

Mr. Ducky Wucky

BARK & The Ducktown Dog Show



Glenn Colton | Creator & Storyteller

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To the real Bella, the Cockapoo,
who was born on January 2nd, 2009 in Barker, NY.



Mr. Ducky Wucky, BARK & the Ducktown Dogshow
Written and performed by Glenn Colton
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Introduction –

**This is a story about ducks steering their lives
in a direction that they want to go.**

BARK represents four uncomplicated life principles that illustrate how ducks, and all living creatures, can accomplish anything that they place their attention on.

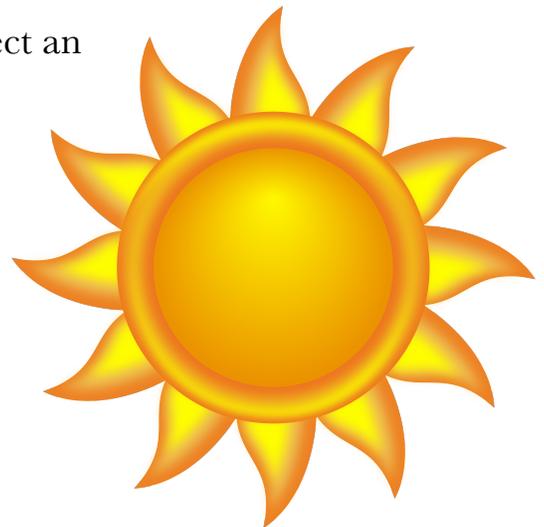
As the story unfolds, each letter in the word BARK is presented individually as its own lesson. There is, however, another way to enjoy the word BARK and steer your reading experience in a direction that you want it to go.

When the four letters in BARK are presented together, they can be used as a teaching tool to start a discussion about any character trait under the sun.

The letters “B” and “K” represent choices that affect an individual, and choices that affect others, respectively. The letters “A” and “R” represent choices that affect the health of an individual’s body and choices that affect the health of an individual’s mind and spirit, respectively.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy sharing this story with the “young’uns” in your life.

After all, BARK is meant to be shared.



The Four Life Principles of BARK

B - (Be Prepared)

Choices that affect an **individual**.

A - (Always Give Your Body What It Needs)

Choices that affect the health of an individual's **body**.

R - (Relax in Silence)

Choices that affect the health of an individual's **mind and spirit**.

K - (Choose Kindness)

Choices that affect **others**.

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Be Prepared for tomorrow
Always Give Your Body What it Needs
Relax in Silence, make more time for
Kindness, with love and confidence I will proceed
I will succeed.

Glenn Colton

Foreword

I had been driving all day. Up ahead, a sign read: WELCOME TO DUCKTOWN. Did I read that right? Ducktown? It looked like a nice place to stop and rest for a few minutes.



I drove through Ducktown and passed a car wash, a bookstore, Mallard's Music Mart, and Feather Nest Elementary School. A few minutes later, I parked my car in front of a sign that read: WELCOME TO DUCKTOWN POND.

I had found the perfect spot for a short, afternoon nap.

There was a bench by the water, so I walked over and made myself comfortable. I noticed a duckling, a mom hen, and a dad drake on the pond, paddling together. Their quacks almost sounded like they were talking to each other. Talking ducks in Ducktown? I laughed as I reminded myself that ducks don't talk, they quack.

The sun had dropped behind a cloud. The wind was still. I could feel myself getting drowsy so I closed my eyes and tried to imagine what that duck family on the pond was quacking about. I must have drifted off to sleep because the next thing I remembered was...

1: Ducktown

In Ducktown, drakes and hens were getting their ducklings ready for bed a little earlier than usual. Tomorrow was their first day of school.

In a house on Ducktown Pond, a mom and a dad tucked their duckling into his feather bed. His mom gave him a hug and quacked, “We enjoyed paddling with you on the pond this afternoon, Ducky Wucky. Sweet dreams. Did you wash your face?”

“Yes, and I also brushed my beak,” he answered in a sleepy voice.

“Good job. We’ll see you in the morning. Good night, Ducky Wucky.”

Ducky Wucky was soon fast asleep. He dreamed that he was flying with his friends in a ‘V’ formation. He was in the lead position, free as a bird. They were just about to land on Ducktown Pond when he heard his mom quack, “Hello up there! Ducky Wucky, it’s time to wake up. You don’t want to be late for your first day of school. The early bird catches the pancakes!”

Ducky Wucky opened one eye and yawned. He could smell his mom’s birdseed pancakes cooking on the stove. With a smile on his face, he quacked, “I’m awake, Mom! I’ll be downstairs in a minute.”

As he flew to his seat at the kitchen table, he quacked, “Thank you for making my favorite breakfast. You’re the best mom in Ducktown!”

“Well good morning, sleepy feathers,” quacked his dad from across the table. He took a sip of as his morning cup of water and asked, “Who is ready for his first day school at Feather Nest Elementary?”

“I’m ready, Dad, but do my friends and I really have to take a duck boat to school? Why can’t we just paddle across Ducktown Pond together?”

We do it all the time. We're ducks!"

His mom brought over a plate of birdseed pancakes and quacked, "You take a duck boat to school to stay safe, to quack quietly with your friends, and to arrive at Feather Nest Elementary on time. Does that answer your question?"

Ducky Wucky tried to answer, but his mouth was full. When his bill was empty, he asked, "Could I fly home with Bill, Webb, and Quackie after school?"

His mom and dad agreed, as long as he promised to stay close to his friends when they were in the air. Ducky Wucky knew what they were about to say next, so he joined them. Together, the three of them quacked, "Because birds of a feather flock together!"

Duck laughter filled the air.

A few minutes later, the three of them were waiting at the duck stop. Mom Ducky Wucky quacked, "Remember, Ducky Wucky, your teacher's name is Mrs. McHen. She will be waiting for you and your flock when you arrive at school."

Ducky Wucky gave his mom and dad a peck on the cheek and quacked, "Here it comes, the duck boat is almost here! Please don't embarrass me in front of my friends. I'm almost eight weeks old!"

The duck boat slowly pulled up to the dock. Mom and Dad quacked goodbye as Ducky Wucky shook feathers with the driver and quacked hello. His friends were already on the boat, flapping their wings excitedly.

"Hi Ducky Wucky! You can sit over here, next to us!" quacked Bill. "We saved a seat for you."

While Ducky Wucky was settling into his seat, the duck boat driver waddled over to Mom and Dad. He had gray feathers, and was wearing duck boots and a cowboy hat.

“Good morning! You must be Mom and Dad Ducky Wucky. I’m Mr. Byrd.”

“Very nice to meet you, Mr. Byrd,” they quacked back. “This is Ducky Wucky’s first trip across the pond on a duck boat.”

Mr. Byrd was KIND. He knew from his years of experience as a duck boat driver that Mom and Dad Ducky Wucky could be a little nervous on their duckling’s first day of school. He reached into his pocket, and shared something that put a smile on their faces.

“Folks, this is my CDL, my Commercial Duckdriver’s License. I’ve been paddling these ducklings to school for more years than I can remember. You can be sure that I will get them to Feather Nest Elementary safely and on time.

Mom and Dad Ducky Wucky thanked Mr. Byrd for his KINDNESS and wished him a safe trip across the pond. As they watched the duck boat paddle away, they could hear Mr. Byrd quack, “Ducklings, please keep your wings inside the boat. Next stop, Feather Nest Elementary!”

Mom Ducky Wucky started to get goosebumps. “Where do the weeks go?” she softly quacked. “It seems like just yesterday, he was our little egg.”

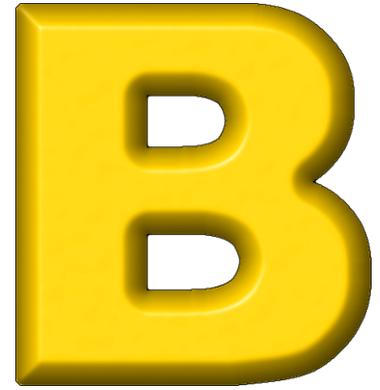
“I know how you feel, dear,” Dad Ducky Wucky replied. “He will be a drake before we know it.”

They held feathers and waddled home together, trying not to think about becoming empty nesters.

In the distance, a BARK was heard.

2: BARK on the Board

It was the first day of school at Feather Nest Elementary and quacking ducks were everywhere. As the duck boats pulled up to the school dock, the teachers were waiting by the shore to greet their new students and to make them feel welcome.



Mrs. McHen found her flock and introduced herself. “Ducklings, welcome to Feather Nest Elementary. My name is Mrs. McHen and it is very nice to meet all of you.”



She led her flock across the lawn, and together they waddled into their classroom. Ducky Wucky found his desk and placed his backpack on it. Suddenly, something on the board caught his attention. Written in big, colorful letters was the word **BARK**. His friends also saw the word and began quacking it quietly.

Ducky Wucky was the first to raise his wing. “Why is the word BARK written on our board, Mrs. McHen?”

She smiled, picked up her quill, and pointed to the word.

“I see that you noticed our special word, Ducky Wucky. I wrote the word BARK on our board so we can quack about it. BARK is a word we are going to enjoy this year, and I look forward to sharing it with all of you.”

