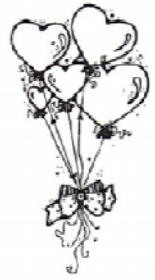


Henry and Mudge and Mrs. Hopper's House

What will Henry and Mudge find at Mrs. Hopper's house?



A Sweetheart Dance

Valentine's Day was coming. Henry and his big dog Mudge loved Valentine's Day because of the candy. They liked the candy hearts that said "You're swell" and "Oh, dear" and things like that. Henry read the words, and Mudge licked them off. They were a good team.

On this Valentine's Day Henry's father and Henry's mother were going to a Sweetheart Dance. Henry and Mudge would be staying with Mrs. Hopper.

Mrs. Hopper lived across the street in a big stone house with droopy trees and dark windows and a gargoyle on the door.

Henry liked Mrs. Hopper. But he did not like her house.

"Are you sure Mudge and I can't come to the Sweetheart Dance?"

Henry asked his father.

"Only if you both promise to wear a tuxedo and shiny black shoes and waltz to 'The Blue Danube'" said Henry's father.

Henry looked at Mudge and tried to imagine him in a tuxedo and shiny black shoes, waltzing to "The Blue Danube."

"I think we'd better go to Mrs. Hopper's," Henry said.

"Good idea," said Henry's father.

"Because Mudge only knows how to tap-dance," Henry said with a grin.

Costumes

Mrs. Hopper wasn't like anyone Henry had ever met. She played the violin for him. She served him tea. She told him about her father, who had become a famous actor.

She was very kind to Mudge. She cooked him a bowl of oatmeal and gave him his own loaf of French bread. After the tea and music and oatmeal, Mrs. Hopper took them upstairs. She opened a room that had been her father's.

"Wow!" said Henry. The room was full of costumes. There were silk capes and tall hats and shiny coats. There were canes and swords and umbrellas. There were wigs. Mrs. Hopper put a wig on Mudge.

"You look like a poodle, Mudge!" said Henry.

Mudge wagged and wagged.

Henry and Mudge and Mrs. Hopper spent most of the evening in the costume room. They had a wonderful time.

And when Henry's parents came back from the dance, were they ever surprised. Mudge was a poodle, and Henry was a man! Henry wore a tuxedo and a hat and shiny black shoes.

"I bet you didn't know I was this handsome," Henry told his dad. And everyone laughed and laughed.