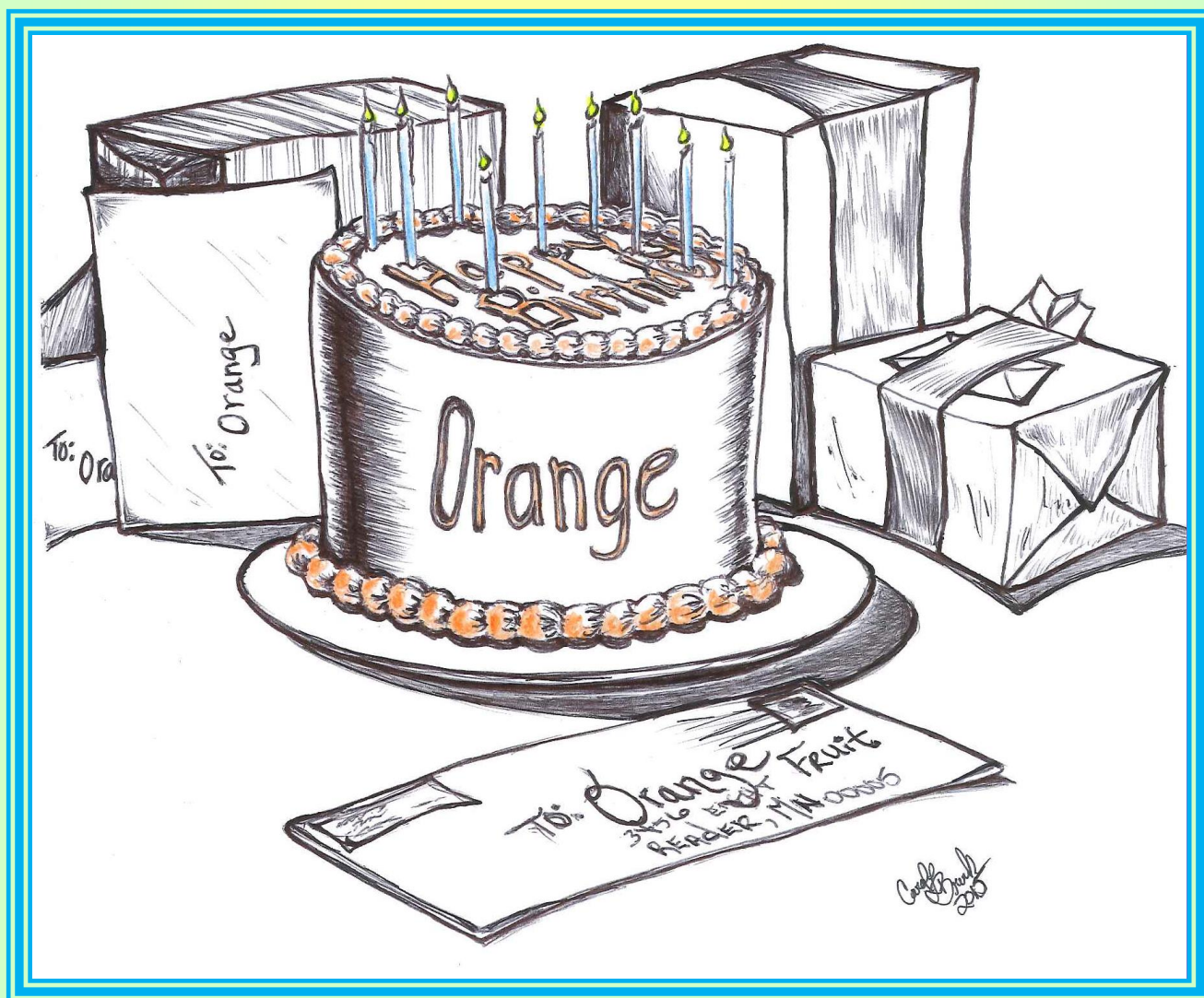


**READER**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> AND 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

# ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY

Comprehension Questions are at the end of the book that covers all chapters. Mystery question is asked "Where can the story possibly take place in the world?"



**Writer and Illustrator Carol Lee Brunk**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**Reader:**

**4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades**

**Cognitive Comprehension**

**Description:**

***“The Fruit family celebrate Orange’s 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday.”***

**Written as a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade comprehensive reader. The family's human, but with fruitful names. The kids names are all named after a fruit. It’s *Orange’s 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday* that they are celebrating. The reader is to comprehend what happens to celebrate *Orange’s 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday*. The story only has a few illustrations so the reader can focus on comprehension.**

**Fiction**

**Written and Illustrated by Carol L Brunk**

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# ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY

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## **Introduction**

**Orange's 9<sup>th</sup> birthday is approaching.**

**Meet, the Fruit family**

**Mom and Dad.**

**Orange, he is age 8.**

**Apple, she is age 12.**

**Pear, he is age 6.**

**Peaches, she is age 4.**

**Banana is the family weenie dog.**

**Let's see what happens on the following pages that brings us  
on a fun journey to celebrate Orange's 9<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

## **There Goes Banana**

### **Chapter 1**

**"Hey, Orange!" said mom. "Your birthday's Sunday." "Mom and Dad have a surprise for you!"**

**"So, what's the surprise?" Orange asked. Mom smiled. "Not telling...not yet," she laughed.**

**"So, did Apple, Pear and Peaches tell you something funny again?" Orange said.**

**"Orange, you'll be nine on Sunday." "So, I put something in your dresser drawer this morning." "So, open it today or tomorrow but before Sunday," she said with a huge smile.**

**Orange sat there and smiled, "Mom, today's Friday." "You still want me to open it?"**

**Mom smiled and started to laugh. "Just go take a look will you." "I can't give away the whole surprise." "By the way, there will be a another note in your dresser tomorrow morning to look for."**

# ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY

Orange finished his breakfast and was running up the staircase leaping two steps at a time with his very long legs. "Ah! Ha!" "I landed on top!" he said out loud when he reached the top of the stairs then ran toward his room.

Orange reached the dresser, pulled the drawer open. He began to search. He pushed his clothes apart until he found it. His eyes grew wide with amazement. A small box wrapped in gold paper with glow sticks tied to the top-just a little pile of three glow sticks. The glow sticks were glowing.



"Mom, really out did herself," Orange thought to himself as he untied the glow sticks from the top of the box to see what was inside. The unwrapping was easy and now he was about to pull off the lid when.... KTHUNK!



# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

He jumped and dropped the box. It hit the floor.

"Banana!" "You silly dog!" "You scared me!" Orange yelled.

Banana barked and wagged his thin twiggged tail back and forth. Before, Orange could do anything Banana grabbed the box from the floor and ran.

For a weenie dog Banana could move very quickly from one room to the next. This time Orange was chasing Banana. "Banana, come back here!" Orange yelled. Banana ran down the steps with Orange in pursuit.

"Baannaannaa!" Orange yelled while he ran.

Mom came out of the kitchen to see two running by her. Banana went through the doggie door and Orange behind trying as fast as he could to open the door.

Mom smiled to herself.

"There goes Banana...there goes Orange." "This might be interesting." And mom continued to go into the other room.

# ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY

## Chapter 2 Knock! Knock!

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Who is it?" Apple yelled from the down stairs living room.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Apple, answer the door!" "I'm in the bathroom." Pear yelled.





# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

Apple tossed her paper back Superman comic book on the chair next to Peaches and went to answer the door. Peaches rolled her eyes at Apple and smiled, then continued to watch the puppets on the flat screened television.

Apple grabbed hold of the peep hole door pulled it open and peeked.

"Hi," she said from behind the door. "Who are you?"

"The delivery man," the big guy in the uniform said. She opened the door and laughed.

"Hi, Dad," she said. "Did you forget your key, again?" And she laughed.

"Ha!" "Ha!" "Apple," Dad said in good humor. "Apple, where's Mom?" "I just saw Orange chasing Banana down the block."