Every beak in the flock was open, but not a sound was heard.

“Ducklings, there are four letters in the word BARK. Each letter represents a healthy choice. When you choose to make these four healthy choices a part of your day, wonderful things can happen.”

Ducky Wucky’s friend Webb raised his wing and asked, “Mrs. McHen, what kind of wonderful things can happen?”

“Webb, when I was your age, my teacher shared the word BARK with our class. We learned that there are four letters in the word BARK, and that each letter in the word BARK represents a healthy choice. I chose to make these four healthy choices a part of my day, and something wonderful happened to me. Can you guess what it was? I’ll give you a hint. From the day I hatched, I wanted to be a teacher.”



“You became our teacher!”

“Yes, Webb,” she quacked. “I became your teacher because I chose to steer my life in that direction. Raise your wing if you would like to steer your life in a direction that you want to go.”

Every wing was in the air. Ducky Wucky’s friend Bill quacked, “Mrs. McHen, I like to steer my golf cart in a direction that I want to go. Is that what the word **BAR**K is all about? ”

Mrs. McHen quacked a smile and said, “Yes it is, Bill. Just like steering your golf cart, **BAR**K is all about ducks steering their lives in a direction that they want to go. I believe your life can be anything you want it to be.”

She asked the ducklings to take turns quacking about how they could steer their lives a direction that they want to go. They all raised their wings.

“I like to play soccer,” quacked Quackie.

“I like to read,” quacked Webb.

“I like driving golf carts,” quacked Bill.

“I’ve always wanted to take care of a dog,” quacked Ducky Wucky. “I’ve heard that a dog is a duck’s best friend!”



Mrs. McHen thanked her flock for sharing and quacked, “Ducklings, that is why I wrote the word **BAR**K on our board. It is there to remind you that each letter in the word **BAR**K represents a healthy choice. When you choose to make these four healthy choices a part of your day, wonderful things can happen.”

Bill raised his wing again and quacked, “Wonderful things like steering my life **AND** my golf cart in a direction that I want to go!”

“Ducklings,” she quacked, “Together, we are going to discover what the word **BAR**K is all about, one letter at a time.”

3: The Letter 'B' - Be Prepared

Mrs. McHen continued her lesson by quacking, "Together we are going to have fun with the first letter in the word BARK, which is 'B'."

"When we take a test in school, it is an opportunity for us to show what we know. The letter 'B' in the word BARK reminds us of something that all of us can do when we are getting ready for a test. What could that be?" she asked.

All of the ducklings raised their wings at the same time, so Mrs. McHen decided to make a list of their answers on the board.

Getting ready for a test with the letter 'B'

Bring a letter from home that says, "There is no test today."

Back up until you are in the hallway, then fly out the window.

Bake a cake for your teacher and ask her to please cancel the test.

Blink your eyes three times and hope that you are having a bad dream.

The flock was having fun with this activity, but the healthy choice that Mrs. McHen was looking for was not on their list yet. She put down her quill and quacked, "Thank you, ducklings. Your answers are very creative."

"When we are getting ready for a test, the letter 'B' in BARK reminds us to BE PREPARED." Mrs. McHen wrote the words 'BE PREPARED' on the board and placed a circle around the letter 'B'.

"I would like you to imagine there is going to be a spelling test on Friday. There are two ways that you can BE PREPARED for it. First, you can look at the words and practice spelling them every day. Then, you can create a picture in your mind. In this picture, see yourself taking the spelling test on Friday, and spelling the words correctly."

Mrs. McHen continued. “When you create a picture like that in your mind, and you like what you see, can you guess what will happen? You will want to do whatever it takes to make that picture come true! Then, when you take the test on Friday, you will **BE PREPARED** because you practiced spelling the words every day, and because you created a picture in your mind that you wanted to come true.”

To help her ducklings remember what the letter ‘B’ stands for, Mrs. McHen picked up her guitar and taught them a song called, “**BE PREPARED**”.

I have seen what it means to be prepared

What comes my way every day, I will be prepared

I won't put it off until the last minute

I've got the time, I might as well begin it, I will be prepared...

Bill and Webb began quacking the high part. Ducky Wucky honked the low part. Quackie took the middle part. After practicing the song a few times, the flock was singing like birds.

When they finished practicing their song, Mrs. McHen pointed her feather to the letter ‘B’ and quacked, “You did a good job. If I asked you to sing that song again, it would sound wonderful because we practiced. Ducklings, that is what it feels like to **BE PREPARED**. Whether it is a spelling test, or learning a new song, ducks can accomplish anything that they place their attention on.”

Mrs. McHen finished her lesson by quacking, “The letter ‘B’ in **BARK** reminds us to **BE PREPARED**. So, who is going to create a picture in their mind then make that picture come true?”

All of the ducklings raised their wings and quacked with joy.

“Oh, by the way,” she added, “There is a spelling test on Friday.”

4: Meet Bella, the Cockapoo

After school that day, Ducky Wucky and his friends flew home in a 'B' formation, singing "BE PREPARED". Acorn, the neighborhood squirrel, was on the ground below, listening and learning the new song, trying to keep up with them.

"I'm free as a bird!" quacked Ducky Wucky.

Quackie spotted Ducktown Pond and had an idea. "Hey Webb, Ducky Wucky, Bill...let's go for a swim!"

"Race you to it!" they quacked. "See you later, Acorn!"

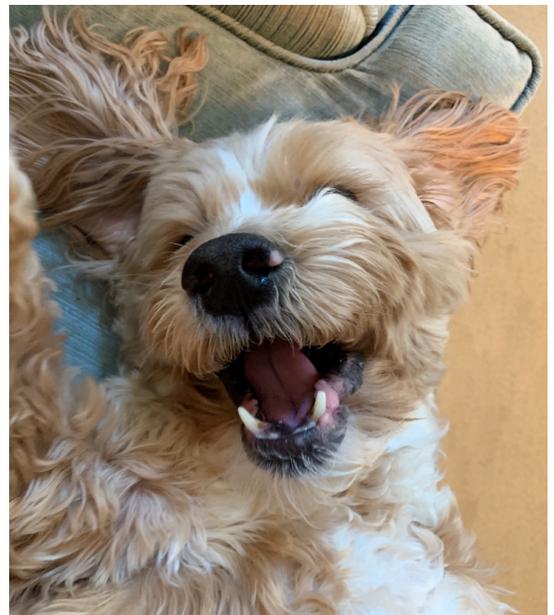
The four ducks landed on the pond with a great splash. Quackie and Webb stuck their tails in the air and stretched their heads into the water, looking for a snack. Ducky Wucky and Bill were not hungry. They only wanted to wet their beaks.

The ducklings were enjoying their birdbath and snack when an unusual sound was heard in the distance. Naturally, they were curious, so they paddled toward it. When they reached the shore, Quackie said, "Wait, I recognize that sound! I think it's...a dog barking!"

"No way!" said Webb, Ducky Wucky and Bill at the same time.

"Way!" she quacked.

It was definitely the sound of a dog barking, and it was coming from Ducky Wucky's front porch! They waddled out of the water and flew across the lawn to find Mom and Dad Ducky Wucky petting a friendly looking dog.



She had big brown eyelashes, floppy ears, wavy light brown fur, and a pink tongue hanging out of her mouth like a slice of ham.

“Hi Ducklings,” said his mom. “Meet Bella, the Cockapoo. She belongs to our neighbors, the Mandarins, who are flying South for the winter. Our family has agreed to take care of Bella until they return.”

“Wow! Hi Bella, nice to meet you,” quacked Ducky Wucky. “Would you like a belly rub?” Bella **BARKED** and rolled over. Ducky Wucky smiled and said, “Bella, I have a feeling that you and I are going to be great friends.”

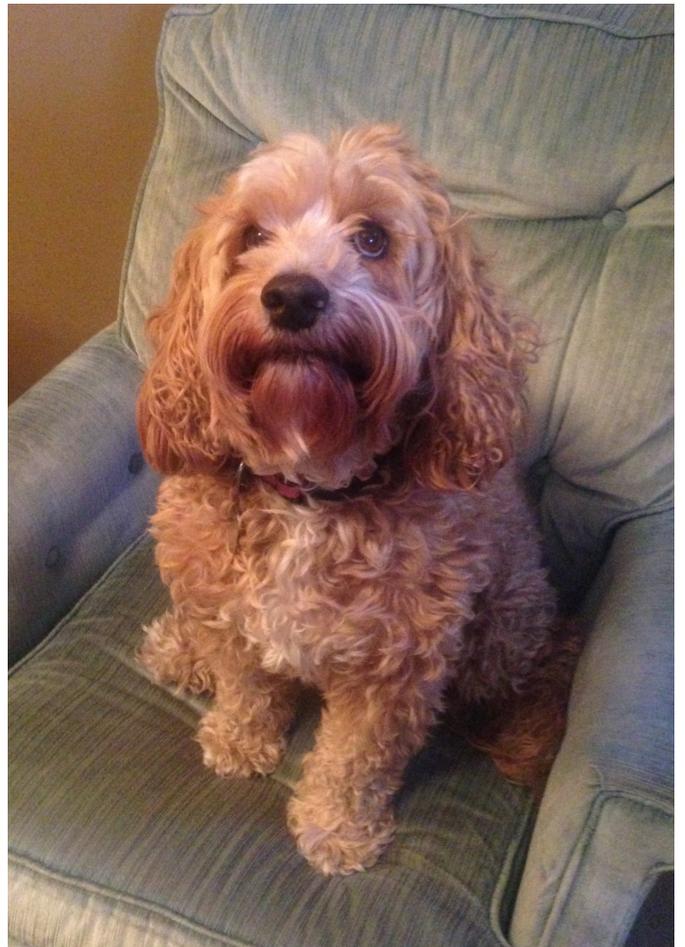
The ducklings played with Bella for over an hour. They all agreed that she was cute, friendly, and smart. They even invented a game, where they took turns letting Bella retrieve them from Ducktown Pond.

