

# Teddy's Cousin, Horace



The sequel to *Teddy's Wonderful Life*

**Ettie Bryce**

*Illustrated by*  
**Drus Sison**

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## Foreword by Philip Brady OAM

As you pick up an Ettie Bryce book, you are transported to a magic place. Her children's books inspired us long before J. K. Rowling appeared on the scene. As your thumb throngs the pages, it's like a trip to Disneyland.

Ettie's verses and prose inspire us and lift our spirits.

A tireless charity worker, Ettie, in her twilight years, devotes love and compassion in every line she writes.

I am proud to call her my friend.

Get to know her yourself in these pages.  
You will enjoy the experience.

*Dedicated to sick children everywhere.*

*May this book help to spread joy, happiness, and love.*

## About the author ... and the story of Horace.



Ettie Bryce with Horace  
(photographed in 2018)

Ettie Bryce was born in the 1930s. She never dreamed she would ever be a writer. She left school at the age of fourteen to join the workforce. While she would have loved to further her schooling, in those days, unless money was plentiful or parents strongly valued education, many children left school early. At seventeen, Ettie was engaged to be married and by twenty was raising a family.

Life was not easy for Ettie, but she was a strong, healthy young woman. She led a very busy life, caretaking and supporting her children and husband. However, right from the start, health was an issue within the family. She spent many months going back and forth to hospitals, where she saw firsthand the pain and suffering of young children. Their suffering brought her great sadness and concern, and embedded in her a strong desire to make a difference.

Ettie's interest in writing surfaced in 1988, with the birth of her first grandchild. She began writing short poems for each milestone. As more grandchildren came along, so did more poems and stories. Some of these poems can be found in her collection - *RAINBOWS* - published in 2010.

Ettie's involvement in the lives of her young grandchildren rekindled her memories and desire to help children in need, particularly those sick in hospital. She recalled their pain and anxiety, but also those special moments, like the miraculous effects a child's laugh or smile had on those around them.

It is these experiences that inspired the TEDDY stories. HORACE now joins his cousin TEDDY on the journey with these young children, as a companion and friend to share their feelings, their fears and to bring some joy into their hearts.

In 1993, Ettie was struck down with a serious illness which affected her mobility and independence. She was always a very active person and loved the outdoors. But through her illness and disability, life changed course. Now her daily routine had become a mesh of hospitals, doctors, and being housebound. She grieved for her past life and the simple activities that gave her pleasure and independence.

Ironically, had Ettie's life not changed in this tragic way, her writing talent would never have blossomed. A friend encouraged Ettie to share some of her poems at a local community group which regularly visited nursing homes. Twelve years later, she had written well over 1000 poems, prayers and children's stories. Ettie was connecting with people and alleviating suffering in ways that she would never have imagined.

Sadly, circumstances changed again a few years later. Her health continued to deteriorate and in 2014, Ettie lost her eyesight. With assistance and computer technology, she has written some pieces, but her continuous flow of words has been curbed. Nevertheless, Ettie hasn't given up. She has since become personally involved with Vision Australia, where her books have been recorded and converted into audio books and Braille.

Ettie's writing reveals compassion, insight and humour in the face of life's challenges. Her concern for the suffering of others reaches out to all creatures on the planet, particularly to the welfare of children and animals. She continues to support causes to bring positive awareness and change.