"Umm...I don't know?" Apple said and shrugged her shoulders.

"MOM!" "Apple yelled as loud as she could.

"MOM!" Apple yelled again. "MOM!"

"APPLE! STOP YELLING!" Dad said loudly.

"Guess, Mom's not home, Dad." Apple hunched up her shoulders a bit and smiled.

## **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

Dad looked at Apple and shook his head. "Just tell Mom to give me a call on my cell phone."

"Ok, Dad," Apple said. "Can I go back to reading my comic book now?"

"Sure," he said as he went out the door.

"Banana!" "Come back here!" the voice yelled from the street. Dad stepped off the porch. Dad watched them run by again. This time they ran right in front of him. Orange running after Banana.

"Orange!" Dad yelled.

"Not, now Dad!" Orange yelled as he ran by Dad. "I got to catch Banana!"

"Banana!" Dad yelled.

Banana did not listen. Banana just kept running with ears flapping in the wind. Orange was half way into the neighbor's backyard when he yelled back. "I'll get him, Dad!" "Don't worry!" Dad stood still in amazement and thought, "For a weenie dog he really moves fast." Dad laughed and went back to get in his police car. It was time to go back to work.

## **Chapter 3     The Neighbor's Lawn**

**Orange sat down on the neighbors lawn swing to catch his breath. Orange was looking at Banana while Banana sat happily underneath the neighbors back porch peeking out at him with the small box beside his head.**

**Wiping the sweat from his brow, Orange started to talk to Banana. "Ok, Banana," "I give up!" Ok, come on boy...bring the box here."**

**Orange was coaxing Banana to come to him. Banana sat still and panted. Banana nudged the box a little bit as if he was going to grab it and take off again.**

**Woof! Woof! Woof!**

**Banana barked happily.**

**"Banana," Orange said in a low patient voice and started to couch down to get on the lawn and crawl over to him. "Come on, boy." "Let me have the box." Banana laid in the same spot and then rolled over. Relief washed over Oranges face, as he crawled closer to Banana who was lying upside down. Orange reached out his hand towards Banana. "Good boy, Banana," he said as he got closer. Banana panted then popped upright and barked.**

**Woof! Woof! Woof!**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**Woof! Woof! Woof!**

**Orange lunged himself at Banana and the box with his eyes closed.**

**KTHUNK!**

**Orange's body hit right underneath the neighbor's porch. It knocked the wind out of Orange and he struggled a bit to breath.**

**"Ah!" "Ha!" Orange yelled as he caught his breath. "I got you."**

**When he opened his eyes to find Banana not in his hands, Banana was standing two feet away with the box in his mouth. Banana waged his tail. Orange looked at what he had in his hands. "Oh, No," he said. "Muffin, I got Muffin in my hands."**

**"Meow" the kitten voiced.**

**"Muffin, you weren't supposed to be hiding behind Banana!" Orange said.**

**Banana jumped up and down in front of Orange. Banana dropped the box and barked.**

**"Woof!" "Woof!" "Woof!"**

**"Meow!" Muffin voiced.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

Orange petted Muffin. Banana barked at Orange. "Banana, will you come here, boy," Orange said while he put Muffin on the neighbors back porch.

**“Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!”**

Banana grabbed the box that he dropped and started to run towards Orange. But, Banana ran right past Orange and back towards the house. Orange stood still for a second and realized that Banana just darted past him. With a surprised look on Orange's face, Orange got a burst of energy and went running at high speed toward the house after Banana.

Mom was on the porch swing swinging just in time to watch Banana fly by head first into the doggie door. With an expressionless look on her face the only thing on her face that moved was her eyes, her eyes darted across in the direction that Banana disappeared.

"Hi, Mom!" Orange yelled as he went flying by just as fast as Banana did. Mom sat and didn't say anything for a few seconds. Then she started to laugh. She laughed a lot. "That I don't see very often," she thought. "I wonder when Banana's going to let him have that box?" Then she laughed again.

## **Chapter 4      Where's Banana?**

Banana was hiding. Orange started yelling for Banana to come out. "Banana!" Orange yelled throughout the house.

"Banana!" Orange yelled again. Banana was hiding.

Apple was still reading her comic book when Banana walked over on top of the couch and sat in Apple's lap.

"Banana!" "What are you sitting on me for?" Apple said. "You know Orange is upstairs looking for you." Banana just panted and snuggled into Apple's lap a little bit more. Orange came running at full speed down the steps.

"Apple?" "Why didn't you tell me you had Banana?" Orange said and pickup Banana out of Apple's lap.

"Ok, Banana what did you do with box?" Orange asked him while he held him up to his face. Banana licked his face and barked a happy bark.

**"Woof!" "Woof!" "Woof!"**

Apple started laughing.

"What box?" Apple asked.

"The box he had while I was chasing him," Orange responded.



# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"He didn't have a box, Orange, when he climbed into my lap," Apple said.**

**"Ok, Banana!" "What did you do with the box?" Orange asked seriously while holding Banana up to his face. Banana looked clueless.**

**"Woof!" "Woof!" "Woof!"**

**Banana barked and licked Oranges face again.**

**"Apple, can you talk Banana into finding the box he had?" "Or maybe you can keep a watchful eye on Banana while I look for the box," Orange asked Apple.**

**"What was in the box?" Apple asked.**

**"I don't know," Orange responded.**

**"Are you sure Banana had a box?" Apple asked.**

**"Apple, it's a birthday present from Mom and Dad," Orange said.**

**"But your birthday's not until Sunday." "And today's not Sunday!" "So why are you opening it now?" Apple asked.**

**"I haven't opened it." "Banana ran off with it," Orange said.**

**Mom listened while Orange tried to explain to Apple what happened. She smiled to herself and began to wonder where Banana put the box before climbing into Apple's lap.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

During Orange's explanation to Apple, Mom walked away into The kitchen to make some tea and to put in a load of laundry in the washer.

## **Chapter 5            Peaches with Mom**

Peaches came into the kitchen clomping around in Dad's work boots.

**CLUNK! CLUNK! CLUNK!**

"Mom, these stink funny," Peaches said and cocked her pony tailed head to the side and her pony tails bounced.

"What stinks funny?" Mom said.

"These boots," Peaches said with a smile holding her nose with two fingers.

"Peaches...Mom needs your help with something?" Mom said and looked worried.

"With what?" Peaches asked cocking her pony tailed head to the other side letting the pony tails bounce and smiled.

"Mom needs you to help her find something that Banana had today," Mom stated looking at Peaches.

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"What's that Mom?" Peaches asked.**

**"A box." "A very special box." "Banana hid it somewhere in the house, Peaches," Mom said.**

**Mom explained to Peaches what the box looked like and that Banana had ran off with it that morning. Peaches clunked out of the kitchen down the hall in Dad's stinky boots. She wasn't going to discard the boots.**

**CLUNK! CLUNK! CLUNK!**

**The way she went down the hallway.**

**"Ooops!" "What's that?" Peaches said. Peaches stopped and grabbed at something shiny sticking out from under the hall table.**

**"Ooohhh!" she said smiling. "I found my kazoo!" Yaah!" she said. Smiling Peaches put the Kazoo in her mouth and began to hum. Her ponytails bounced.**

**Mom peeked around the corner to see Peaches go slowly down the hall humming and clunking away in Dad's boots with her ponytails bouncing along the way as she hummed on her kazoo.**

**"Peaches, don't forget to look for the box!" Mom said.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**Clunking and humming Peaches nodded and continued down the hallway. "Boots stink, Mom!" Peaches called back without turning around.**

**"Peaches, don't forget to look for the box!" Mom said again.**

**Clunking and humming Peaches nodded with her ponytails bouncing along the way.**

**"Boots stink, Mom!" Peaches turned her pony tails on her ponytailed head bounced when commented.**

**"Peaches, keep looking for the box, Ok?" Mom pleaded.**

**With a nod of her pony tailed head, a clunk of her dad's boots and the hum of the kazoo, Peaches went down the hall again.**

(Draw a kazoo. How do you play the instrument?\_\_\_\_\_)



## Chapter 6 Pear, Peaches and Banana

Pear was watching the baseball game on a flat screen television set whooping it up! When Peaches went clunking and humming by in the hallway. Banana ran past her and ran in and jumped on Pear's lap.