Bella finally ran out of energy. She waddled inside, drank some water from her dish, and hopped onto her new favorite chair.

Ducky Wucky was on the front porch, quacking goodbye to his friends. He was about to fly upstairs to his room when he noticed Bella on the chair, wagging her tail and looking at him.

“Bella,” he quacked. “I have a spelling test on Friday. Would you like to keep me company as I **PREPARE** for it?”

A **BARK** was heard in Ducky Wucky’s house.



5: Do Your Best on Every Test

When Ducky Wucky finished PREPARING for his spelling test, he made a duck call to his friend Bill, who lived next door. They started quacking about all of the fun things they planned to do with their new friend, Bella, the Cockapoo.

“Bill, this is going to be great! We can have a sleepover with Bella every night. In the morning, she can have breakfast with us at the table. Who knows? Maybe Mr. Byrd will let her drive the duck boat to school!”

Dad Ducky Wucky waddled into the room and overheard his son quacking on the phone.

“Bella can sit next to our desks and we can give her treats all day long! After school, we can give her flying lessons and teach her how to waterski on Ducktown Pond!”

“Hold on, Ducky Wucky. We need to talk.”

Ducky Wucky said goodbye to Bill, hung up the phone, and quacked, “Hi Dad.”

“Ducky Wucky, we know you are excited about Bella staying with us for a while, but you need to remember a few things - she is a dog, not a duck. Ducks have feathers and dogs have fur. Ducks have wings and dogs have legs. Dogs can’t fly!”

Ducky Wucky quacked a smile and replied, “I know that, Dad. We were just having some fun.”

Dad Ducky Wucky took his son under his wing and quacked, “Having Bella as our guest will be fun, and it will also be a nice opportunity for you.”

“An opportunity? What kind of an opportunity?”

“Your mom and I were quacking this afternoon, and we decided to give you a chance to show us what you can do. After all, you are almost eight weeks old. Think of this as a test.”

A test. Ducky Wucky remembered the letter ‘B’ in the word BARK, and what Mrs. McHen had quacked about in school that day.

A test is a chance to show what you know. When we are getting ready for a test, the letter ‘B’ in BARK reminds us to BE PREPARED.

His dad continued. “Tonight, we will let Bella sleep in your room next to your feather bed. It will be your responsibility to give her what she needs. Tomorrow, when you come home from school, we will let you know if we think you are ready to take care of her.”

A test!

A smiling Ducky Wucky hugged his dad and gave him a high feather.

“Your mom and I are quacking for you, Ducky Wucky. We want you to make the most of this opportunity by doing your best on this test. So, tell me, what will you do tonight to make sure Bella gets what she needs?”

Ducky Wucky was quiet for a moment, not quite sure what to say. He slowly started to create a picture in his mind. In the picture, he could see Bella sleeping comfortably next to his feather bed.

Suddenly, his eyes opened wide. “I know what to do, I’ve got this!” he quacked. “I’ll get her food and water ready and I’ll make a comfortable area for her to sleep.



Then, I'll take her outside to do her business before we go to bed. I will BE PREPARED!"

His dad gave him a high feather and quacked, "That sounds like a plan to me, son."

"Dad, may I please be excused? There are a lot of things I need to do!"

His dad nodded and smiled as Ducky Wucky flew up the stairs singing the song, "BE PREPARED".

Later that evening, Acorn, the neighborhood squirrel, was in his nearby tree PREPARING for a good night's sleep. He put his sunflower seeds in a bowl for his morning breakfast, then scampered to the ground.

Acorn hopped up to Ducky Wucky's bedroom window ledge, and pressed his nose against the glass. He could see that he and Bella were PREPARING for their good night's sleep, too. "Good night Ducky Wucky and Bella," he squeaked. "See you both in the morning."

"Goodnight Acorn," said a sleepy Ducky Wucky.

"Rrrr-rood-right," chuffed a sleepy Bella.

Ducky Wucky could hear Acorn squeaking, "BE PREPARED" as he climbed up his tree, and tucked himself into bed.

"Bella, it's almost bedtime for us, too," yawned Ducky Wucky. "Your food and water are ready for tomorrow, your bed is comfy, you just did your business outside, and I just cleaned it up."

Ducky Wucky softly sang “BE PREPARED” to Bella, hoping that she would join him. Bella just looked at him, sat quietly and listened. When the song was over, she tilted her head, BARKed, and gave Ducky Wucky a sloppy kiss.

“Thank you for that, Bella,” he said as he grabbed a towel to dry himself off. “I guess you can’t sing, but you sure can give sloppy kisses. Goodnight girl, see you in the morning.”

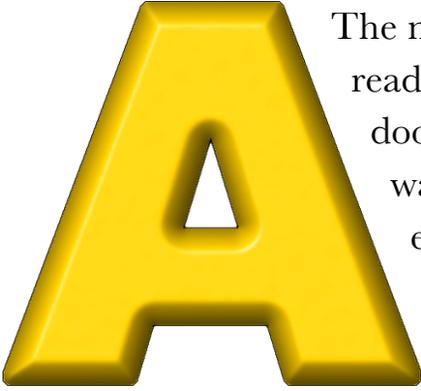
He tucked Bella into her feather bed and turned off the light.

Ducky Wucky’s last thought before he fell asleep was: *Today, I had a chance to practice what the letter ‘B’ in BARK is all about; BEING PREPARED. Mom and Dad gave me chance to show them that I can take care of Bella. I created a picture in mind, and I got busy making that picture come true. This is good stuff! I wonder what the other letters in BARK are all about?*

A few minutes later, the moon had dropped behind a cloud. The wind was still. Bella turned her head toward a sleeping Ducky Wucky and softly sang the words, “Rrrr-ree-ree-paired.”



6: The Letter 'A' – Always Give Your Body What it Needs



The next morning, a PREPARED Ducky Wucky was getting ready for school when he heard Bella BARKing at the front door. He grabbed her leash, and together they enjoyed a brisk walk through Ducktown. When they returned home, Bella enjoyed her breakfast and a belly rub.

Mom Ducky Wucky waddled into the kitchen and quacked, “Do you know what time it is?”

Ducky Wucky looked at the clock and realized it was almost time for school to begin. The duck boat had already left the dock and he was going to be late! He had no choice but to skip breakfast and fly to school at his top speed of 30 miles per hour.

He made it to class just in time, but Ducky Wucky was uncomfortable. He was tired, hungry, and thirsty. He was also starting to get a headache.

After the morning announcements, Mrs. McHen said, “This morning we will be quacking about how important it is to eat healthy foods every day. Before we begin, I would like to...”

Ducky Wucky tried to pay attention, but his stomach started growling.

Mrs. McHen leaned over and quietly asked, “Ducky Wucky, is that sound coming from you?”

“Yes, that’s my duck belly growling, Mrs. McHen. I didn’t have breakfast this morning. I was so busy PREPARING, I forgot to save time to eat.”

She handed Ducky Wucky a banana, and returned to her lesson.

“Before we begin, I would like to remind everyone that there is a spelling test on Friday, and there are two ways you can **PREPARE** for it. First, look at the words and practice spelling them every day. Then, create a picture in your mind. In this picture, see yourself taking the spelling test, and spelling the words correctly.”

Mrs. McHen continued. “When you create a picture like that in your mind, and you like what you see, can you guess what will happen? You will want to do things to help make that picture come true! On Friday, you will **BE PREPARED** because you practiced every day, and because you created that awesome picture in your mind.”

She continued, “Today, we will quack about the next letter in our special word. The letter ‘A’ in **BARK** reminds us to **ALWAYS GIVE YOUR BODY WHAT IT NEEDS.**”

Mrs. McHen wrote the words ‘**ALWAYS GIVE YOUR BODY WHAT IT NEEDS**’ on the board and placed a circle around the letter ‘A’.

She asked her flock to share some of things their duck bodies need to do their best in school. Everyone raised their wings except Ducky Wucky. He was busy enjoying his healthy snack.

“Exercising our duck body is important,” quacked Webb. “In gym class, I can do 5 push-ups, and 10 fly-ups!”

Between bites, Ducky Wucky added, “Ducks need to eat healthy foods.”

“Ducks also need plenty of water,” said Quackie.

“Ducks need a good night’s sleep,” said Bill.

Mrs. McHen was pleased with their answers. She turned to Ducky Wucky and asked, “Why do you think is it important to start the day with a healthy breakfast?”