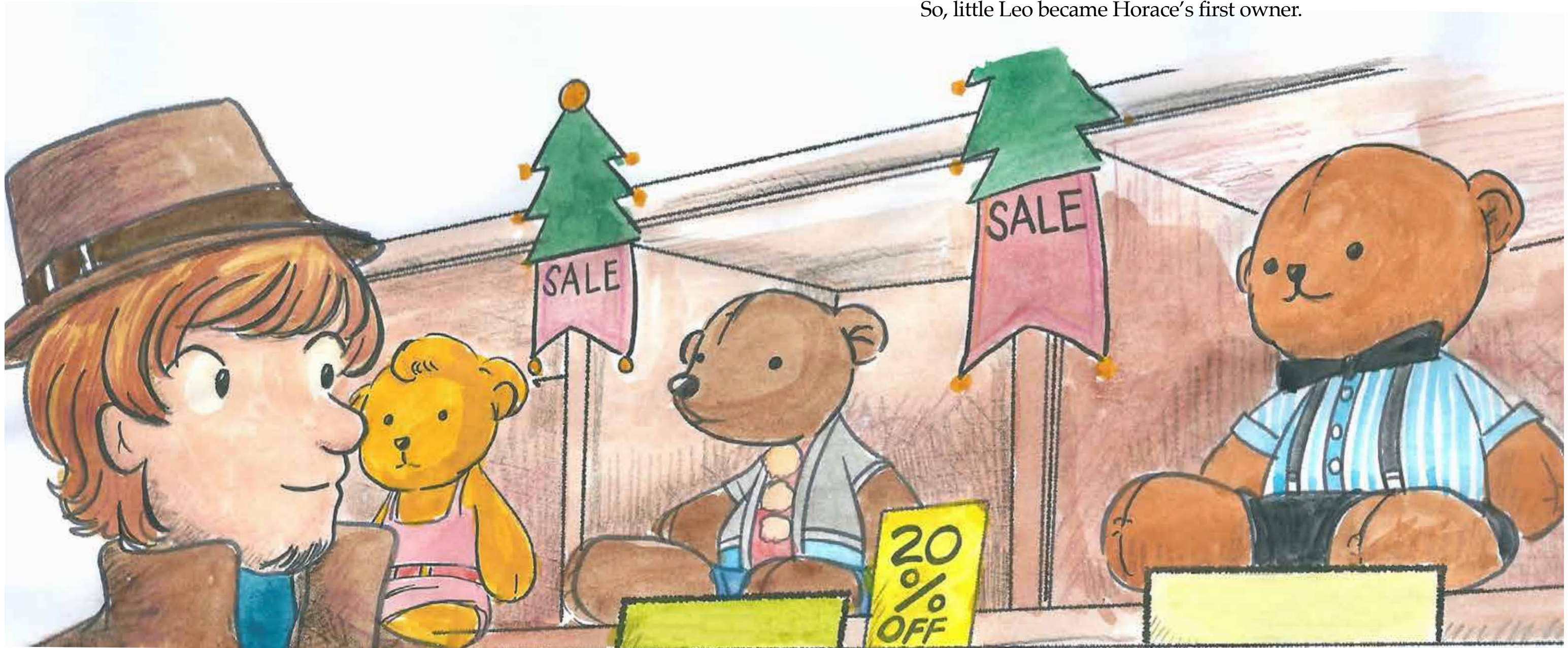
*TEDDY'S COUSIN, HORACE* is a touching story about empathy and caring for others. No matter the circumstances of life, there is always love and joy to be found and shared, sometimes in the most unexpected ways.

**Horace began life** at the Teddy Bear store.

He was there with all the other bears, hoping to find a happy home.

**One day,** a man came into the store. Looking around, he saw a friendly-looking bear wearing suspenders and a bowtie, sitting on the shelf. The man decided to buy the bear as a Christmas present for Leo, his three-year-old son.

So, little Leo became Horace's first owner.



**But** Leo had lots of toys.

As he grew older, he gathered more and more.

The years went by and there was no longer any time for Horace, who sat up on the windowsill, all alone.





**Teddy**, Horace's cousin had a very different life.

Over the years, Teddy had lived in many different homes, and his owners always cared for him so much. Teddy was always happy and well-loved wherever he went.

**Poor Horace** was not so lucky.

Horace couldn't remember much of his early years, but he did remember feeling quite lonely.

He had only ever lived at Leo's house.

**One day**, Horace had a pleasant surprise.

Leo came into the playroom, picked up Horace, and took him to the park to play.

Horace had so much fun that afternoon. He even had a ride on the swing.





**After a while**, Leo's mother said it was time to leave. Leo was so excited to go home to watch his favourite cartoons that he forgot all about his bear and left him on the bench.