## **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"Hey, boy what's up?" Pear asked him. He petted Banana a little then noticed Banana had dropped something at his feet. Pear picked up the box.**

**"What's this Banana?" Pear asked and patted Banana on the head. Pear was about to open the box when Orange appeared in the doorway.**

**"Wait!" "That's mine!" Orange yelled. Pear stopped and looked at the box.**

**"It's my birthday present from Mom and Dad," Orange said.**

**Before Pear could answer Mom was standing in the doorway smiling. "I think Banana needs to apologize to Orange for taking off with Orange's box a little bit ago," Mom said walking in and scooping up Banana. Banana happily barked and licked Mom's face.**

**"Pear, looks like Banana got a little confused at whom to give that box too," Mom said. Pear started laughing.**

**"Banana you silly dog," Pear said as he handed the box to Orange while he crossed the room to pat Banana on the head.**



## **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"So, what's in the box Orange?" Pear asking smiling while petting Banana that was still being held by Mom.**

**Orange smiled and lifted the lid. Mom waited with her breath held just hoping he'd like the surprise inside. "Ok, Mom!" "What's this go too?" as Orange lifted a small skeleton key from the box.**

**"Keep looking in the box," Mom said.**

**Orange looked again inside the box he found a lightly pressed small piece of paper that was stuck to the sides.**

**"You might have to use the key to pull the paper out," Mom said. "The paper was a little hard to get in the box."**

**Orange took the key and poked at the sides of the paper that he could get the key under.**

**Poof!**

**With a little work he was able to pop the paper out. He almost dropped the paper on the floor. Fear hit him until he realized Mom was still holding Banana. He laughed at himself. He did not want to run after Banana again if the paper hit the floor. Relieved Orange opened the note.**

# ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY

*The note read:*

*Orange, Happy Birthday!*

*On, Sunday your Ninth Birthday you are in for a special celebration. The key you found in the box must be used before Sunday morning. In order for a special occasion, take the key to your Aunt's and ask her for a potted plant that has a violet growing in it. The plant contains a clue for where you need to take the key for a special celebration.*

*Love, Dad and Mom*

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**Orange started to laugh.**

**"Are you serious Mom?" he said.**

**Mom smiled. "Get going?" "Your Aunt's been waiting all morning for you to arrive."**

**"Can I take Pear with me?"**

**"and not Banana?" Mom stated laughing. "Sure, if Pear wants to go with you."**

**"Come on, Pear." "Let's go!" Orange said.**

## **Chapter 7                      Auntie's House**

**The violet flower potted plant was setting in the shade just out of reach of the sunlight in Orange's and Pear's Aunt's kitchen window. Orange noticed the plant right away as both of them walked up to knock on the door. The door opened before they could knock and there stood their Aunt smiling.**

**"Orange and Pear!" "How good to see you, today!" "So, what are you both up to today?" "Anything special?" the Aunt smiled and winked at both.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"Auntie, you have the biggest grin, I've ever seen," Orange said.**

**"What's a grin?" Pear asked looking at Orange.**

**"It's a big smile," Auntie said before Orange could answer.**

**"Grin is a smile?" Pear questioned.**

**"Yes, it's a smile." "Just a different word for it," Auntie said and winked at Pear.**

**"How old are you, Pear?" their Aunt said as she bent down a little to look into the young boy's eyes.**

**"I'm six years old!" "But, it's Orange's birthday on Sunday!" Pear said smiling. "He's going to be nine!"**

**"Auntie?" Orange hesitated and questioned.**

**"Yesss!" Auntie said in slow drawn out sounded word smiling.**

**Orange fidgeted a bit, shifting his weight from one foot to the other.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

Then he reached into his pocket and pulled out a piece of paper.

"Here Auntie, " Orange said as he handed the paper to her.

"Oh, No Orange!" "I already know what that is?" Auntie said smiling. "Put that back in your pocket."

"Well.." she coaxed. "Aren't you going to ask me?" Auntie winked again at Orange and then Pear. Orange stood there and started laughing.

"Ok," Orange said. "Can I see that violet potted plant?"

Auntie's grin got bigger. Smiling Auntie said," It's the potted violet downstairs not upstairs in the kitchen window?"

"Not in the kitchen window?" Pear said wide-eyed questioning his Aunt.

"Nope, not the kitchen," Auntie said.

"Wow, Auntie." "I really thought it was in the kitchen, " Orange said.

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"Go on now," Auntie said holding open the door. "It's downstairs sitting on the table."**

**Orange and Pear ran past her and down the steps.**

**"There it is!" Pear pointed. Orange picked up the violet potted plant.**

**"I don't see anything do you, Pear?" Orange said as he examined the violet potted plant while rotating it around in a circle carefully not dumping it upside down.**

**"What's that stuck to the bottom hanging down?" Pear asked in observation. Orange felt the bottom of the pot with his free hand that was not holding the pot.**

**"Well," Orange started to say and pulled on the thick piece of paper. "I'm not sure," Orange said as he finished pulling the paper off the bottom of the pot. He put the pot back on the table.**

**The paper was folded into a small square. Orange unfolded the piece of thick paper. The paper contained a colorful photo of him and his neighbor friend Qig on a fishing trip.**



# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

Orange read out loud to Pear what it said in blue marker at the bottom of the photo. It said:

**"Take the bus to where this picture was taken."**

Orange smiled at Pear. "Ok, Pear." "You and I are going for a bus ride." "You ready?"

Auntie yelled down the stairs, "Orange did you find what you were looking for?"

"Yes," Orange yelled back. "Pear and I are going for a bus ride, Auntie."

"I've got your bus tickets up here." "Come and get them," Auntie cheerfully yelled down the stairs.

## **Chapter 8      Bus Stop**

Orange and Pear sat outside down the block from their Aunt's house waiting for the bus.

"So, Does Mom know you are taking me to the river with you?" Pear asked.

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"Yes," Orange said and continued. "Auntie gave us two tickets for the bus." "So, it must be ok."**

**"Maybe you should call Mom and ask, "Pear said.**

**"It'll be ok really," "I'm gonna be nine on Sunday remember," Orange said.**

**"Yes, but Mom said I wasn't suppose to go near the river by myself," Pear said.**

**"You're not by yourself Pear." "I'm with you," Orange commented.**

**"I still think you should call Mom," Pear said.**

**"I'm not calling Mom," Orange said.**

**"Then call Dad!" Pear stated.**

**"Pear, I'm not calling Mom and Dad, "Orange said.**

**Just then a small baby rabbit hopped by Pear's feet. Pear got up and grabbed it. It fit right into both of his small hands. It snuggled to him, Orange sat there and smiled.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"He's cute." "Isn't he?" Pear said holding the baby rabbit.**

**"I think he's scared." "Maybe you should put him in the grass over there," Orange said. Orange pointed to the lawn behind the bench where they sat across from the sidewalk.**

**"I want to keep him," Pear said.**

**"He'll miss his Momma," Orange said.**

**Pear thought about it and didn't get up from where he sat.**

**"I'm gonna keep him," Pear said.**

**"He'll miss his Momma, Pear," Orange said.**

**"Noooo, he won't." "He don't have no Momma," Pear said.**

**"Pear, he's got to have a Momma." "Go put him back in the grass so his Momma can find him," Orange said.**

**"He ain't got no Momma." "He's coming home with me." "I'm gonna be his new Momma!" Pear said.**

**"Your a boy, Pear." "You can't be a Momma." "Go put him in the grass over there." "The bus is coming," Orange said.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"I still can be his Momma," Pear said. "The bus ain't here, yet."**