“Well,” he quacked, “I know it feels good when I come to school with my duck belly full.

Quackie raised her wing and added, “And it feels even better when our duck belly is full of healthy foods like water plants and small fish. When I play soccer after eating a healthy breakfast, I have the energy to fly down the field!”

“I agree,” said Mrs. McHen. “And, making time for breakfast gives our duck bodies the energy to stay focused. Don’t you agree, Ducky Wucky?”



Ducky Wucky tried to answer, but he was still eating his banana. When his beak was empty, he quacked, “Thank you for the fresh fruit, Mrs. McHen. I’m starting to feel better.”

Mrs. McHen smiled, picked up her guitar, and taught her flock the words to a song about the letter ‘A’ called, “ALWAYS GIVE YOUR BODY WHAT IT NEEDS.”

I know that it sounds so simple, yes I do believe

To do my best on every test

I’ll give my body what it needs

It’s good to give my body what it needs...

Mrs. McHen finished her lesson by quacking, “Ducklings, the letter ‘A’ in BARK reminds us to ALWAYS GIVE YOUR BODY WHAT IT NEEDS. Help yourself with a good night’s sleep, exercise, plenty of water, and healthy foods. Then, you will have the energy that you need to do your best in school.”

For the rest of the day, Ducky Wucky felt much better. He promised himself to **ALWAYS GIVE HIS BODY WHAT IT NEEDS**: a good night's sleep, exercise, plenty of water, and healthy foods like fresh fruits and vegetables.

Ducky Wucky was flying home from school with his friends when suddenly the sun had dropped behind a cloud. The wind was still. Ducky Wucky landed on his front lawn, slowly turned his head, and froze in his tracks.

His family was on the front porch waiting for him. Attached to the front door was a poster that read: Congratulations, Ducky Wucky! You passed the Bella test with flying colors!

Congratulations, Ducky Wucky!
You passed the Bella test with flying colors!

His mom gave him a hug, as his dad put out his feather and quacked, "Ducky Wucky, from now on, you will be taking care of Bella while she is here as our guest. Good job, son."

Ducky Wucky shook feathers with him and quacked, "Thank you, Dad."

He leaned into Bella and quacked, "I have a feeling that you and I are going to be great friends." A sloppy kiss was already on its way to Ducky Wucky. His dad was **PREPARED**, standing by with a towel.

Ducky Wucky dried himself off, flew up the stairs with Bella right behind him, and hung his new poster in his room. He gave Bella a belly rub and a treat, and decided it was time to study for tomorrow's spelling test. He wanted to BE PREPARED.

He remembered what Mrs. McHen quacked about on the first day of school.

There are two ways you can BE PREPARED for the spelling test. First, you can look at the words and practice spelling them every day. Then, you can create a picture in your mind. In this picture, see yourself taking the spelling test on Friday, and spelling the words correctly.

Ducky Wucky created that picture in his mind as he practiced spelling the words that would be on the test.

A BARK was heard in his room.

7: Bella Meets Acorn

When Ducky Wucky woke up on Saturday morning, his new poster was the first thing he saw. He read the words, “Congratulations, Ducky Wucky! You passed the Bella test with flying colors!”

I think I passed yesterday’s spelling test with flying colors, too! I studied the words everyday, and I created a picture in mind. If felt good to BE PREPARED.

After a healthy breakfast, Ducky Wucky headed toward the door. Bella was jumping up and down in the hallway with the leash in her mouth.

“Good morning, girl!” He put on her leash and asked, “Are you ready for your walk?” Bella BARKed as if to say, *are you kidding me? What are we waiting for? Let’s go!*

As they stepped outside into the sunshine, Bella got very excited. She started pulling a surprised Ducky Wucky through the air in circles. Bella ran left, right, and then left again until she and Ducky Wucky came to a sudden stop.

The sun had dropped behind a cloud. The wind was still. Bella slowly turned her head, and froze in her tracks.

Acorn, the neighborhood squirrel, sat nibbling on a sunflower seed, just 20 feet in front of them. He winked at Bella and took off. In the blink of an eye, Acorn was scurrying across the lawn at his top speed of 20 miles per hour.

All Ducky Wucky could do was hang on to the leash for dear life.

He quacked, “Hey, hey, stop, stop, stop!” as Bella took off after Acorn. Bella dragged Ducky Wucky through the woods, through an open field, and through the shallows of Ducktown Pond. Acorn continued to lead a BARKing Bella and a spinning Ducky Wucky through the muddiest spots of Ducktown.

It seemed the louder Ducky Wucky quacked, “Stop!” the faster Bella ran.

The wild chase finally ended when Acorn scampered up a tree in front of the Duck and Doggy Car Wash. The only part of Bella that was not covered in mud was her pink tongue.

Ducky Wucky felt dizzy from the wild ride. His feathers were ruffled, but he managed to waddle Bella over to an open wash bay.

“Wow, Bella, I thought we were going for a walk. That was more like a flight! Let’s get you cleaned up,” he quacked. Bella responded by giving him a sloppy kiss. “Thank you girl, but you are the one who needs the bath, not me!”

Mr. Cayuga, the owner of the Duck and Doggy Wash flew over and turned on the water for them. He offered Ducky Wucky a bar of soap and a washcloth and said with a smile, “If you need more soap, just quack!”

After her bath, the two of them migrated home. A clean and dry Bella slowly walked into the house. She knew what her body needed, so she drank some water from her dish. A moment later, she was sleeping on her favorite chair.



His mom and dad were watching from the front porch and they asked Ducky Wucky to fly over and please sit down.

“Ducky Wucky, What happened this morning? We just got a duck call from Mr. Cayuga.”

“What happened? What happened? Mom, Dad, she saw Acorn! I couldn’t stop her, she...she dragged me through the mud at 20 miles per hour!”

“I know, I know,” his dad quacked as he put his wing around his son. “Mr. Cayuga told us what happened, and we have a suggestion that might help you next time. Before you put Bella’s leash on her, take a slow breath through your nares. When you walk with her, remember to relax, be calm and be confident.”

From up above, Acorn was listening as he nibbled on a nut.

His dad continued, “Ducky Wucky, dogs respond to energy. When you are RELAXED, you will feel better and so will Bella. Plus, when you are calm, Bella will be able to pay better attention to what you want her to do.”

Later that afternoon, Ducky Wucky decided to take Bella for another walk. He liked what his dad suggested and he wanted to give it a try. He waddled over to a sleeping Bella and whispered, “Come on girl, we can do this.” Even though her eyes were closed, Bella’s tail started thumping on the floor as if to say, *I’m ready if you are!*

A RELAXED Ducky Wucky took a deep, slow breath through his nares as he put Bella’s leash on her. Both of them were calm as they headed toward the door. Bella happily sniffed the ground as the two of them slowly waddled through Ducktown. His friends, Webb, Quackie, and Bill quacked hello as they flew overhead. Ducky Wucky noticed that this walk was going much better than the last one.

Calm is good.

Suddenly, the sun had dropped behind a cloud. The wind was still. Bella turned her head and froze in her tracks. Once again, just 20 feet in front of them sat Acorn. He was waving his paws at Bella and squeaked, “Follow me again, Bella! I know even muddier places we can go!” Acorn took off and never looked back.

Bella was just about to chase Acorn when Ducky Wucky quacked, “Sit!” His voice

was calm and confident, and Bella obeyed.

“Good girl!”

He patted Bella's head and gave her a treat and a belly rub. Acorn slowed down and turned his head just in time to see Bella and Ducky Wucky waddling home in the opposite direction.

Acorn smiled because he understood what had just happened. He waved goodbye and squeaked, “Good job! You both know how to relax when you need to!” Ducky Wucky took Bella home, gave her a belly rub, and flew off to thank Mr. Cayuga at the Duck and Doggy Wash.

When he landed, Ducky Wucky told Mr. Cayuga that he appreciated his KINDNESS and wanted to pay him for the soap and water. Mr. Cayuga smiled and quacked, “Ducky Wucky, don’t worry about it. I PUT IT ON YOUR BILL!”



8: The Letter 'R' - Relax in Silence

On Monday morning at Feather Nest Elementary, Mrs. McHen began the school day with some good news.

“I’m pleased to announce that every bird in the flock was **PREPARED** and did well on Friday’s spelling test. By a show of wings, who studied their spelling words everyday?”

Every wing was in the air.

“And by a show of wings, who created a picture in their mind and saw themselves spelling the words correctly on the test?”

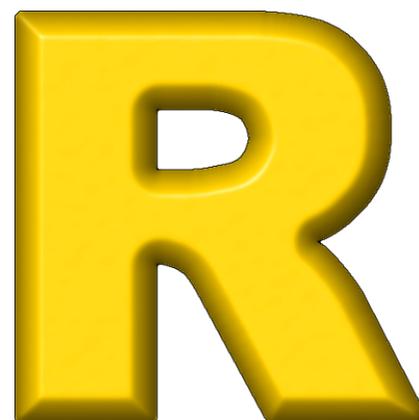
Every wing was still in the air.

