

The Twins' Tunnel Trouble

Some twins are the best of friends, whilst others (like Susie and Patrick) were perhaps more like the worst of enemies! Susie was a lively, adventurous girl with a wild imagination, who would always be off outdoors leading adventures and misbehaving. Patrick was the complete opposite and was a quiet, shy boy, who liked to keep his imagination fixed on the books he read and the drawings he created. Often, people were amazed that they were even related! Susie's favourite past-time was to pester, annoy and criticise her brother. She would hunt for spiders to put in Patrick's hair to make him cry, jump out from a hiding place when he was least expecting it and deliberately destroy his favourite books and paintings. When things like this happened, Patrick would scream until he was blue in the face and they would most likely end up in a heap on the floor fighting like cat and dog. Dad was sick of having to disentangle them. Would they ever learn to get along?

One morning during the summer holidays, Susie and Patrick were in the middle of a particularly nasty disagreement over which TV channel they wanted to watch.

"Stop it at once!" roared Dad.

His face was like a raging bull. He breathed heavily as his twins' behaviour would often horrify him. Since they had never seen dad so furious before, the children stood bolt upright. Dad, who didn't know how much more of this horrendous behaviour he could tolerate, told both of them to go and play outside immediately.

"Can't you try to find some common ground where you could at least pretend to get along?" pleaded Dad.

Seconds later, Susie headed out of the door like an adventurer off to explore new worlds. She had been pestering to be allowed to go outside all day anyway.

"Pigs might fly before we ever like each other," muttered Patrick as he reluctantly picked up his coat and trudged out into the garden.

Once outside, Patrick called out to Susie, "Where are you? Are we going to at least try?"

"Grrrrrrrrrr!" roared Susie as she jumped out at him from behind a rubbish bin.

After his fright, Patrick stared at his twin sister with intense hatred and he knew instantly there was no point in them trying to make friends and find something in common – like dad had suggested – because they were as different as chalk and cheese! He was so engrossed in his thoughts that he hadn't even noticed Susie run off out of their backyard and, not wanting to be left alone, he knew he better follow her.

When he had caught up, he found Susie peering into a dark, brick-red tunnel with no light coming from the other side.

"Let's go, scaredy cat!" called Susie before she rapidly disappeared into the tunnel.

Patrick froze in horror. He wasn't scared but he definitely wasn't going to follow his stupid sister, he told himself. However, it was starting to get dark and Patrick was scared of being left alone. Resentfully, the young boy entered into the pitch-black passageway.