

✻Ulster Bank

Farm Safety Short Story Competition

Winning Entries


**BALMORAL
SHOW 2016**
BALMORAL PARK
11th -13th MAY
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Mr Brambles is a hedge sprite
who lives at Riverside Farm.

Normally a hedge sprite is
busy ripening blackberries or
making flowers smell wonderful.

However on a farm danger
is never too far away and a
hedge sprite's magic can be
just the thing to save the day!

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The Magical Hedge Sprite

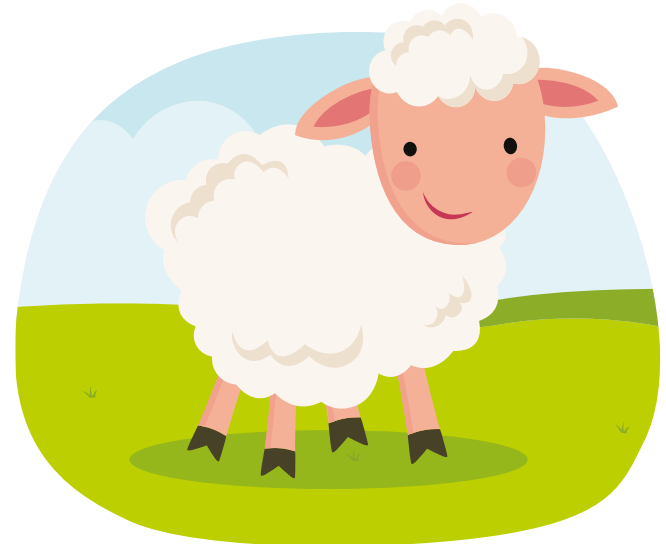
by Clidhna McTague, aged 10

St Patrick's Primary School, Rasharkin



One sunny day in April, out in the meadows Sinead and I were making daisy chains, when we saw an old farm in the distance. “Let’s go and check it out”, Sinead said, so off we went to investigate.

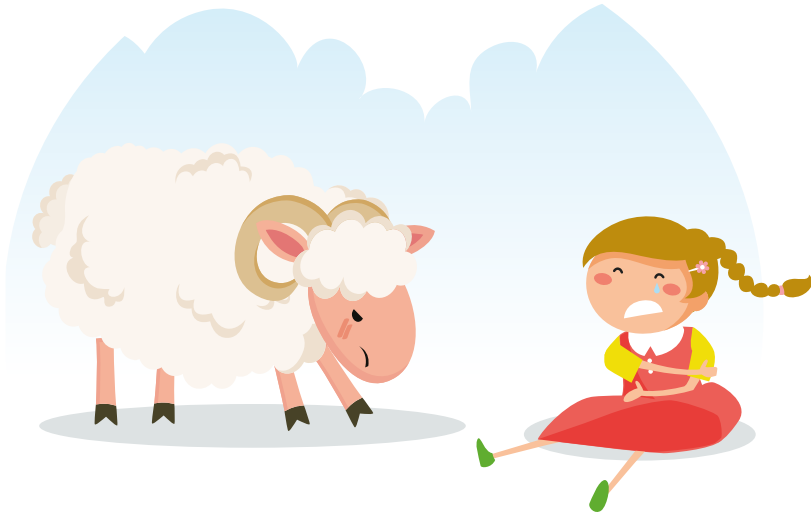
When we got there, we saw a baby lamb, “How cute!” said Sinead and we went over to it. We started petting it.



Suddenly a ram was beginning to charge at us. We started to run but it was too late, the ram had charged into Sinead and she had fallen really badly.

She was covered in cuts and bruises. So I remembered what a boy called Mr Brambles said “Call me 3 times when you’re in trouble”. So we called Mr Brambles.

“Mr Brambles, 1, 2, 3, Mr Brambles come and save me”.