“The letter ‘B’ in the word **BARK** helped all of us to do our best on Friday’s spelling test,” quacked Mrs. McHen. “You chose to make the letter ‘B’ in the word **BARK** a part of your day, and a wonderful thing happened. Great job, everyone!”

The flock was as proud as peacocks.

“Ducklings, let’s quack about the word **BARK** for a moment. On the first day of school, we learned that the letter ‘B’ reminds us to **BE PREPARED**. Always remember that ducks can accomplish anything that they place their attention on. When you create a picture in your mind, and you like what you see, you will want to do things that will make that picture come true! So ducklings, always remember to create that picture!”

“The second letter in our special word is ‘A’. The letter ‘A’ reminds us to **ALWAYS GIVE YOUR BODY WHAT IT NEEDS**. You can help yourself with a good night’s sleep, exercise, plenty of water, and healthy foods.



This gives our duck bodies the energy it needs to stay focused.”

“Today, we will explore the third letter in the word BARK. The letter ‘R’ in BARK reminds us to RELAX IN SILENCE.”

Mrs. McHen wrote the words ‘RELAX IN SILENCE’ on the board and placed a circle around the letter ‘R’.

To introduce the letter ‘R’, she asked everyone to take out a piece of paper for a two-part quiz. Hearing this, the ducklings were not RELAXED, and they definitely were not SILENT.

“A two-part quiz?” quacked Quackie.

“What?” blared Bill.

Mrs. McHen allowed the comments to continue.

“Aaagh!” quacked a distressed Ducky Wucky.

“Ooohh!” wailed Webb.

When the flock settled down, Mrs. McHen smiled and quacked, “I have some good news. You just took the first part of the quiz.”

Every duckling’s beak was open. They were SILENT, but they were still not RELAXED.

“Ducklings, please RELAX, close your beaks and I will explain. The first part of the quiz showed me your reaction. When you thought there was going to be a two-part quiz on the letter ‘R’, some of you looked worried. Some of you were angry birds. Bill, you looked like you were about to fly out the window!”

“I almost did, Mrs. McHen! My full belly was about to become not-so-full!”

Everyone in the flock quacked a smile.

“Ducklings, the first part of the quiz ruffled your feathers. The second part of the quiz will show you a wonderful way to un-ruffle them.”

“Life in Ducktown can be noisy at times,” she continued. “When ducks RELAX IN SILENCE, we turn down the noise, get quiet, and connect to a special kind of energy. It is the kind of energy that can calm us by bringing our duck bodies and our duck minds together. SILENCE also helps us to think clearer.”

She softly quacked, “For the second part of the quiz, we are going to RELAX IN SILENCE together.” She asked her flock to close their bills, and slowly inhale through their nares. Next, she asked them to open their bills and slowly exhale.

After Mrs. McHen demonstrated this breathing technique, she invited her flock to practice it with her three times.

The sound and smell of duck breath filled the air.

Mrs. McHen closed her bill, inhaled slowly through her nares, and quacked, “Hmm...I believe someone had worms and fish eggs this morning.”

“That was my healthy breakfast!” quacked a proud Ducky Wucky.

“Good choice, Ducky Wucky. Please keep breathing slowly and deeply. Now, with your eyes closed, I would like you to create another kind of picture in your mind. This time, think of a place that makes you happy. Keep breathing, and picture yourself in your happy place.”

Ducky Wucky closed his eyes and focused on his breathing. As he relaxed, he thought about taking Bella for a walk and how nice it felt to be calm with her.

In that moment, Ducky Wucky discovered something about RELAXING IN SILENCE – it felt good! He promised himself that he would put aside a few minutes each day to RELAX IN SILENCE.

When her lesson on the letter ‘R’ was finished, Mrs. McHen congratulated the flock on a job well done.

“Tonight, I invite you to find a quiet place and RELAX IN SILENCE for a few minutes at home.

From the classroom window ledge, Acorn, the neighborhood squirrel, was listening to Mrs. McHen’s lesson on the letter 'R'. He was curious about what it would feel like to RELAX IN SILENCE, so he decided to give it a try.

He scampered across the lawn and found a quiet, shady spot. He stretched out, closed his eyes, and RELAXED IN SILENCE. Since squirrels don’t have nares, Acorn inhaled slowly through his nose, and exhaled slowly through his mouth. Soon, his mind was focused on his happy place; spending time with Bella, the Cockapoo, both of them covered in mud.

In that moment, Acorn discovered something about RELAXING IN SILENCE – it felt good! He promised himself that he would put aside a few minutes each day to RELAX IN SILENCE.

Later that afternoon, Granny Squirrel was taking her afternoon walk when she noticed Acorn sleeping peacefully on the grass.

He is definitely RELAXED and SILENT, she thought.

She took off the shawl she was wearing around her shoulders, and placed it over Acorn as a blanket to keep him warm. A BARK was heard, but it was not loud enough to wake up Acorn. He was RELAXED and SILENT.

9: Flying to Swan Lake

The next morning, the ducklings flew into their classroom and settled on their desks. Behind them, they heard Mrs. McHen quack, “Good morning, flock!” They turned around in surprise to see their teacher on the lawn, smiling at them through an open window.

“Hi, Mrs. McHen, why are you outside?” quacked Webb.

“Our flock has been doing a great job with the word **BARK** this year. We fly to school **PREPARED**, we **ALWAYS GIVE OUR BODY WHAT IT NEEDS**, and we find time to **RELAX IN SILENCE**. Since every bird in our flock is over eight weeks old, I thought this would be a good day to spread our wings.”

The flock had a feeling that good news was on the way, and they were correct.

Mrs. McHen continued. “Since the weather is so nice, we are going to duck out of school today for a special trip to Swan Lake. I know you will enjoy the ten-minute flight. When we arrive, I will share the fourth letter in **BARK** with you.”

The feathers were flying with delight as the flock high fived each other.

She instructed her ducklings to carefully fly out the window, and meet her on the lawn in two straight lines. Mrs. McHen soon had all of her ducklings in rows.

“This morning, we will be flying to Swan Lake in a ‘V’ formation. I will be out front, leading the way. To conserve your energy, always remember to fly slightly above the duckling in front of you. This will make it feel a little less windy for you. Are there any questions?”

Quackie raised her wing and asked, “Mrs. McHen, my mom told me that the duck in the lead spot has to work the hardest. If you get tired up there, may I switch places with you?”

“Of course you can, Quackie. That is very KIND of you. You will be my wing girl and fly behind me on my left side. Bill, you will fly behind me on my right side.”

“That makes me your wing boy!” he proudly quacked.

A moment later, the flock was in the air flapping their wings. The wind was brisk and it was hard to hear each other. “Stay in formation,” Mrs. McHen loudly quacked. “Remember, you are all very good flyers!”



10: The Letter 'K' - Kindness

On their flight to Swan Lake, the sky was crystal clear. Every few minutes, Mrs. McHen would fly to the back of the formation to check on her flock. When Swan Lake was in sight, she announced, "Ducklings, prepare for landing, and please return your feathers to their upright position."



The sounds of joyful quacking filled the air as Mrs. McHen and her flock descended on Swan Lake with the grace and form of ballet dancers.

"Ducklings, congratulations on a successful flight," she quacked as they all enjoyed a drink of water. "I know you are going to enjoy your day here at Swan Lake."

Mrs. McHen organized a game of Duck Duck Goose. When the game was over, she asked the ducklings to gather around her. Mrs. McHen was soon in the center of a circle of ducklings, all of them touching wings.

She invited her flock to **RELAX IN SILENCE** with her for two minutes. Together, they closed their bills, and slowly inhaled through their nares. Then, they opened their bills and slowly exhaled. The sound and smell of duck breath filled the air.

Mrs. McHen continued, "It is now time to share the last letter in our special word. Always remember, there are four letters in the word **BARCK**, and that each one represents a healthy choice. When you choose to make these four healthy choices a part of your day, wonderful things can happen."

"The last letter in the word **BARCK** is 'K'. 'K' stands for **KINDNESS**."

"Kind ducks think about other's feelings and not just their own. They help someone who is in need, and they are kind even when others are not."

Kindness makes our world a nicer place, because it makes people happier. Today and everyday, I invite you to look for a way to put a smile on the face of another living creature. When you do, something wonderful often happens; your KINDNESS will come back to you in ways that will surprise you. That is why I believe that when it comes to KINDNESS, in giving we receive. And the best part is, the opportunity to offer a random quack of KINDNESS is always there.”

To help her flock to remember what KINDNESS is all about, she shared a song called, “A RANDOM QUACK OF KINDNESS”.

A random quack of kindness

Is perfect and it's free

It happens when we help a friend

Unexpectedly...

As Ducky Wucky quacked along with his friends, he thought about what Mrs. McHen had said. If he offered KINDNESS to another living creature without expecting anything in return, what would happen? Would it really come back to him in a way that surprised him?

When the song was over, Mrs. McHen announced that the flock could enjoy some free time. Ducky Wucky thought to himself, *this would be the perfect time to CHOOSE KINDNESS.*

He waddled over to the shore and paddled toward Quackie, who was swimming in circles. “Hi Quackie, that looks like fun.”

“Not really,” she quacked with a frown. My webbed foot is caught on a weed, and I can't get free. I've been swimming like this for 5 minutes, and every bird is too busy to help me!”