**"I'm gonna call, Dad," Orange said.**

**"Can you ask him if it's ok for me to go to the river with you?" Pear questioned.**

**"I ain't calling Dad," Orange said. "Maybe you can call Dad."**

**Orange handed Pear the cell phone. Orange told Pear to push a button on the cell phone that said Dad. Pear pushed the button.**

**"Hi, Orange," Dad said when the call went through.**

**"No, Dad its Pear."**

**"Pear?" Dad asked finally recognizing the voice.**

**"Ya, Dad." "Can I go to the river with Orange?" Pear asked.**

**"You sitting and waiting for the bus?" Dad asked.**

**"Ya!" "How'd you know?" Pear asked.**

**"Your Auntie just called," Dad stated trying not to laugh.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"Oh, did she tell you I had something in my hands?" "Did she?" Pear questioned.**

**"Like what, Pear?" "What do you mean that you have something in your hands?" Dad asked.**

**"Nothing, Dad," Pear said.**

**Orange was bent near Pear so he could also hear Dad talk through the cell. "Dad, Pear's got something he needs to put back on the grass." "Don't you, Pear?" Orange said loud enough for Dad to hear.**

**"Pear, what you got in your hands, son?" Dad said very patiently.**

**"A baby rabbit," Pear said in a low voice.**

**"How big is it?" Dad said.**

**"It fits in my hands," Pear said nervously. "Can I keep him?"**

**"Orange, how big is the baby rabbit?" Dad said patiently.**

**"Well, it fits in his hands, Dad," Orange said.**

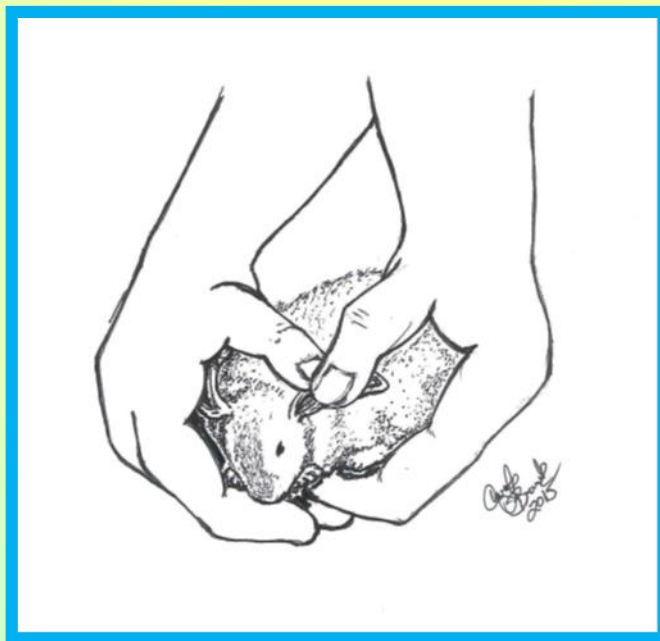
## **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"Take that baby rabbit to your Auntie real quick," Dad said.  
"She'll take good care of him."**

**"But, I want to keep him," Pear asked.**

**"I know, son." "But, let Auntie take care of him for right now."  
"You got a bus to catch!" "It should be there any minute."  
"Hurry, up now!" Dad said.**

**"Ok" Pear said and ran down the sidewalk a few houses to where Auntie was sitting outside. Pear gave the baby rabbit to Auntie and ran back just in time for the bus that rolled up to where Orange and Pear was sitting. Orange and Pear gave their tickets to driver then sat down. They waved as the bus went by Auntie's house. Auntie waved back.**





## **Chapter 9                      The Park**

**They finally arrived at the river bus stop. Orange and Pear got off the bus and immediately went running across the park to the dock where the picture been taken.**

**"Look, Orange," Pear said pointing at the dock. "There's Qig fishing!"**

**"Come on!" Orange said running to toward Qig with Pear in tow.**

**"Hey, Qig," Orange yelled really excited.**

**"Qig!" Orange yelled again.**

**"Hi, Orange!" "Where have you been?" "I've been waiting for you!" "I've got a pole for you and Pear!" "Mom, just left she dropped off another pole a few minutes ago so Pear could fish too." "I've been fishing with yours." "Look the pole is already in the water," Qig said.**

**"Hey, Orange," Qig said.**

**"Ya," Orange responded.**

**"Your Mom gave me something to give to you," Qig said.**

## **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

There was a pause. They sat on the dock listening for anything. But, the only thing they heard was the distant bus roaring out of the gravel parking lot.

"So, what is it?" Orange asked

"Oh, ya!" Qig paused again. "I think I got something!" The pole jerked and the line became taut. Then the pole was being pulled. The pole started to bend.

"Reel it in!" "Reel it in!" Orange was getting excited.

"I'm reeling!" "I'm reeling!" Qig said almost frantic. Qig was really reeling it in. Orange almost dropped his pole. But, Orange's line began to jerk too.

"Whoa!" "I think I got one!" "I think I got one!" Orange was yelling excited. "I got one!" "I got one!" Orange was just as frantic as Qig was sweating and reeling as fast as he could.

"Reel it in, Orange!" "Reel it in, Orange!" "Don't let it get away!" "It's pulling your line way out!" "Reel it in, Orange!" "Reel it in, Orange!" Qig was yelling.

Orange's line was getting away from him for a little bit. But, he kept reeling as fast as he could.

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

Now, he was sweating like Qig.

Pear was in Aw! He watched Orange and Qig struggle with winding the line in to get the catch of the day. Pear bobbed his pole up and down hoping something would grab the bait while he watched Qig and Orange. Then without thinking Pear dropped his pole and went running to the back of the dock. He grabbed the fish net and started yelling. "Go, Orange!" "Go!" "Go, Qig!" "Go!" as he ran toward Orange and Qig on the dock.

"Pear, give me the net!" Qig yelled.

"Thanks!" Qig said as he grabbed it.

Qig netted his wiggly fish.

**TRIUMPH!**

Qig got his catch of the day. Orange was getting his fish closer to the dock winding the pole when Qig dropped his fish in the bucket of water Pear just delivered to him.

"Pear grab your pole!" "You got something!" Orange yelled.

But, it was to late Orange dropped his pole and grabbed at Pear's pole before it hit the water. Orange's pole started to

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

leave the dock on its own when Pear belly flopped on it!

"Ouch!" Pear yelled. "Got it!" Then started to reel Orange's pole in.

Qig was laughing. "You two, ok?" Qig asked.

"Yep!" Pear said holding Orange's pole and leaned back sitting on the dock. "I got it!" Pear said loudly and smiled. He continued to reel in Orange's pole.

"TRIUMPH!" Orange stated as he held Pear's pole.

Orange started reeling in Pear's fish. Orange showed Pear his fish when he finally reeled it in. Pear poked it with his finger and laughed about how slimy fish are. Then he imitated a fish with his lips making little "O's" and laughed.

"Look, I'm a fish!" Pear stated. Then Pear made some more little "O's" with his lips. Orange was laughing and called him Fish Face. That made Orange and Qig laugh. They had three fish in their water bucket waiting to go home with them.

Qig reached in the lunch cooler and pulled out a plastic bag that contained an envelope. Then he gave it to Orange. Orange opened the zippered plastic bag and pulled the envelope out.

# ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY

*It read:*

*Orange,*

*I hope your day was a splendid, exciting day with Qig. This was part of your celebration of your Ninth birthday that takes place on Sunday! Take the bus home and leave any fish you caught with Qig.*

*Love,  
Dad and Mom*

## **Chapter 10**

## **Breakfast**

Saturday morning in the kitchen Apple stirred her oatmeal again. Then she added a little more milk. Orange came running into the kitchen and grabbed a box a breakfast cereal. The crunchier the better was what Orange liked.

