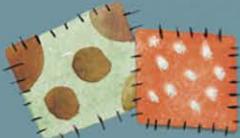


Sammy



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY

May Justus



Sammy

Sammy's mind wasn't on his work. He was thinking about something far away from this corn patch—about three things, to tell the truth.

The first thing was a pair of new shoes that cost two dollars. The second thing was a pair of new blue britches that cost one dollar. The third thing was a blue-and-white striped shirt that cost one dollar. Four dollars in all. Sammy sighed deeply.

Even his best shirt and britches were so patched up they looked like a crazy quilt.

Sammy's dream is to have new clothes for Last Day of School, for he has a special part in the program! He will sing and play his banjo in front of all the people.

Sammy is a heartwarming tale of a little boy who dares to dream, works hard to accomplish his goals, and is blessed with kindness from others.





The Pennybacker's cabin



THERE WAS A LITTLE TREE



Sammy

The Pennybackers were planting corn in the patch below their cabin.

Pappy Pennybacker was behind his plow, laying off the rows.

Mammy Pennybacker was dropping in the kernels, four at a time.

Sammy followed his mother, covering the shining kernels with his hoe.

But Sammy's mind wasn't on his work. He was thinking about something far away from this corn patch—about three things, to tell the truth.

The first thing was a pair of new shoes that cost two dollars.

The second thing was a pair of new blue britches that cost one dollar.

The third thing was a blue-and-white striped shirt that cost one dollar.

Four dollars in all. Sammy sighed deeply. He had seen all three of these things last Saturday in a big store at Far Beyant. Far Beyant was five miles away on Yon Side of the mountain. He and Pappy sold wood and kindling there sometimes, when they were lucky. Then they brought home flour for biscuit bread, a small sack of sugar (so they could have pie for a treat on Sunday), a box of soda, or a poke of salt.

There was never money for new clothes till berry-picking time in the summer. Again Sammy sighed. If only he could have fine new clothes for the Last Day of School. Folks came from near and far for the program on Last Day. All the children had pieces to speak and songs to sing. It was going to be a wonderful occasion.

This year Sammy had something special to do on the program—a song to sing while he played his banjo. It was a funny old song all right. He had picked it up, little by little, by hearing folks sing one verse of it at a time. Now he had learned it all by heart, and he was going to surprise everyone.

Thinking of that surprise, Sammy chuckled to himself. Then the smile left his face. He'd look like a scarecrow, like as not. Even his best shirt and britches were so patched up they looked like a crazy quilt.

As for shoes, he had none—none at all. They had worn out with the winter. He had turned barefoot a month ago while the frost still nipped his toes. He didn't mind so mighty much for himself, that is. He was used to the feel of going barefoot most of the year. But the looks of it—that was a different thing. There



wasn't one of the other children who would be barefoot on the Last Day of School.

If only Pappy and Mammy had money enough to send to the mail order house! Some of the boys and girls had already ordered brand new clothes out of the wish book. Packages from the mail order company had already come.

This minute a wish book was lying on the shelf in the Pennybacker's cabin. In it there were