“I'm not too busy,” he quacked. A moment later, Quackie was out of the weeds and free as a bird.

“Thank you, Ducky Wucky!” she said with a smile that was so wide, she could have eaten a banana sideways. “I appreciate what you did!”

“You’re welcome, Quackie. I was happy to help you.”

For the rest of the day, Ducky Wucky was pleased with his choice to help Quackie. He had learned something about KINDNESS - it felt good!

The ducklings played together throughout the day. When it was time to fly back to school, Mrs. McHen used her duck call to gather her flock. The ducklings were all quacking at the same time as they waddled over to her.



“I was able to paddle across the lake without stopping!” said Webb. “Those fly-ups are starting to pay off!”

“Did you see my perfect water landing?” asked Bill. “There were no ripples on the lake!”

“Once my foot was free, I had the best day ever! Thanks again, Ducky Wucky,” said Quackie.

“I hope everyone enjoyed Swan Lake,” quacked Mrs. McHen as her ducklings lined up in two rows on the shore. “Before we fly home, please answer this question; who would like to steer their life in a direction that they want to go?”

In an instant, every wing was in the air.

“Very good. Quackie, I would like you to steer all of us in a direction that we want to go. You will be flying us back to school in the lead spot.”

“Thank you, Mrs. McHen!” she said with a smile that was so wide, she could have eaten two bananas sideways!

Soon, the flock was in the air, flying back to school in their ‘V’ formation. Ducky Wucky could see that Quackie was enjoying herself. Imagine his surprise when she quacked, “Ducky Wucky, would you like to take my lead spot?”

He gladly accepted her KIND offer.

When they landed on the school lawn, Ducky Wucky gave Quackie a high feather. “Thank you for offering me your lead spot on the way home, Quackie.”

“You’re welcome, Ducky Wucky. I wanted to offer you A RANDOM QUACK OF KINDNESS.”

For the rest of the day, Quackie was pleased with her choice to offer Ducky Wucky her lead spot in the 'V' formation. She too had learned something about KINDNESS - it felt good!

In the distance, a BARK was heard.

11: Acorn and Granny Squirrel

After school that day, Ducky Wucky took Bella for a walk. Suddenly, the sun had dropped behind a cloud. The wind was still. Bella turned her head and froze in her tracks. Across the lawn sat Acorn, nibbling on a nut.

They calmly waddled over to him.

“RRR-Acorn!” chuffed Bella as she sat down next to him.

“Hi Acorn,” quacked Ducky Wucky. “It sounds like Bella knows your name.”

Bella sat calmly as Ducky Wucky shared his KINDNESS story with Acorn. “It was really cool! At Swan Lake, I helped Quackie, and it felt good. Later in the day, she surprised me with KINDNESS, and we both felt good! How is that possible?”

As Acorn listened to Ducky Wucky, he thought about KINDNESS. Could it be that simple? If he offered KINDNESS to another living creature without expecting anything in return, what would happen? Would it really come back to him in a way that surprised him?

Acorn decided to look for an opportunity to CHOOSE KINDNESS. The opportunity came when he saw Granny Squirrel slowly walking across the lawn with her walking twig. Acorn scampered over and offered his arm for her to lean on.

“Thank you, young’un!” she said with a smile that was so wide, she could have eaten a peanut sideways. “These old squirrel legs of mine do get tired.”



Acorn squeaked, “You’re welcome, Granny Squirrel. I am happy to help you.”

Together, they climbed Granny Squirrel’s tree until they reached her branch. Acorn gave her a hug and was on his way.

For the rest of the day, Acorn was pleased with his choice to help Granny Squirrel up the tree. He had learned something about KINDNESS - it felt good!

That evening, Acorn was in the mood for a late nut snack. He found his secret hiding spot, and began to dig into the ground with his two front paws. He soon found what he thought was a nut, but it was not. It was a small package addressed to Acorn from Granny Squirrel. Acorn opened the package and found a note along with a homemade walnut cupcake.

What a nice surprise, he thought. Acorn enjoyed his tasty gift as he read her note.

Dear Acorn,

Young ‘un, I baked this cupcake for you. Thank you for your help today. You did a good deed.

Love, Granny Squirrel

Acorn smiled so wide, he could have eaten his walnut cupcake sideways...so he did!



12: Announcement in the Aviary

It was the first Friday of the month, a special day at Feather Nest Elementary. That was when all of the flocks met in Ducktown's Aviary for their monthly morning program. Mrs. McHen let her flock know that a special guest was going to be introduced.

Ducky Wucky could feel the positive energy as his flock waddled across the lawn. He could hear the tweets, cackles, and gobbles getting louder as they entered the aviary. Looking up, he happened to see his owl friend perched high up on a branch, wearing headphones. He flew up to him and asked, "Hi Hooty, what are you listening to?"

"'Who Are You', by The Who!" he hooted.

Ducky Wucky returned to his flock. Slowly, the aviary spotlights began to brighten, and the birds went wild.

"Good morning, Feather Nest Elementary," said Principal Prairie Chicken from the stage. "I would like to begin our morning program by introducing our special guest. Please put your feathers together, and join me in welcoming to the stage, the owner of Mallard's Music Mart, Mr. Mallard!"

The sound of 250 flapping wings filled Ducktown Aviary.

Mr. Mallard held a large sign in his beak as he flew to the stage. He landed and quacked into the microphone, "Hello Feather Nest Elementary! I have some exciting news to share with you." He placed the sign on an easel for all to see, and began to read the words out loud.

"Two months from today, Mallard's Music Mart will be hosting the First Annual Ducktown Dog Show. This big event will be held in the parking lot of my store, Mallard's Music Mart. Any bird with a pet dog may enter.

The bird who's dog impresses the judge will win"...

The aviary was silent as Mr. Mallard stopped to preen his feathers.

He finished preening, and continued. "The bird who's dog impresses the judge will win...a surprise gift!"



Once again, the sounds of feathers flapping filled Ducktown Aviary. A robin in the audience raised her wing and tweeted, "Mr. Mallard, who will be the judge of the Ducktown Dog Show?"

Mr. Mallard thought about the question for a moment and quacked, "That will also be a surprise."

He flapped his wings goodbye and quacked, "I hope to see all of you at the Ducktown Dog Show in two months. Good luck!"

Mrs. McHen flew to the stage with her guitar and thanked Mr. Mallard. "Before we migrate back to our classrooms, I invite all of the flocks to join me in singing, 'THE FEATHER NEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SONG'."

She started strumming and the entire school began singing like birds.

I will be kind to every bird in the water

I will be kind to every bird in the sky

I will respect you and me

It's our responsibility

We are the Ducktown community...

Acorn and Granny Squirrel were watching everything from the roof of the aviary, clapping and singing along.

As Ducky Wucky migrated back to his classroom, he could hear his friends quacking about the Ducktown Dog Show. It sounded like their dogs were very smart and they all knew how to perform tricks.

Ducky Wucky stayed quiet for the rest of the morning. He knew that Bella was smart, but she did not know any tricks. He decided that it would be easier if he just forgot all about the Ducktown Dog Show.

Ducky Wucky thought the matter was settled, but it was not.

In his heart, he really wanted to enter the Ducktown Dog Show with Bella. He even created a picture in his mind. He could see himself on stage with Bella, and Mr. Mallard was handing them a surprise gift.

What am I supposed to do with this picture in my mind?

A BARK was heard at Feather Nest Elementary.

13: Ducky Wucky and the Picture

At lunch that afternoon, Mrs. McHen's flock was quacking about the Ducktown Dog Show. Since dogs weren't allowed in school, the ducklings took turns imitating their dog's best trick.

"My dog, Finn, can fetch the newspaper!" quacked Webb, with a piece of scrap paper in his beak.

"My dog, Bubba, can drive and steer a golf cart!" said Bill as he put his wings around an imaginary steering wheel.

Quackie wiggled her feathers in front of her and said, "My dog, Buttercup, is taking piano lessons!"

Quackie asked, "What can Bella do, Ducky Wucky?"

"Well," he took a deep breath and quacked nervously, "She can sit and roll over. Then, she lets me give her a belly rub and a treat. She is really good at that one!"

As his friends watched Ducky Wucky on the floor, shaking his tail feathers, trying to re-create Bella's trick, they tried to be polite. They looked at each other, and the cafeteria was silent and still. "Um...that's a nice trick, Ducky Wucky," Webb finally quacked. "Good luck at the show. Um...we have to go now. We will see you later."

Ducky Wucky could tell that Bella's trick did not impress them, and that they were just trying to be KIND.

As his friends were flying out the window, he quacked, "Wait! She can do more than that. She stays calm and relaxed, she..." but it was too late, the cafeteria was empty. "She can BARK," he said in a quiet voice.

For the next few minutes, Ducky Wucky sat at his table alone. He was trying to figure out what he was going to do about the Ducktown Dog Show, and the picture he had created in his mind. The details of the picture were a little fuzzy, but he could see himself on stage with Bella, and Mr. Mallard was handing them a surprise gift.

Suddenly, he heard a familiar squeak.

“Young’un?”