Hours went by but no one came to collect Horace.

It started to rain.

**A huge thunderstorm** rolled through the park, leaving Horace soaking wet.

The next day, Leo finally remembered his little bear. Leo went back to the park to get him, and there he was, lying on the muddy ground.

After spending all night outside in the storm, Horace looked terrible.



**Leo** told his mother that he would get rid of Horace.

“I’ve got lots of other toys”, he said.

He didn’t want a dirty, old teddy bear. He wanted to play with his racing cars and video games.

Leo’s mother sighed. She rinsed off the mud and pegged Horace on the clothesline to dry.



**The next day**, Horace was put in a charity bag and donated to sell at the local school fete.

On the day of the fete, a young boy, Evan and his friend Jonathan, went along to join their friends at the school. Each of them was given \$5.00 for the day to spend on treats and rides.

As the boys were leaving the school, they passed a stall with old books and toys. Evan noticed a rather sad-looking teddy bear on the table.





“**How much** is this bear?” Evan asked the lady who ran the stall.

“How much money do you have?” she asked.

Evan looked in his pockets and found his last 20 cents. He explained to the lady that he and Jonathan had spent the rest of their money at the fete.

The lady saw the sad look on Evan’s face and said,

“Well, I’m packing up now. It’s nearly 5 o’clock. You can have him for 20 cents.”

**Evan was thrilled.** He cuddled the bear and he and Jonathan ran back to the car to go home with his family.

“Look what I bought!” he exclaimed to his grandma, showing her his new friend.

“I think I’ll name him Horace!”



**That night**, Evan was looking forward to going to bed early and taking Horace with him.

“Oh no! Horace can’t sleep in the bed yet!” said grandma. “He needs a good wash first, with disinfectant.”

So, she gave him a lovely, warm bath and took him out to dry.

**Evan was disappointed** that he had to wait another day to cuddle with his new friend.

He slept over at grandma’s place and went home the next day.

