

A Trip to the State Fair





This book
belongs to: _____

A Trip to the State Fair

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"I'm so excited. I can't wait to go!"
Janie is going to the Illinois State Fair with
her friend Jamal and his parents.



“We’re going to see cows and horses and pigs and baby chicks.
And I want to go on the skyride.”

“Don’t forget to listen to Jamal’s parents . . . and say ‘thank you,’ ” her dad said.
Janie’s dad told her to be a good girl, but she didn’t hear. She was too excited!



“Have fun. Buckle up,” said Janie’s dad. “See you tonight.”
Janie and Jamal waved back at Janie’s dad as they ran to the car.
Today would be a big adventure!



“Look! It’s McGruff the Crime Dog,” said Janie.

“Grrr,” said Jamal. “Take a bite outta crime. He came to our school. Can we go see McGruff?”

Dad? Mom? Can we?” asked Jamal.

“Yeah,” said Janie. “Can we?”

Jamal’s mom, waiting for the red light to turn green and pedestrians to clear the crosswalk, said, “We’ll make McGruff’s tent our first stop, as soon as we park the car.”



“WOW!” said Janie.

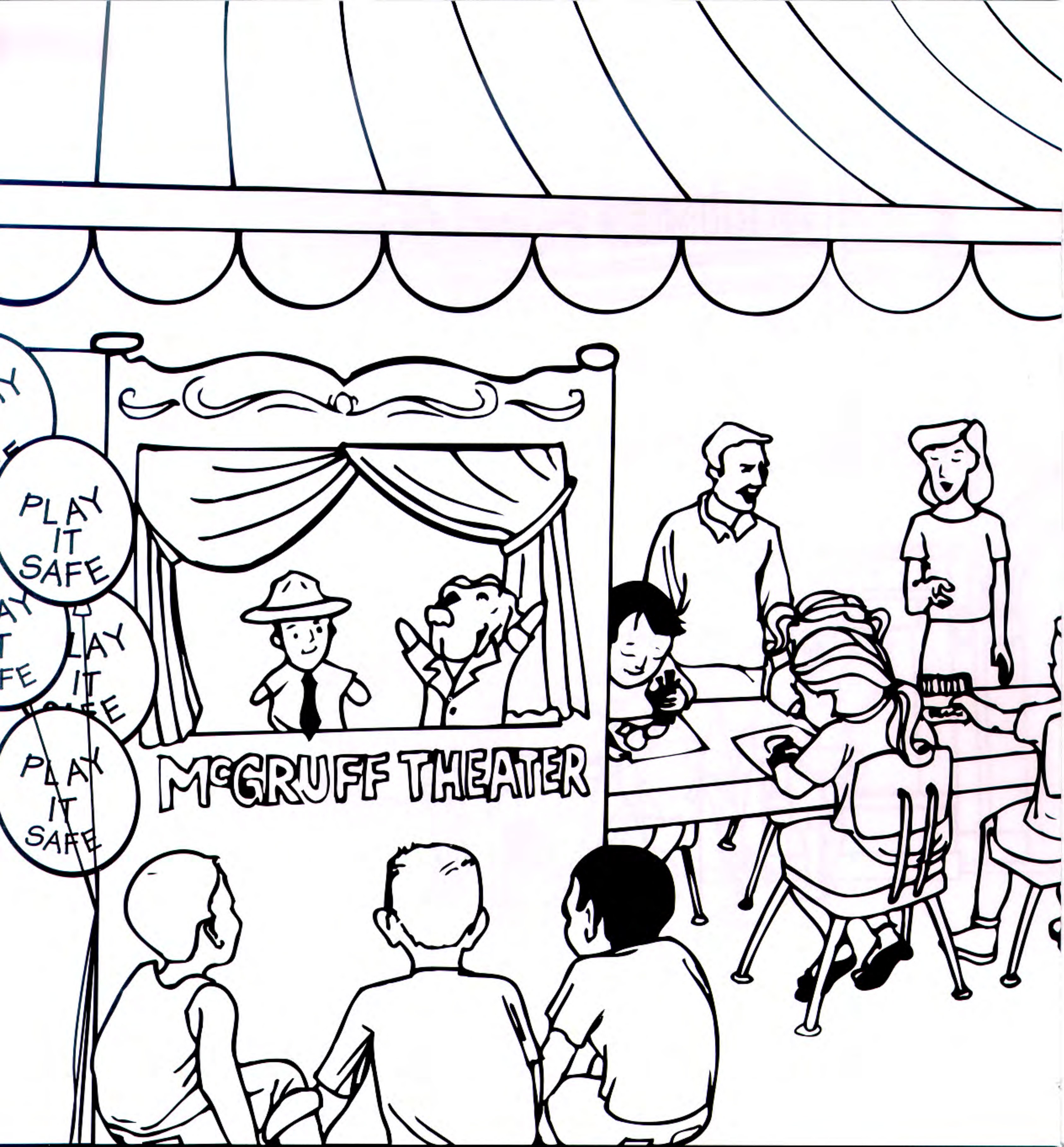
“COOL!” said Jamal.

“That’s just the way I felt when my grandpa brought me here when I was a boy like you Jamal,” said Jamal’s dad.

“And I feel the same way every time I come here.

Did you know the first fair was held in 1853?”

“It’s older than you Dad! And that’s old!” said Jamal.



In the tent they got a balloon that said "Play It Safe," watched a puppet show with McGruff, and they colored signs that said "Stop Violence."



Finally, they got their picture taken with McGruff as a souvenir of the day. They spent so much time drawing and watching and listening and posing that they were hungry when they were ready to leave. As they left the tent, McGruff reminded them to "Play It Safe."



Jamal's dad went to buy food — corn dogs and lemon shake-ups and, Jamal's favorite, curly fries — while Jamal, his mom and Janie went to find a place to sit and eat. It was very crowded. Lots of people were enjoying their day at the fair. Somehow, Janie got separated from Jamal and his mom. They were right there and then they weren't. She called for Jamal but he didn't answer. It was too noisy. She was scared. "What should I do? I can't find my way home! I don't know anyone else here," she said to herself.



Then she remembered what her dad and McGruff had said. "Ask a policeman for help."

So she looked for a policeman.

"My name is Janie, and I'm lost," she told the State Trooper.

"Will you help me find my friend Jamal and his mom and dad?"

"Of course," he answered.



“May I have your attention,” boomed a voice over the public address system. “Would Jamal and his mom and dad please meet Janie and Trooper Friendly at the McGruff tent?” Jamal and his mom and dad were relieved. Janie was surprised to hear her name announced to everyone at the fair. She knew she’d get home safely now.



Jamal and his mom and dad were happy to see Janie and Trooper Friendly. Trooper Friendly said Janie did the right thing. She stayed calm and asked a policeman for help. Janie said she'd be very careful to stay close to Jamal and his parents. Being lost was very scary for her and she wanted to be sure it didn't happen again.



On they went to see the pigs and chicks and horses and cows,
and then to get an ice cream cone at the dairy barn.
What a wonderful day full of fun and adventure!