Ducky Wucky looked up and smiled. Granny Squirrel was standing next to him with a green bean lemon square in her paw.

“Hi there, Granny Squirrel,” he quacked. “Nice to see you. Are you here for lunch?”

“No, young’un. I baked this for you, and I’m came here to talk about this Ducktown Dog Show.”

Ducky Wucky’s beak was open, but not a sound was heard.

14: A Squirrel in the Cafeteria

Granny Squirrel handed Ducky Wucky the green bean lemon square, and sat down next to him.

“Young’un, I saw you at this morning’s program. You flew in, happy as a lark. But when you left, you looked like something was bothering you. Does this have something to do with you and Bella?”

“It does, Granny Squirrel. I really want to be a part of the Ducktown Dog Show, but I don’t think we are good enough. The other dogs are really smart, and they can perform tricks. Bella doesn’t know any tricks. I’m afraid that we will look silly in front of the whole town. I don’t know what to do.”

After keeping his feelings to himself all day, it felt good to share them with someone he trusted.

Granny Squirrel took a deep breath and squeaked, “Young’un, the way I see it, you have two choices. You can save yourself a lot of time, effort, and energy and just fly home. OR, you can enter the Dog Show with Bella, PREPARE for it, and the both of you can do your best on this test!”

The cafeteria was silent again.

“Young’un, did I ever tell you about my Grandpappy Squirrel?”

Ducky Wucky shook his head and quacked, “I don’t think so.”

“My Grandpappy Squirrel and I were very close. When I was a young’un, I told him about the Ducktown Baking Contest that I wanted to enter, but I didn’t think I was good enough. The other squirrels were really good bakers, and they knew a lot of recipes. I didn’t know any recipes. I was afraid that I would look silly in

front of the whole town. I didn't know what to do.”

Granny Squirrel continued squeaking, “Well, Grandpappy Squirrel shared something with me that I would like to share with you. He squeaked, ‘Enter the contest. Whether you win or lose, you will always know that you gave your best effort, and that you were not afraid to try’.”

She gave Ducky Wucky a hug and scampered toward the door.

Outside, the sun had dropped behind a cloud. The wind was still. Granny Squirrel slowly turned around and squeaked, “Ducky Wucky, I know that you want to enter the Ducktown Dog Show with Bella. The two of you make a great team. Promise me that you will think about what Grandpappy Squirrel said. His words helped me to make a good choice, and I think they will help you, too.”

“I promise, Granny Squirrel. And thank you for squeaking with me.”

Ducky Wucky RELAXED IN SILENCE and looked out the window for a few minutes. He kept hearing Granny Squirrel's advice - *Enter the contest. Whether you win or lose, you will always know that you gave your best effort, and that you were not afraid to try. Enter the contest. Whether you win or lose, you will always know that you gave your best effort, and that you were not afraid to try.*

Outside, he could see Bill and his dog Bubba on the lawn. They were steering a golf cart, trying to catch Acorn. The three of them were having a great time as Bubba BARKed, and steered the golf cart in a direction they wanted to go.

Something about the word “steering” sounded familiar to Ducky Wucky. He knew he had heard that word before, and he knew it was important.

Steering, steering, steer, steer in a direction...

Ducky Wucky smiled, and suddenly remembered where he had heard the word “steer.” It was what Mrs. McHen was quacking about on the first day of school!

Her words came back to him, loud and clear.

Just like steering your golf cart, BARK is all about ducks steering their lives in a direction that they want to go.

Raise your wing if you would like to steer your life in a direction that you want to go.

Ducky Wucky raised his wing, picked up the piece of scrap paper Webb was using, and scribbled the word BARK on it.



As he flew out the window, he quacked, “I know what to do, I’ve got this! BARK is all about ducks steering their lives in a direction that they want to go. Well, I’m a duck, and I know where I want to go. Bella and I are going to enter the Ducktown Dog Show, and the four letters in the word BARK are going to help us! After all, ducks can accomplish anything that they place their attention on!”

At the same time, Bella was at home RELAXING IN SILENCE on the lawn. Suddenly, the sun had dropped behind a cloud. The wind was still. Bella turned her head, sniffed the air, and froze in her tracks. She could see Ducky Wucky flying toward her with a piece of paper in his beak.

From the lawn, a BARK was heard.

15: You Have to be in it, to Win it

Ducky Wucky landed on the lawn, gave Bella a belly rub, then flew into the house to tell his mom all about the Ducktown Dog Show. “You have to be in it, to win it,” he quacked, “and the four letters in BARK are going to help us. I even have a picture in my mind. I’m at the Ducktown Dog Show with Bella, and Mr. Mallard is handing us a surprise gift!”

His mom smiled and said, “I think that you and Bella will make a great team. Oh, and you will never guess who I quacked with today.”



“The Mandarins?”

“Yes, we were quacking about you and Bella. I told Mr. and Mrs. Mandarin that you were doing a great job taking care of her. They had heard about the Ducktown Dog Show on CNN, the Canary News Network. They told me that if you and Bella would like to enter the contest, that would be fine with them.”

A thrilled Ducky Wucky flew straight up in the air and did four fly-ups - one for each letter in the word BARK. He could not wait to tell Bella the good news.

Bella was still RELAXING in the shade by the Ducktown Pond when Ducky Wucky landed next to her. He waddled over, and whispered in her ear. She lifted her head, gave Ducky Wucky a sloppy kiss, and chuffed, “Rrr-rog show?”

Ducky Wucky gave her another belly rub and quacked, “Yes, Bella, please follow me. We have a Rrr-rog show to PREPARE for!”

Acorn was in a nearby tree, nibbling on a nut. As he watched the two of them waddle away, he thought to himself; *I like belly rubs, too.*

From the front porch, A BARK was heard.

16: BARK Poster

Ducky Wucky and Bella waddled up the stairs and into their room.

Together, they took down the poster that was hanging by their feather beds, and found a place to add four big, colorful letters. Below the letters, Ducky Wucky wrote the words that would help him to remember what BARK was all about.

They carefully put the poster back on the wall, and the two of them sat down in front of it.

They RELAXED IN SILENCE.

Congratulations, Ducky Wucky!
You passed the Bella test with flying colors!

BARK

B – BE PREPARED

A – ALWAYS GIVE YOUR BODY WHAT IT NEEDS

R – RELAX IN SILENCE

K – CHOOSE KINDNESS

Slowly, that same picture began to form in Ducky Wucky’s mind again; he was seeing himself at The Ducktown Dog Show with Bella as Mr. Mallard was handing them a surprise gift.

“Bella,” he quacked. “This BARK poster is going to help us PREPARE for the Ducktown Dog Show. BARK is all about ducks steering their lives in a direction that they want to go. Are you ready for a four letter, four legged, fur and feather flying fling?”

She lifted her head and chuffed, “Rrr-ready for the Rrr-rucktown Rrr-roq show.”

Ducky Wucky gave her a hug and quacked, “Yes girl, let’s get Rrr-ready for the Rrr-rucktown Rrr-roq show!”

Bella wagged her tail and thought, *this is grr-reat! We speak the same language! Ducky Wucky understands me!*

Suddenly, a picture began to form in Bella’s mind. She was seeing herself getting a belly rub and a treat. A moment later, Ducky Wucky helped to make that picture come true.

In their room, a BARK was heard.



17: Getting Rrr-ready

When Ducky Wucky awoke the next morning, the sun was shining on his BARK poster. He waddled over to it, RELAXED IN SILENCE, and made two promises to himself -

- 1 - *I will remember the four healthy choices in the word BARK everyday!*
- 2 - *I will remember to give a belly rub and a treat to Bella everyday!*

Ducky Wucky kept those two promises. His BARK poster was always there to remind him that by choosing to make the four healthy choices in BARK a part of his day, wonderful things can happen.

B - The letter ‘B’ on his poster was a reminder to BE PREPARED. Ducky Wucky began practicing new tricks with Bella everyday. Whenever he thought of the letter ‘B’, a picture would appear in his mind; he was at the Ducktown Dog Show with Bella as Mr. Mallard was handing them a surprise gift. That picture was getting clearer every day. They both began to understand something about BEING PREPARED – it felt good!

A - The letter ‘A’ on his poster was a reminder to ALWAYS GIVE YOUR BODY WHAT IT NEEDS: exercise, healthy foods, water, and rest. Each morning began with a healthy breakfast, followed by a brisk walk with Bella through Ducktown. Ducky Wucky fed Bella healthy foods and kept her water dish full. They went to sleep at the same time every night. In the morning, they both woke up well rested, and full of energy to start their day. They both began to understand something about ALWAYS GIVING YOUR BODY WHAT IT NEEDS – it felt good!

R - The letter ‘R’ on his poster reminded Ducky Wucky to RELAX IN SILENCE with Bella. At least once a day, they enjoyed turning down the noise, getting quiet, and connecting to a special kind of energy. That SILENCE would calm them, and help them to think clearer. In addition, Ducky Wucky was reminded of the letter ‘R’ when Bella would spot Acorn on their walks. Whenever she was about to BARK and chase Acorn, Ducky Wucky took a relaxed deep breath and said, “Sit!”

His voice was confident, and Bella would obey. A belly rub and a treat would be her reward. They both began to understand something about RELAXING IN SILENCE – it felt good!