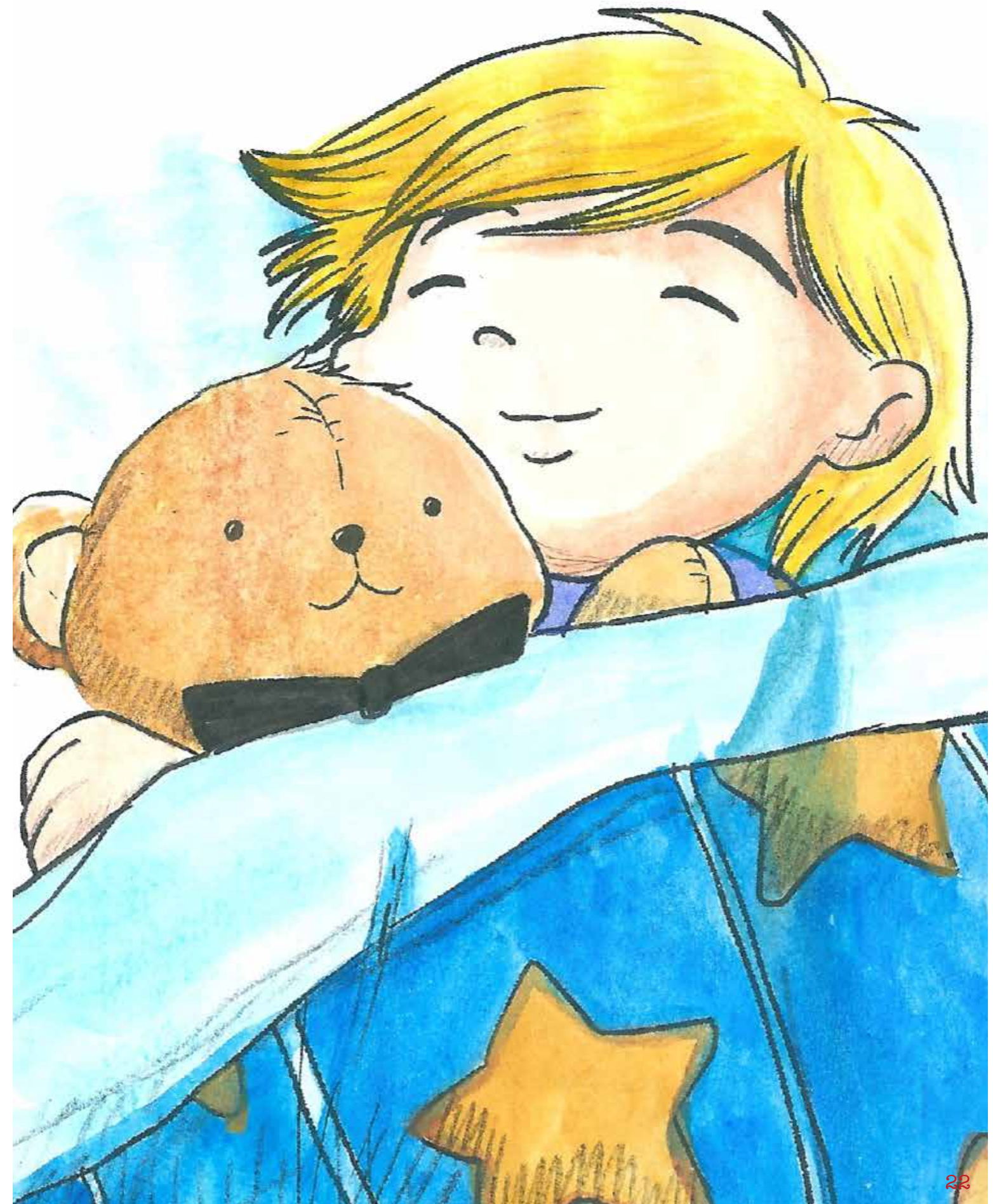


**When Evan came home** from school, he went into his room and there was Horace waiting on the bed.

Evan gave him a big hug and started talking to him. He realised that Horace was a very intelligent bear.

His mum could hear voices in Evan's room. As there was no one else in the room, she wondered who Evan was talking to.

Maybe he'd come home with a friend, she thought.



**Then, the door opened** and Evan came out with Horace. He sat down on a chair, put Horace on his knee and started talking to him.

“Horace, do you like Brussels sprouts? Do you like music?” he said.

Horace answered, “Oh, I love music, but I don’t like Brussels sprouts!”

Evan’s mum burst out laughing. Horace was delighted that someone was finally spending time with him and getting to know him.



**Evan and Horace** became the best of friends. Horace would sit on Evan’s knee and they would have many great conversations.

