

# Sam's New Friend

by Nathan Shepard

**Page 3:** One refreshing spring day in a far corner of the world, there lived a bear named Sam. Now Sam was a thoughtful bear; he always encouraged and helped his many friends. On this particular day the cloudless sky and the lovely pine trees dancing to the music of the wind made it a perfect opportunity to ride his bicycle. He had been riding for less than a minute when he saw a baby bird hopping along the ground before him. The little bird hopped to the right and, unfortunately, so did Sam. Sam hit the brakes and turned all the way to the right, spun out of control, and smashed into a tree. "Oh! Nooooo!" *CRASH!!* He looked up and found he had wrecked his bike and mangled his knee. He began to moan.

**Page 4:** About that time, a lonely skunk walked by.

"Stinky," the bear whimpered, "could you help me take my bike home?"

Stinky the skunk laughed. "You crashed your bike into a *tree?!!*" Stinky exclaimed. "You aren't very coordinated, are you? Into a tree!! HA HA HA HA!"

**Page 5:** "*Please* don't make fun of me, Stinky. I really need some help. My leg is hurt and I can't carry this bike home by myself." But Stinky had already left, snickering and laughing all the way, leaving poor Sam to wait for someone else to help him. Luckily, Steady the tortoise, whom Sam had once helped when his shell got cracked, soon wandered by and helped Sam get home.

"I'll help you home with that bicycle through these thick woods on this nice day, so I can help you like you helped me when my shell got cracked on that rock in the river," rambled Steady as he picked up the broken bike.

**Page 6:** The next day, as Sam was walking through a nearby forest to exercise his leg, he heard someone crying. He walked in the direction of the voice until he emerged from the trees to find Stinky crying over a wrecked bike. "Why are you crying?" asked Sam.

**Page 7:** "I just can't ride a bike!" Stinky replied. "I got this new bike three days ago, and I keep crashing it. I keep trying, but I'll never be able to ride it!" Stinky sobbed.

Sam comforted him and said, "Maybe I can help. I could teach you how to ride!"

"I'm willing to try anything!"

**Page 8:** Sam spent the whole afternoon teaching Stinky, and before long, he was riding confidently without any help.

**Page 9:** After the sun had set, Stinky got off his bike and walked over to where Sam was sitting. "I'm sorry about the things I said yesterday. I should have helped you. Thanks for the riding lessons; I couldn't have done it without you."

"That's all right, and you're welcome," said Sam. "If you ever need any more help you can count on me!"