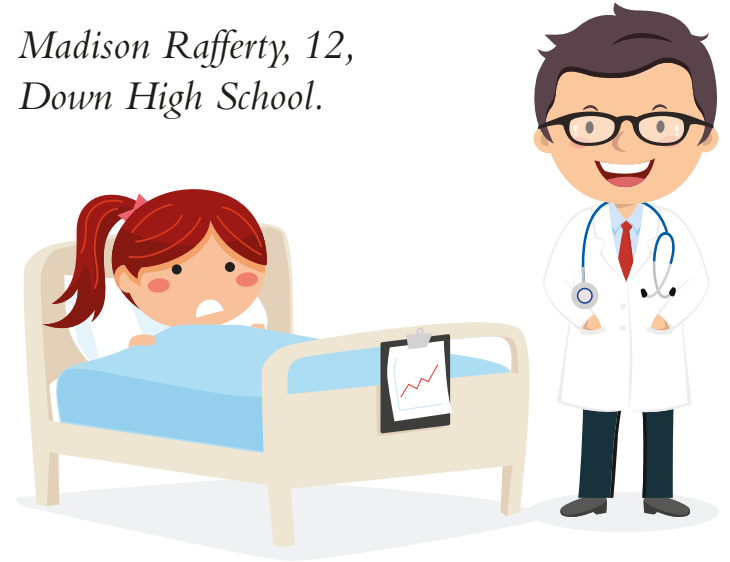
Then suddenly Mr Brambles appeared as quick as you can say “Little daisy chains”. He asked “What has happened you two?” and I explained that we were petting a lamb and a ram came and charged at us and hurt Sinead. “You shouldn’t be going near a little lamb when there is a ewe or a ram, because they are protecting their young. It is dangerous. Got it?”



We both said “Yes”. Then he sprinkled some rainbow dust over Sinead and her cuts were healed and she was better again. Before Mr Brambles left he reminded us to be farm safe, and to stay farm safe. We thanked Mr Brambles and he returned to his magical hedge, and Sinead and I knew how to stay safe on the farm.

A near miss on the Farm

*Madison Rafferty, 12,
Down High School.*



I woke up to a constant beeping sound and the noise of people running in the corridor...

“How are you feeling Madison?” asked the man in the white coat, whose name I later found out was Dr Watson, “You had a pretty lucky escape.”



My throat was sore and I found it difficult to speak but I managed a weak, “I’m fine.”

“Take a sip of water and tell me what happened” said Dr Watson smiling.

“Well” I started, “The last thing I remember was Mr Brambles pulling me and my sister out of the slurry tank, but it all started earlier that morning... We woke up to see, out of the window, that it was a glorious day: a bright blue sky with a gleaming medallion as its centre.

We decided it would be a great day to play in the fields of our Dad’s Farm; so we bounced out of bed, got dressed, ran downstairs, had breakfast as fast as we could, grabbed two bottles of water and sprinted out the door.

We ran around in the fields doing cartwheels and handstands, we were having such a marvellous time.



I remember reaching for the water that I had left on the wall; I was running too fast and tripped over the wall. I almost fell into the slurry tank when my sister grabbed my hand, she tried to stop me falling but instead she fell in too. We both screamed for help, my heart was beating fast, I couldn't breathe properly; I couldn't see anything my eyes stung. The smell was choking me and all I could hear was screaming but worst of



all was the look on my sister's face as she sunk into the slurry.

Suddenly, Mr Brambles grabbed us and yanked us out of the tank; I banged my head against the edge of the tank and woke up here."

"You're lucky Mr Brambles came along when he did. But you do live on a farm and you should know better than to play near slurry. Anyway I've got something that might cheer you up" said Dr Watson. He opened the door and in came my sister who walked straight over to me and gave me a hug.



Watch out, danger about!

*Meredith Johnston, 7,
Tempo Primary School*



It was a cold wet day on Bramble tree farm. Meredith and Tamzin decided that they would play super heroes in the hay barn. They were having a great time chasing each other amongst the bales and pretending they could fly.

“I bet I could fly from the top of this pile!”

“Do not! That’s dangerous!” said Meredith.