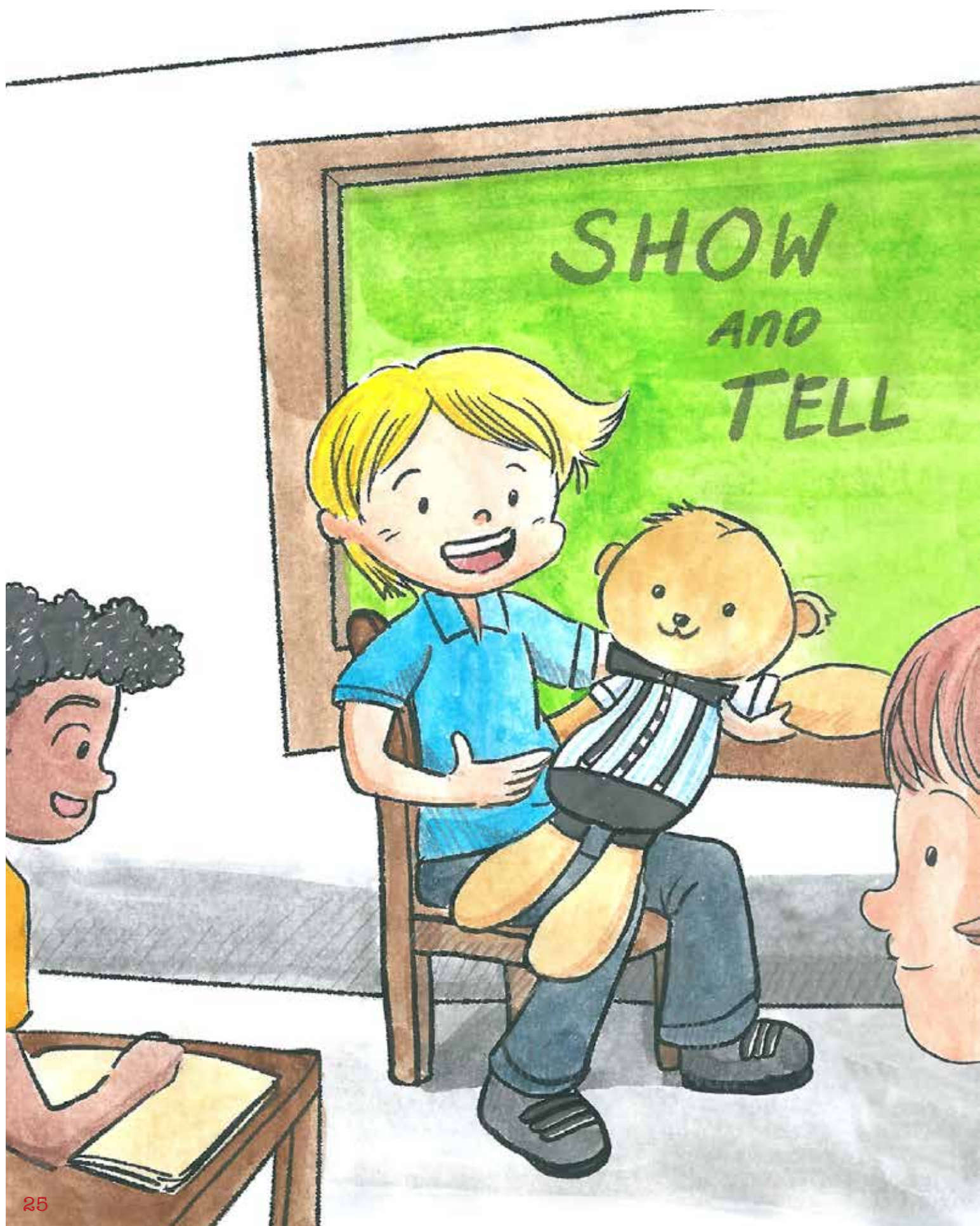
Sometimes, Horace would even sing along while Evan played guitar.

They became a perfect double act - a ventriloquist act, where, with Evan’s help, Horace was able to speak.

They would perform for family and friends, singing, telling jokes, and making them laugh.







**On Monday**, it was Evan's turn in class for SHOW AND TELL. He decided to take Horace. He put him in a bag and brought him to school.

Evan was nervous to perform in front of his schoolmates but his teacher told him that everything would be okay.