"So, what's up Orange?" Apple asked as she scooped another spoonful of oatmeal and put it in her mouth. "Mmm....this is good!"

"Nothing.."Orange said as he sat down with a bowl of crunchy dry cereal. He poured milk in and went for scooping in the bowl for the morning meal of cereal.

"This is ssssooo gggooooddd!" Orange said as he crunched a big spoonful of cereal.

"So, what's up?" "I heard you and Pear went fishing yesterday." "Are you fishing today too?" Apple asked.

"I'm suppose to wait till mom and dad put something in my dresser drawer this morning," Orange smiled.

"What do you mean wait till they put something in your dresser drawer?" Apple asked.

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"Well, I didn't look yet but here, " Orange said as he reached into his pocket and pulled out a piece of paper. Apple took the paper from Orange and unfolded it, read it and then folded it back up. She handed the paper back and nodded her head as she took the last spoonful of oatmeal and ate it.**

**"Hi!" "Hi!" "Hi!" Peaches came into the kitchen clunking around the table in Dad's boots with her ponytailed head pony tails bouncing.**

**"Boot's stink," Peaches said.**

**"Well, take them off," Apple told her.**

**"Nope," Peaches cocked her ponytailed head and clunked around the table.**

**CLUNK! CLUNK! CLUNK!**

**She went around the table again. Then she stood in front of Apple next to Orange. She smiled really big!**

**"I got a secret," Peaches said in a loud whisper.**

**"A secret?" Apple said and leaned real closed to Peaches.**



# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"Yep," Peaches smiled and motioned for Apple to put her ear down so Peaches could whisper in Apple's ear. Peaches cupped both her hands around Apples ear then said in a loud voice, "Dad's Boots Stink!"**

**"Ouch!" "Peaches!" Apple said laughing. "You got to use a low voice when you whisper." "Like this."**

**Orange laughed.**

**Apple cupped both her hands around Peaches right ear on her ponytailed head and whispered into Peaches ear.**

**Peaches smiled really, really big. "Ooooh!" Peaches said.**

**Orange laughed "So what's the secret that Apple told you, Peaches?"**

**Peaches smiled really big and said in a loud voice,"Dad's boots stink!" Then paused. "Oooh," she said and whispered out loud,"Dad's boots stink."**

## Chapter 11 Saturday after Breakfast

"Ok, Mom, " Orange said as he reached for the second drawer and opened it. He pushed back and forth until he found a small cream colored envelope. He opened the envelope and read to himself the following note:

*Orange,*

*Welcome to the second day of your celebration for your ninth birthday. You, Qig, and Pear did a wonderful job fishing yesterday. Qig's going to bring by the fish for a fish fry this afternoon. In the meantime, you're going to take Peaches, Pear and Apple to the market. Apple has a list. But, before you grab Apple, Pear and Peaches and go on your way, you need to take the key downstairs to the basement and unlock the wicker chest in front of the basement pane glass window. There you will find a surprise*

*Love,  
Dad and Mom*

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**Orange ran down the steps to the basement to unlock the wicker chest. Apple was sitting on the couch in the basement room.**

**"Hey, Apple," Orange said as he rushed by to open the wicker chest.**

**"Hi," Apple responded.**

**Apple watched as Orange put the key in the wicker chest.**

**Tink! Tink! Tink! Tink!**

**The chest lock sounded as Orange turned the key in the lock. Orange pushed on the lid to get the chest to open. The chest would not budge. So, he pushed again.**

**"Hey, the chest lid won't pop!" Orange yelled.**

**"Sometimes it sticks a little," Mom said as she crossed the room. Orange jumped a bit.**

**"Hey, I Didn't know you followed me down the steps," Orange commented while Banana jumped on top of the wicker chest.**

**“Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!” Banana barked.**

## **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"Banana, you silly dog!" Orange said and picked him up off the wicker chest.**

**"Woof!" "Woof!" "Woof!" Banana barked at him.**

**"Banana!" Orange said and then didn't finish his sentence because Banana was licking Oranges face and making him laugh.**

**"Here mom, " he said and passed Banana over to Mom. Mom set him down and up jumped Banana again. "Banana!" he said. Mom grabbed him from the top of the wicker chest. Orange retried the key. It tinked again- one more tink. With all his might Orange pushed on the top.**

**Umph!**

**The chest popped open. A music box went off in a big bang! It started to play.**

***"That old man he played one. He played one on his thumb with knick-knack paddy whack give a dog a bone that old man went rolling home. That old man he played two he played two on his shoe with a knick knack paddy-whack give a dog a bone that old man went rolling home."***

# ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY

It stopped and Banana barked.

“Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!”

Then Banana ran around the room. "Well, look inside," Mom said. Orange started to laugh when he saw a note and a doggie bone cookie for Banana inside.

"I think this belongs to you, Banana," Orange gave Banana a doggie bone cookie laughing.

"Another note!" Orange said and laughed.

"Your not bored are you, Orange?" Mom asked. Orange smiled then laughed as he opened the note.

*Orange,*

*Son, tomorrow's the ninth year since you were born. Since, I have not been around much, you and I are going on an adventure. But, first you need to open the second drawer in the red cedar wood dresser in the attic. There you will find a surprise.*

*Love, Dad*

## **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

Banana finished eating his doggie bone cookie and hopped into the wicker chest searching for another when Orange absently shut the lid.

**“Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!”**

Apple yelled, "Orange let Banana out of the chest!"

"Sorry!" Orange opened up the chest and Banana jumped out and barked at him.

**“Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!”**

Then Banana jumped up and climbed in Apple's lap and barked.

**“Woof!”**

"Banana, I'm sorry, Boy," Orange said as he patted him on the head. Orange grabbed a box of doggie bone cookies off the shelf . "Here you go Banana," Orange said as he gave Banana a doggie bone cookie.

Apple started laughing, "I think he got the second doggie bone cookie that was in the song," Apple said.

Orange smiled a little embarrassed.

## **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"He's ok, Orange," Mom said. "Get going and go to the attic!"**

**Orange took off running up the stairs then up another set of stairs he went . This time he headed for the attic door.**

**CREEEK! CREEEK! CREEEK!**

**The attic door sounded as he opened it.**

**"I don't know why they always creek," he said to himself about the attic door.**

**The smell of the stale attic air hit and he turned up his nose.**

**"Time for another dusting and vacuuming," he thought. "I hope that's not on the note," he said and laughed. "Mom will get me for another attic cleaning again like last year."**

**Orange found his way to the cedar wood dresser and opened the middle drawer. Banana was running around his feet and started to bark.**

**Woof! Woof! Woof!**



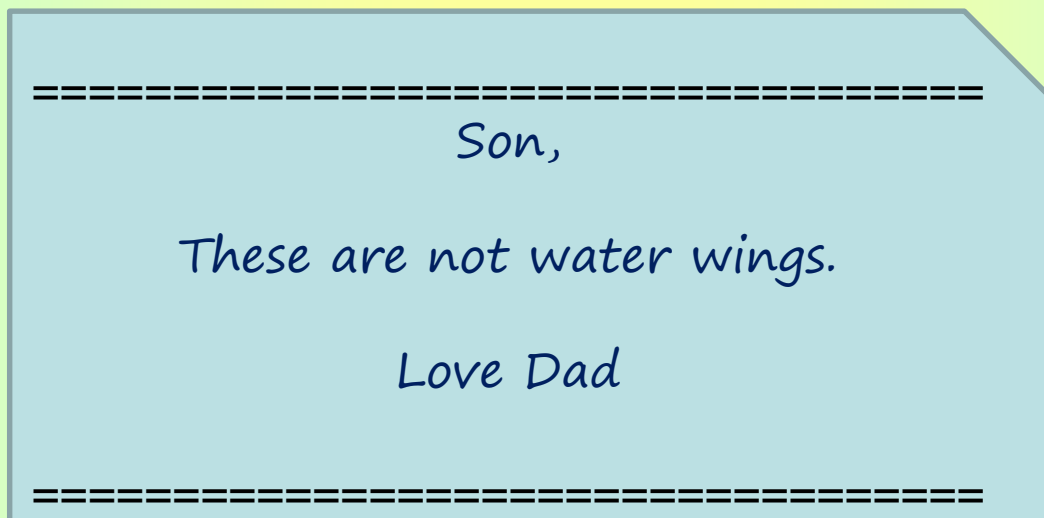
# ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY

"Banana you're a fast little dog," Orange said as he opened the drawer. Inside was another doggie bone cookie on top of a box with a note.