Suddenly there was a flash!
Mr Brambles, the magical
hedge sprite appeared!

“Yes Meredith, you should not
be jumping or playing on bales!”

“Thank you Mr Brambles, I tried
to tell her” said Meredith.

“Go and play in your safe garden
children, have fun and take care”
said Mr Brambles.

“Thank you for helping us keep
safe!” said the girl and they skipped
off happily having learnt their lesson.



Tim's Farm

*Timothy Gilmore, 10,
Gorran Primary School*



My name is Mr Brambles and I live on Tim's Farm. I am going to tell you all about farm safety, as it is very important. It can be a dangerous place, especially if you've never been on one before. The first thing I'm going to do is tell you all a very important story.

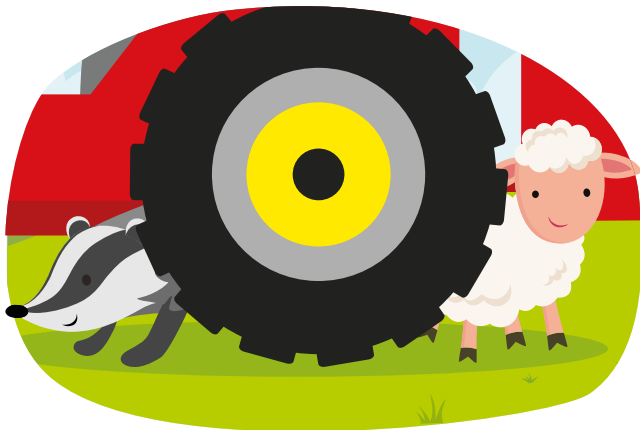
It was a lovely day during the summer, when my friends Rob Rabbit, Betty Badger, Fiona Fox, Lily Lamb and Peter Pig were out playing in Tim's pasture. Tim was out on his tractor attending to Caithlin Cow and her calf, called Caroline.

The tractor had a link box on the back, so Rob Rabbit decided it was a good idea to play 'Hide 'n' seek'.



We agreed as the sun was smiling down upon us, it was a wonderful plan. I counted to fifty, before finding them.

In the distance I could hear Peter Pig snorting with laughter, he was in the hedge and a leaf was tickling him! Next I found Betty Badger and Lily Lamb behind the tractor wheel. I was very cross with them as a tractor wheel is very large compared to them. If Tim had started to drive away, it could have killed them.



Fiona Fox came out of her hiding place at the moment as the tractor had started up and Tim jumped out. Tim packed away his veterinary equipment, and checked upon Caithlin Cow and Caroline Calf again. He happened to notice me flying around and gave me a hearty wave before driving off.

Fiona Fox was badly shaken and looked frightened as the tractor scared her when it started up. We agreed that they were quite big and frightening. All of a sudden we heard a loud “CLANG!”



Rob Rabbit was in the link box, when it had suddenly become loose. Rob Rabbit was trying to get out but it was no use. I had to think quickly when a magic spell came into my head.

“Up and away, fix the loose tray”.

Rob Rabbit must have felt the magic working as he then jumped out of the link box, like a bird from a tree. I then began to tell my friends about the dangers of farm equipment, as it could fall and seriously injure or kill them.

The driver also doesn't see you, so you must always be on the look out!



AgriKids makes it fun for children to learn about farm safety and discover all there is to love about rural life.

To learn more about our products and what we do, visit AgriKids.ie.

Tales from Riverside Farm

A new way to teach farm safety to children.



For details where to buy, visit AgriKids.ie.

According to recent figures from The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and The Farm Safety Partnership, since 2000 there have been over 100 farm related fatalities and a call for improvement is needed.

These figures show that now more than ever, education has a centrally important role to play in encouraging children to be aware and think safe on the farm. That's why at Ulster Bank we are pleased to work with AgriKids, Balmoral Show and The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland to help to support the production of this new resource to educate children on the importance of staying farm safe.

Get more information on farm safety:
www.hseni.gov.uk/topic/farm-safety

Help for what matters

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