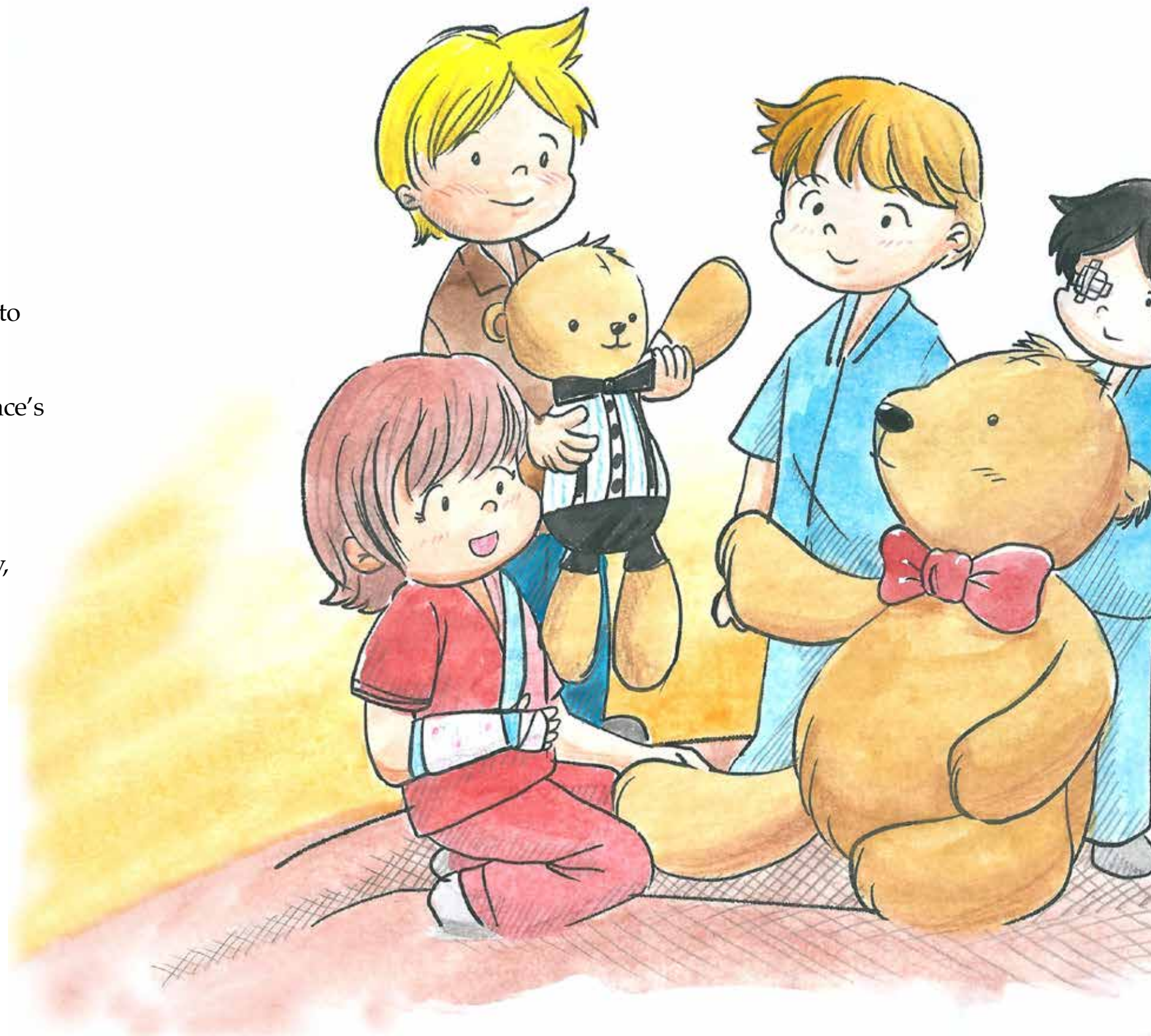
Evan and Horace performed their routine and the class laughed and clapped.

They were a hit! Horace beamed with pride. He'd never had so much attention.

**Some** weeks later, Evan took Horace with him to visit his friend Oscar, who was sick in the hospital.

They walked into a large room of children. To Horace's surprise, there sat his cousin, Teddy. He had been living with the children at the hospital, enjoying a wonderful life.

Evan and Horace made lots of new friends that day, but time went by so quickly. So, Evan promised Oscar and the other children that they would come back again very soon.