"Woof!" "Woof!" Banana barked.

"Here Banana," Orange said handing him the bone. Banana grabbed the doggie bone cookie and chomped while Orange lifted the box with a note on top.

"Woof!" "Woof!" Banana barked.



# ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY



Inside the box was a life vest with a note. The note read:

=====

Son,

*This is your life vest to wear while we are out in a boat  
or any boat you go boating on.*

Love Dad

=====

## **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

Dad was standing behind Orange who was smiling from ear to ear. Dad laughed and said, "So, what do you think?"

Orange could not stop smiling.

"Dad, Peaches." "Peaches has a secret to tell you!" Orange commented as he smiled and leaned against the dresser.

"Peaches?" Dad questioned looking at Orange.

"No, Dad." "I love it" "But, really, you need to talk to Peaches right away!" "Really, Dad!" "Please go talk to Peaches!" Orange pleaded smiling.

Dad had a confused look on his face.

"Ah...Peaches?" Dad questioned.

Orange hugged the vest then put it on.

"It fits, Dad!" "It fits!" he said excited. "But, Dad I got to help you out with something," Orange said leaning on the dresser with his vest on all smiles. "I gott'a tell you, Dad." "This secret is something you really, really, really need to know." Orange smiled trying not to laugh too hard.

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**CLUNK! CLUNK! CLUNK!**

**Peaches came running into the room.**

**"I LOST MY KAZOO!" she yelled as she jumped out of Dad's boots. Dad grabbed Peaches as she ran towards him and held her.**

**"Peaches you stink!" Dad said curling up his nose smelling Peaches and smiled.**

**"Dad, I got a secret." "I got a secret!" Peaches said excitedly.**

**"Peaches, you stink!" Dad said again as he got a better whiff of Peaches while holding her.**

**"Ssssh!" Peaches said in Dad's ear in a low whisper. She cupped her hands around his ear and whispered," Dad you want to hear my secret?"**

**"Sure," he said in a normal voice.**

**"Don't tell nobody, ok?" she said as she whispered low in his ear.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**"Ok," Dad said.**

**"Ssssh!" Peaches said and cupped her hands again around Dad's ear as he held her. Then in a loud voice she said," Dad, your boots stink!"**

**"I think that's why you stink, Peaches," Dad said as he picked up the fishing boots from the floor while he held onto her and smiled.**

**"Let's put you in a bath," Dad said as he turned up his nose while he was still holding her.**

**"Ok," Peaches said hanging onto Dad.**

**Orange was laughing so hard that he nearly fell over onto the attic floor.**

**"See you in a little while, Dad!" Orange waved at them both as they started to exit the room with Peaches waving at him.**

**"I love my vest, Dad!" Orange yelled after them.**

## **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

Dad turned at the door entrance to go down the steps and looked back at Orange.

"Orange, take Apple and Pear to the market with you."  
"Peaches is getting a bath so she don't smell like fish and river," Dad said smiling and laughed.

"Dad, I love my vest!" Orange called after him laughing. "I love my vest, Dad!" "But, your boots stink!" Orange laughed again and added, "Ya, and I might stink tomorrow with you."

Apple, Pear and Orange went to the market that afternoon without Peaches. Peaches got a bath and Dad decided to let Peaches run around in a pair of work boots that he put powder in before he gave them to her. Peaches was delighted with no more stinky boots.

"Powder fresh!" Peaches said to Dad when he gave them to her. Dad laughed.

For being four years old, she entertained him until the others came back from the market. Before, the others got back Dad helped Peaches find her kazoo, again. The kazoo happened to be in Banana's bed where Banana left it. Banana was not scolded for taking the kazoo but Peaches insisted on giving Banana another doggie bone cookie. They had a new place to look for the kazoo and for other missing items.

# ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY

That afternoon Qig and his Mother and Father came over with the fish for the fish fry. Orange showed off his new life vest. Everybody was thrilled about the vest and the fishing trip the next morning.

(Draw a life vest and note how to put it on.)



## **Chapter 12      Sunday Rise and Shine**

**"Son, time to get up, Son," Dad said as he nudged Orange to get him out of bed.**

**"Oh, what time is it?" Orange sat straight up and was quick to rise to his feet. "Ok, Dad." "I'm ready."**

**"Orange," Dad said amused. "You slept in that life vest all night?"**

**"Ya, Dad." "I love it," Orange said smiling half asleep.**

**"Son, take a quick shower." "Then we'll get going," Dad said as he chuckled to himself and walked out the door.**

**Orange took his vest off and laid it on his bed. Banana, jumped up barked at him. Orange reached down and patted him on the head.**

**"Good boy, Banana!" Orange laughed. "Don't go running off with the vest now!" he told Banana. Banana wagged his tail. "I'll give you a doggie bone cookie if you're good."**

**Orange smiled and started to laugh then patted Banana on his head again then gave him a dog bone cookie that he had on his dresser . The vest was still on his bed after he got out of the shower.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**“CLUNK!” “CLUNK!” “CLUNK!” the sound from the hallway.**

**“THUNK!” “THUNK!” “THUNK!” the knock at Orange’s door from the hallway.**

**“Who’s there?” Orange asked.**

**“Peaches!” she said.**

**“You got another secret?” Orange said as he opened the door.**

**“Nope, I’m powder fresh –see!” Peaches said cocking her ponytailed head and pointed to Dad’s work boots that she was standing in.**

**CLUNK! CLUNK! CLUNK!**

**Peaches went walking over to Orange’s bed.**

**“Um...Peaches!” Orange said as he turned to look at her from the door way.**

**“Ya!” Peaches said.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**“Why do you stink?” Orange asked.**

**“I got this!” she said and dropped it on his bed. “And I don’t stink.” “I’m powder fresh.” “See....” And she pointed at the boots she was wearing.**

**“Peaches, you really do stink!” Orange said seriously and smiled.**

**“No, I don’t,” Peaches stated. “I’m powder fresh!”**

**Orange looked at Peaches and said, “Peaches, what did you drop on my bed?”**

**“That!” Peaches said pointing at what she dropped. Orange walked to his bed and picked it up and looked at it.**

**“Promise not to tell,” Peaches put her index finger up to her lips. “Ssshhh!” Peaches said then put her finger to her lips again then cocked her ponytailed head and smiled really big. “Oookkk!” she said with eyes really big and smiling. Orange rolled his eyes at her and she rolled her eyes at him. They both laughed.**

**“Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!”**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**“Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!”**

**Banana ran by Orange’s room at full speed. Peaches was on the run running after Banana.**

**“Hey!” Orange yelled as he sat on his bed. Orange could hear her running and clunking down the hall.**

**“I think Peaches lost a boot because I only heard one clunk now and then down the hall,” Orange stated in the room occupied by only himself.**

**“Who you talking to son?” Dad said as he entered the room.**

**“Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!”**

**Banana ran by the room in the opposite direction at full speed down the hall.**

**“Hi, Dad!” Peaches yelled as she passed by the door running at full speed down the hall after Banana.**

**“Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!”**

**“Banana!” “Banana!” “Banana!” “Here Banana!” Peaches was yelling.**

## **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**“I think I was talking to you, Dad,” Orange continued while smiling. “I think Banana’s keeping Peaches busy.”**

