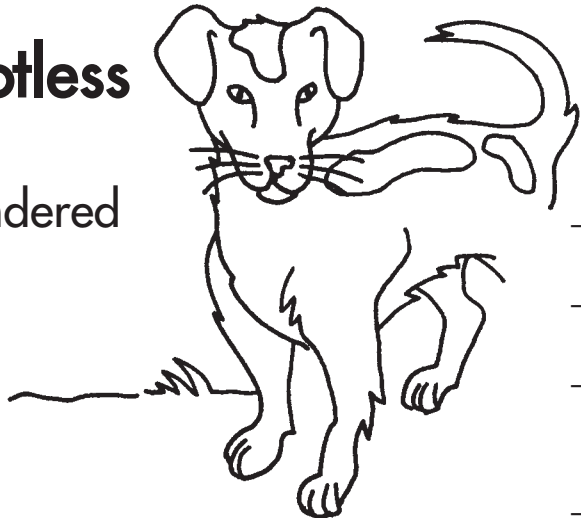


Spotless



One day a small dog wandered into the backyard and wagged his tail. _____ 6
_____ 10
_____ 13

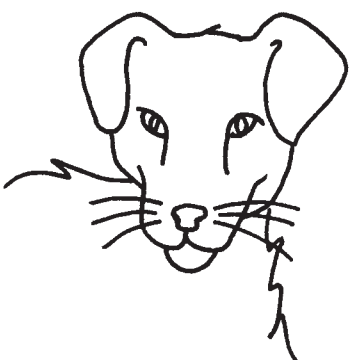
“He doesn’t have tags or a collar,” said Robin. “Maybe he’s homeless or lost. We could place an ad in the paper.” _____ 16
_____ 25
_____ 35

“If he is a homeless, ownerless, friendless little doggy,” said Judy, “then let’s keep him.” _____ 43
_____ 50

“If he stays,” said Dad, “he can’t be nameless. Look at all those spots. How about we call him Spotty?” _____ 60
_____ 70

Just then, the dog fell into the fishpond. _____ 78

“Or Careless,” said Mom, lifting him out. _____ 85



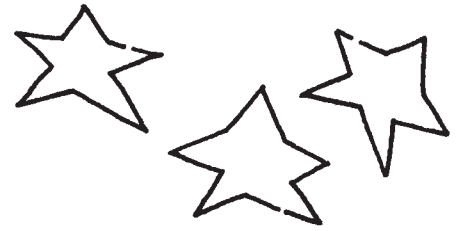
The dog shook off the water and there stood a fluffy white dog. _____ 92
_____ 98

Those spots had been dirt! _____ 103

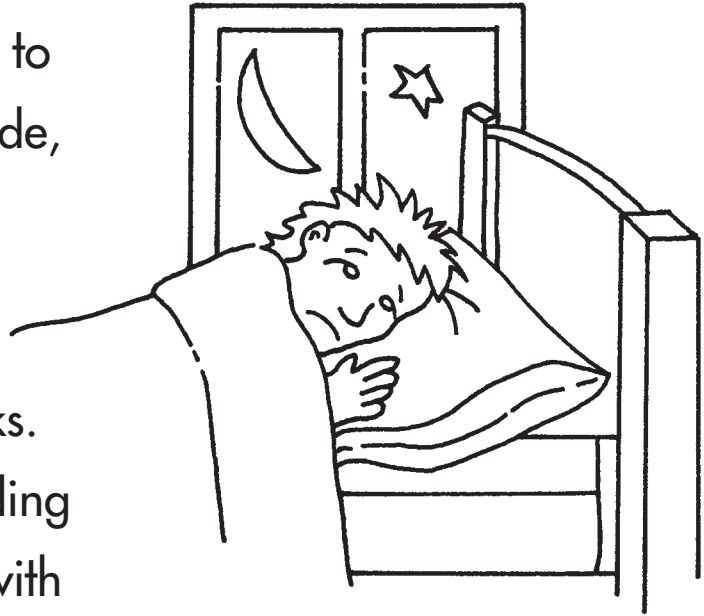
“Spotless!” said Judy, and that was his name from then on. _____ 108
_____ 114



Sleepless



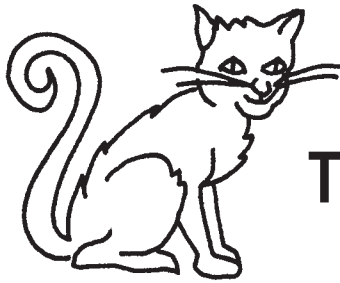
Most nights, going to sleep was painless for Henry. But on this cloudless night, Henry could not sleep. He closed his eyes. He lay on his back, very still. He didn't go to sleep. He lay on his side, very still. He didn't go to sleep.



He tried countless tricks. He tried to sleep standing up. He tried to sleep with a pillow over his face. He tried deep breathing. He tried counting backward. It was useless! He was still restless, tossing and turning, thinking about the endless night, wondering why he couldn't sleep. Why? He felt helpless.

His mom tapped on the door and came in. "Good night, Henry," she said, giving him his good night kiss.

"Good night, Mom," said Henry, drifting into a deep and dreamless sleep.



The Fearless Hunter



Fluffy was restless. He needed to hunt. Soundlessly, the fearless hunter crept up behind the bird. The bird tried to hide in its cage, but that was useless. Fluffy could reach him through the bars.

From the corner of his eye, the bird watched the hunter. "Here comes that brainless cat," thought Gus the parrot.

With effortless grace, the hunter leaped to the table, then to the bookcase, then to the top of the bird's cage. "You are helpless—powerless to escape!" thought Fluffy.



Gus the parrot did what he always did. He gave a loud squawk. Fluffy the cat did what he always did. He leaped away in terror and fell with a harmless THUD!