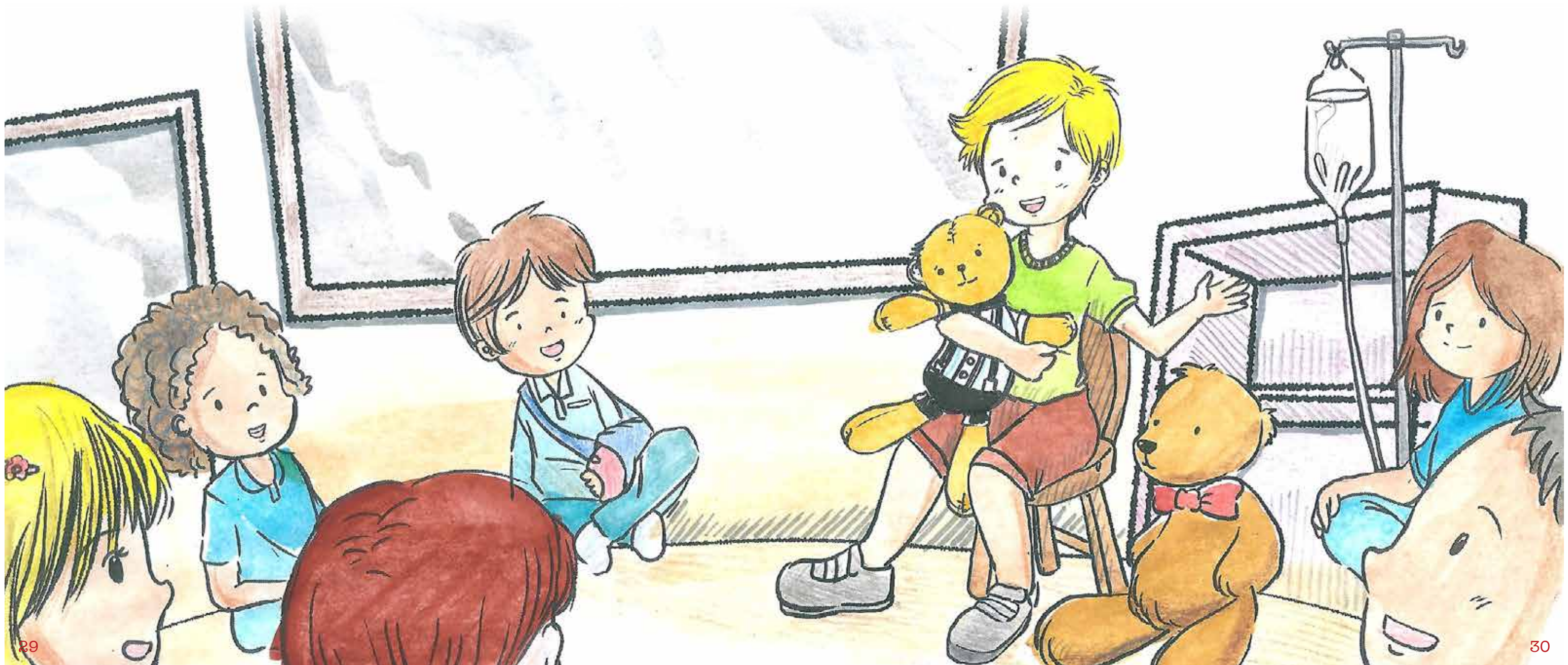


**On their next visit**, Evan and Horace entertained the children with their chatter, jokes and singing. Everybody loved it.

Evan and Horace became regular visitors at the hospital. The children were always so excited to see them.

**Horace looked forward** to these visits too. He was so happy seeing a smile on the face of a little boy or girl.

He knew what it was like to feel sad. But that seemed a long time ago.



**Horace** was a happy bear.

In his early life, Horace was often quite lonely.

But now he was never lonely. He was always surrounded by friends.

He had a special friend, Evan, who loved and cared for him, and he had found his cousin, Teddy.

But most importantly, Horace had a job to do. A special and very important job - to entertain the children and bring joy into their lives.

Teddy was incredibly proud of his young cousin and all the children loved Horace so much.

But there was one boy who loved that little bear more than anyone else did.

Evan had found a new best friend and both he and Horace couldn't be happier.



*Who would believe that a 20c bear  
could make so many people so happy!*

# Acknowledgements

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To all, I give thanks.

Ettie



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*"Ettie Bryce is an **inspiration**.*

*Take a magic carpet ride into her vivid imagination as she generously opens up her treasure trove of poems and stories."*

- Philip Brady OAM, Radio 3AW