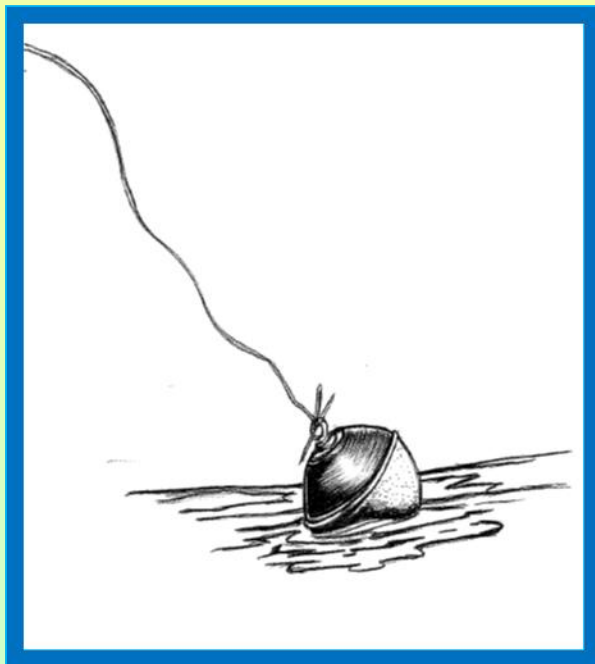
**“Yah, but with what?” Dad wondered out loud. Then without knowing it Dad rolled his eyes. Orange started laughing.**

**“What?” “Son?” “What?” Dad asked.**

**“Nothing, Dad.” “I’m ready,” Orange said laughing.**

**Dad started to laugh,” My guess is that I rolled my eyes!”  
“Huh?”**

**“Dad, I’m ready,” Orange said. He looked at his Dad and started to laugh then nodded. “Ya, Dad.” “I’m ready.” “Let’s go.”**



## **Chapter 13**

## **In the Car**

**Dad had the car ready when Orange climbed in the passenger side.**

**“Coffee?” Dad chuckled as he started the engine. Dad backed out and pulled out into traffic.**

**“Let me smell it first,” Orange asked.**

**“Smells good.” “Doesn’t it?” Dad asked.**

**“I think I’ll pass,” Orange said.**

**“No, go on,” Dad said trying not to smile.**

**“Mmm, good,” Orange said as he made a funny exaggerated silly face that told him otherwise.**

**“That bad?” “Huh?” Dad stated with a grin.**

**Orange smiled at his dad while he put the coffee cup in the cup holder.**

# ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY

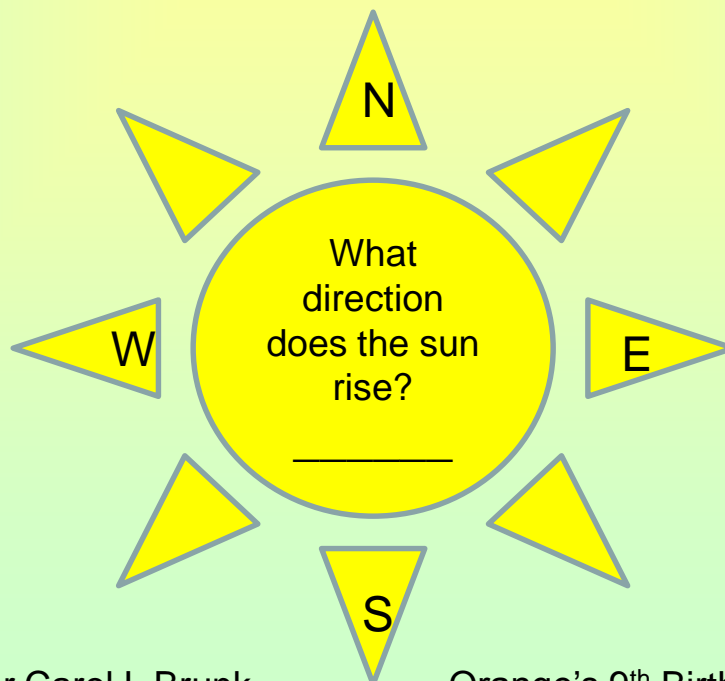
“Well..” Orange said then hesitated. Then he continued, “there’s a soda over there you can have.” Orange pointed to the cup holder closest to his Dad.

“You know Dad,” Orange paused then continued,” I think I’ll wait on the coffee thing until I’m aaaccctttuuuaaalllyyy older to enjoy it.” Orange smiled leaned back into the passenger seat. Dad smiled.

“I think I’ll take the soda instead,” Orange commented as he leaned forward to grab it to try to wake up and keep from yawning. Dad laughed a little.

“Orange, I thought that was my soda?” Dad chuckled a little.

The sun was coming up when they were almost to the lake.





## **Chapter 14**

## **At the Lake**

**“Grab, your pole, son!” Dad yelled as he went down the hill to the dock. Dad had his pole and tackle box in hand. Orange yawned picked up his pole and slowly followed his dad’s path down the hill in the direction of the dock. A bird flew over cawing.**

**“CAW!” “CAW!” “CAW!”**

**“Dad, a black bird?” Orange yelled in question.**

**“No, a crow!” Dad yelled back up the hill toward Orange.**

**“A crow?” Orange yelled back.**

**The crow flew over and landed on the dock.**

**“Nature’s garbage pickers!” Dad yelled cheerfully.**

**“They’re what?” Orange questioned as he neared his Dad on the dock.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**“Nature’s garbage pickers, son,” Dad said smiling. “They eat road kill mostly and anything dead decomposing.” “I call them God’s clean-up crew when I’m not calling them Nature’s garbage pickers.”**

**“Oh, that’s kind of gross, Dad!” Orange said. “Yuck!” “Kind of Cool though Dad!” “Kind of Cool!”**

**The crow flew off the dock.**

**Orange and his Dad put on their life vests on and got in the boat with fishing poles, bait and the cooler.**

**(Draw a crow and look up where they live. This will tell you where the story could take place.)**

## **Chapter 15**

## **At the Lake**

**“You got anything, yet?” Orange asked watching his fishing pole.**

**“Nope,” Dad stated as he looked out over the opposite side of the boat where Orange was fishing.**

**“Me, neither,” Orange was disappointed.**

**“Gonna, catch some craw fish when we dock?” Dad asked.**

**“Maybe, I was hoping for fish,” Orange said.**

**“Craw fish, okay?” Dad asked. “Don’t like’m as much as fish?” Dad laughed. “Don’t worry we haven’t been out here long you’ll catch a fish.”**

**“Uh, Dad!” Orange yelled and was half standing up reaching for his Dad. Orange dropped his fishing pole. It started to slip in the water. Dad dropped his fishing pole in the boat. Dad almost toppled sideways grabbing Orange fishing pole.**

## **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**“The CROW!” Orange yelled without thinking Orange grabbed what was closest to him reaching for the cooler.**

**SPLASH!**

**Orange had toppled over the side.**

**Orange came up floating in his life vest.**

**“Well,” Dad said smiling looking at him from inside the boat.  
”How’s that life vest fit, son?”**

**Orange was spitting out water between his teeth and laughing trying to get the hair out of his eyes with one hand while treading water. “Yuck!” ”That water taste awful,” Orange said.**

**“Son, what’s ya doing with my cap?” Dad asked laughing.**

**“Oh,” Orange said. “Just trying it on Dad.” And Orange slapped the wet cap on his head laughing.**

**“You realize that you missed getting to the cooler?” Dad said smiling and very amused.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**“Dad?” Orange hesitated. “You ain’t got anymore bait left.”**

**“I kind of noticed, son,” Dad said then continued,” I think the crow might be full right now!” “I saw that crow lift off with it when you toppled in the water.” “How’s that life vest fit son?”**

**Dad was smiling then chuckled.**

**“Better yet, how’s my cap fit?” Dad was laughing. Orange smiled, “Dad, how do I get back in the boat?”**

**“Good question, son?” Dad said smiling studying the two fishing poles he had in his hands.**

**“Dad?” “Me in the boat, not the fishing poles,” Orange said.**

**“Dad?” Orange said again.**

**“Mmm...” Dad paused. He looked at the fishing poles. “Aw, what the heck?” Dad said dropped both fishing poles and timbered over backwards from the side of the boat.**

**SPLASH!**

## **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**“Water feels good, Orange,” Dad said as he wiped the wet hair from his eyes floating in the water.**

**“Dad!” “My fishing pole!” Orange yelled.**

**“It’s in the boat, son.”**

**“No, Dad there it goes!” Orange was pointing. Dad looked up in time to see the fishing pole pop up and start to head out of the boat by itself.**

**Whoosh!**

**It toppled in the water and took off. “What the heck!” Dad yelled.**

**“Grab it Dad!” “Dad grab it!”**

**Dad went swimming as fast as he could the fishing pole was going out slowly. It was going for a ride toward the middle of the lake. Dad kept his head up out of the water and swam toward the runaway fishing pole in the water.**

**“Grab it, Dad!” “Grab it!” Orange cheered him on as Orange hung onto the side of the boat floating in his life vest.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**Finally, the fishing pole stopped and Dad grabbed it.**

**“Got it!” Dad yelled. Then the fishing pole tugged while he held it. “Whoa!” Dad leaned back treading water and began to reel in the line. “Thought I had a race horse I was dragging in,” he chuckled to himself.**

**“Orange!” Dad yelled.**

**“Ya, Dad,” Orange yelled back half standing in the boat.**

**“I think you got yourself a fish, son!” Dad yelled.**

**“How big is it?”**

**“Not, sure, son!” “But, I got’em on the line and he’s a handful,” Dad yelled back.**

**“Yahoo!” Orange yelled. “Hey, Dad you want me to reel your line in?” “Since, I’m back in the boat.”**

**“Go for it!” Dad yelled back. Dad started reeling again slowly leaning back and treading back toward the boat. Orange took Dad’s cap off and put it on backwards smiled to himself and began reeling Dad’s fishing pole in. After a little bit...**



## **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**“Hey, Dad it’s stuck!” “ The lines stuck!” Orange yelled pulling on the fishing pole.**

**“I don’t think so, son,” Dad responded.**

**“Why’s that?” Orange yelled.**

**“Well, son something’s pulling on me and I think you caught me!” “Hold onto the fishing pole and stop reeling for a bit.”**

**“So, did I catch you, Dad?” Orange said. He was laughing and holding onto the fishing pole.**

**“I caught my, Dad!” Orange laughed so hard and almost dropped the fishing pole. “I caught my Dad!” Orange laughed some more. “Wait till I tell Peaches I stink!” “I smell like lake water.” Orange laughed.**

**Dad swam up to the boat.**

**“Peaches will probably tell you...you stink,”Dad stated.**

## **Chapter 16 They Arrived at Home**

**“Happy Birthday, Orange!” they all yelled when Orange opened the door. Orange and Dad stood in the doorway soaking wet. Banana ran by them and barked.**

**“Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!”**

**“You stink like the lake!” “Ppee yyyooouuu!” “Stinky..stinky!” Peaches yelled.**

**Dad and Orange laughed.**

**“So, you got another secret now, Peaches!” Orange said then smiled at Peaches.**

**“No don’t tell, okay,” Peaches smiled and cocked her ponytailed head. Then she jumped up and down.**

**“Ssscchoosh!” Peaches said and put her index finger up to her lips and smiled.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**“Ssscchoosh!” she said again and grinned. Then she giggled.**

**“But, I do have a secret, “ Peaches said and took a step forward and motioned to Orange to bend down. Apple, Pear, Mom and Dad stood nearby. Peaches pinched her nose with her index finger and thumb and motioned for Orange to get a little closer. She looked around to be sure everybody was looking, smiled and put her free hand up to the curve of Orange’s ear.**

**“Ssscchoosh!” she said in Orange’s ear a little too loud that made Orange laugh and peaches giggled.**

**“Orange,” she whispered. “You stink!”**

**Orange smiled and was starting to pull away from his ear away. “WAIT!” “I’m not done!” she yelled.**

**“Ouch!” “Peaches!” Orange complained. “Not, so loud.”**

**Orange put his ear back down.**

**“Ok,” Peaches said in a loud whisper that everybody could hear. Again, Peaches looked around to be sure everybody was looking and cupped her free hand around Orange’s ear again.**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**“Ok,” Peaches loudly whispered.**

**Then in a normal voice forgetting to whisper, “My secret is that I got you a birthday surprise.”**

**Then Peaches whispered “Ooops!” “I mean I got you a birthday surprise.”**

**Orange turned his ear away from Peaches hand to look at her face and said, “Really?”**

**“Yah,” Peaches whispered loudly grinning at Orange.**

**“Come on,” Peaches said in her normal voice and grabbed Orange’s hand still holding her index finger and thumb to her nose with a slight pinch. Peaches pulled him into the other room. Apple, Pear, Mom and Dad followed laughing behind him.**

**“Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!”**

**Banana ran into the room.**

**“Banana!” Peaches yelled and dropped Orange’s hand and grabbed Banana. “I got you, Banana!”**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

**Peaches hugged Banana. Banana squirmed a bit but started licking Peaches' face all over. She giggled with delight and almost dropped Banana.**

**"I love you, Banana, "Peaches said while Banana licked her face.**

**"Ok," Apple said. "Hand me Banana so you can give Orange your surprise."**

**"Oh!" Peaches said and cocked her pony tailed head and smiled.**

**"Here," she said handing Banana to Apple. Apple snatched up Banana who started to wiggle and almost dropped Banana.**

**Peaches grabbed something off the table and yanked on Orange's shirt who was looking the opposite way at the cake across the room.**

**"Here," she said. Orange looked at Peaches who put a small wrapped box in his hand. Orange smiled and unwrapped the small box. Carefully, he opened the box and on the inside was the fishing reel that Peaches put on his bed earlier that**

# **ORANGE'S 9TH BIRTHDAY**

morning. Orange started laughing.

“Thanks, Peaches!” Orange said. Then he grabbed Peaches, picked her up and hugged her.

“Oh! No!” Peaches squirmed “You stink!” “You smell like lake water!”

“Now, you do too!” Orange said and hugged her again in his wet smelly lake soaked shirt.

“Woof!” “Woof!” “Woof!”

Banana barked.

“Happy 9th Birthday, Orange!” they yelled together.

“Let’s eat cake!” Orange said.

**THE END!**

## Comprehension Questions

1. What did Orange grab instead of Banana in the neighbor's backyard?
2. What did Banana get locked in on accident?
3. How did Dad get in the water?
4. What was Dad's occupation in the story and how did you know?
5. Who's the garbage picker in the story?
6. Who did Peaches tell a secret the first time?
7. Apple reads what kind of books in the story?
8. Who was at the door when Apple answered it?
9. How many birthday notes did Orange receive?
10. How many notes were in Orange's dresser each time he looked not including the attic?
11. How many days did they celebrate Orange's 9<sup>th</sup> birthday?
12. What was in the attic?
13. How did Pear get a baby rabbit in his hands?
14. Who's muffin?
15. Where could the story possibly take place in the world and how did you find the answer? (mystery question)
16. Where did Peaches find her kazoo? List both places.
17. Who went to the market?
18. What do you need a life vest for?
19. What was the beverage that Orange and his Dad drank in the story?
20. What did the crow take?



## ***IMPORTANT to READ***

**Answers to comprehension questions are supplied throughout the book. The questions are not in order of how you read the book.**

***Clue to the mystery of where the story could take place in the world:  
(see shape to draw a crow)***

The End.