K - The letter ‘K’ reminded Ducky Wucky that the opportunity to be KIND was always there. All he had to do was remember the words to Mrs. McHen’s favorite song, “A RANDOM QUACK OF KINDNESS.” He began to notice that when he chose to be KIND without expecting anything in return, his KINDNESS would come back to him. For example, when Ducky Wucky was KIND to Bella with a treat, she would return his KINDNESS with a sloppy kiss. One day, Bella surprised him by returning his KINDNESS in a new way. She gave Ducky Wucky a sloppy kiss, then she brought him a towel. They both began to understand something about KINDNESS – it felt good!

At Feather Nest Elementary, Ducky Wucky noticed that his grades were improving. At home, Bella was well behaved and willing to learn new tricks. She could now roll over for a belly rub, look Ducky Wucky in the eye, shake with both paws, RELAX IN SILENCE, and BARK on command.

Ducky Wucky could see how each letter in the word BARK was helping him to steer his life in a direction that he wanted to go.

He was learning a valuable lesson; when he placed his attention on something, he could accomplish it. That special picture in his mind was getting clearer every day.



18: The Nibblers

On the day before the Ducktown Dog Show, a RELAXED Ducky Wucky was taking Bella for a walk when an opportunity to be KIND presented itself. He noticed that the grass around Granny Squirrel's tree had not been cut in a while, and needed some attention. He walked Bella to the tree, and the two of them started nibbling the grass.

Quackie, Webb, and Bill flew by and saw them nibbling. "Ducky Wucky," they quacked, "Can we nibble too?"

"Sure! There is enough grass here for everyone to nibble."

Soon, the grass around Granny Squirrel's tree was nibbled to perfection. As Bella and the ducks turned to leave, a voice squeaked from high up in the tree. "Not so fast, you five Nibblers," said Granny Squirrel.

"Make that six Nibblers, Granny Squirrel," squeaked Acorn from behind the tree. "I've been here nibbling with my nibbling friends because I was born to nibble!"

Acorn scurried around the tree and joined the other Nibblers.

"Okay, I'll try this again," squeaked Granny Squirrel with a smile. "Not so fast you...one, two, three, four, five, SIX nibblers. Aren't ya'll forgetting something?"

A moment later, Granny Squirrel appeared at the base of the tree. She held her walking twig in one paw, and a tray of her famous corn muffins in the other.

"Well, don't just stand there, young 'uns. Come and get it!"

Ducky Wucky could not believe his eyes. He hugged Granny Squirrel as she passed around her corn muffins.

Granny Squirrel wiped her paws on her apron and said, “When I saw all of you Nibblers nibbling around my tree, I knew you were doing a good deed. Young ‘uns, when you help others without expecting anything in return, your kindness will often come back to you in ways that will surprise you. Today, you Nibblers and your nibbling kindness came back to you in the form of my famous corn muffins. I hope you enjoy nibbling on them.”

“Thank you, Granny Squirrel!” they quacked.

They were waddling away, nibbling on corn muffins, when they heard a squeak coming from one of the tree branches. As they turned around, they saw Granny Squirrel waving to them.

“Nibblers, good luck tomorrow at the Ducktown Dog Show!”

As they waved back to her, a **BARK** was heard from somewhere in the branches.



19: The Big Day



The sun was brightly shining on the morning of the Ducktown Dog Show. The waiting was over, and the big day was finally here.

After a healthy breakfast, Mom, Dad, Bella, and Ducky Wucky swam across Ducktown Pond to Mallard's Music Mart.

"Good luck today, son," quacked his dad as they shook feathers in the parking lot.

"Thanks Dad. C'mon Bella, let's go sign in." Bella RELAXED as Ducky Wucky put on her leash. She followed him to the registration table near the stage.

It looked like the entire town had flown in for the big event and was nesting on the bleachers. Every bird was there, including the Mandarins, who had migrated home early from their southern vacation.

They flew over to Ducky Wucky and quacked, “We couldn’t miss the Ducktown Dog Show! We wanted to let you know that we’ll be quacking for the both of you!”

Bella responded by giving Mrs. Mandarin a sloppy kiss. Mr. Mandarin was PREPARED, standing by with a towel.

Ducky Wucky was excited, but he just realized something. Mr. and Mrs. Mandarin were back from their vacation, so they would be taking Bella home with them after the Dog Show. He tried not to think about that. Instead, he remembered the letter ‘R’ and RELAXED IN SILENCE as he waited in line with Bella at the registration table.

A moment later, he heard a friendly voice in the crowd that he recognized. “Hello young ‘uns!” It was Granny Squirrel holding a coconut kale cookie in one paw, and a sweet potato doggie biscuit in the other.

“No need to eat like a bird, so I thought ya’ll might enjoy these healthy treats,” she squeaked as she handed them to Ducky Wucky and Bella. While she was close to them, she whispered with a wink of her eye, “And I also have a little bit of Granny Squirrel advice for ya’ll; remember the word BARK today.”

Did Granny Squirrel just ask me to remember the word BARK today?

Ducky Wucky’s beak was open, but not a sound was heard.

20: A BARKing Squirrel?

Ducky Wucky smiled and quacked, “Wait a minute, Granny Squirrel. Yesterday, I heard a BARK coming from the branches in your tree. Was that you?”

“Yes, young’un, that was me,” she squeaked with a smile.

Ducky Wucky was confused. “Granny Squirrel, I have been using the four letters in the word BARK to PREPARE for today! How do you know about the word BARK? Did Mrs. McHen share it with you?”

“Not exactly, young’un. I shared the work BARK with Mrs. McHen.”

Once again, Ducky Wucky’s beak was open, but not a sound was heard.

“Let me explain, young’un. A long time ago, I was Mrs. McHen’s teacher when she was a duckling at Feather Nest Elementary. Back then, her name was Miss McChick-Hen. I shared the word BARK with her flock, just like she shared it with your flock.”

Granny Squirrel closed her eyes, took a deep breath and continued to squeak.

“The word BARK has been in my family since the days of my Grandpappy Squirrel. I loved my Grandpappy Squirrel. He taught us that the word BARK is meant to be shared. That way, young’uns like yourself grow up knowing that they can accomplish anything that they place their attention on.”

“That is why Grandpappy Squirrel encouraged me to enter the Ducktown Baking Contest, and that is why I encouraged you to enter the Ducktown Dog Show. So you would know what it feels like to steer your life in a direction that you want to go.”

Ducky Wucky gave Granny Squirrel a hug and quacked, “I’ll always remember the words you shared with me in the cafeteria: ‘Enter the contest. Whether you win or lose, you will always know that you gave your best effort, and that you were not afraid to try’.”

“Young’un, always remember those words, and your life will be the wonderful journey it was meant to be. Now, along that journey you can expect all kinds of challenges, but guess what? When you choose to face those challenges, they will help to make you stronger. Just remember to live each day with confidence, not fear as your anchor.”

As Ducky Wucky looked at Granny Squirrel, he could tell there was a lifetime of wisdom in her eyes. Bella leaned over and gave her a sloppy kiss.

“Whoa there, Bella!” she squeaked with a grin. “Thank you for the kiss, but I just took a bath. I don’t need another one. Well, good luck today, young’uns!” She picked up her walking twig, and slowly walked toward the bleachers.

The sun had dropped behind a cloud. The wind was still. Granny Squirrel slowly turned around and squeaked, “Ducky Wucky, you and Bella are already winners because you were not afraid to try. Grandpappy Squirrel would be proud of you. I know I am.”

“Thank you for everything. I love you, Granny Squirrel.”

“You are welcome, young’un. I love you too. Just remember, when you choose to make the four healthy choices in BARK a part of your day, wonderful things can happen.”

As she walked away, Ducky Wucky was wondering where Acorn was. He was always around to lend Granny a helping paw.

Bill, Webb and Quackie suddenly appeared and landed right next to Granny

Squirrel. They all had their wings outstretched.

“Well, thank you for taking me under your wings, young’uns.” She grabbed their wings and held on tight as the three ducklings gently flew her toward the bleachers, together.

“WaaaaHoooo, young’uns! What a ride!” was heard. And so was a BARK.



21: Time to Shine

A few minutes later, all of the dogs were signed in and registered for the Ducktown Dog Show. Every bird was waiting patiently for the event to begin when Mr. Mallard flew over to the microphone.

“Hello, and welcome to the First Annual Ducktown Dog Show! I would like to thank every bird for migrating here.” The crowd flapped their wings and quacked their approval. “After today’s Dog Show, I invite everyone to stay here for the Glenn Colton concert. He’ll be playing all of his hit songs including, “EVERYBIRDY LIMBO”, so don’t fly away!”

Hearing this, the birds went wild.

Mr. Mallard continued, “I will now explain the rules for today’s Dog Show. In just a moment, I will count to three and then I will say the word ‘go’. That is when all of the dogs will be invited to perform their best trick for the judge. The bird who’s dog impresses the judge will win”... The crowd was silent as Mr. Mallard stopped to preen his feathers.

He finished preening, and continued. “The bird who’s dog impresses the judge will win...a surprise gift!”

“A surprise gift?” quacked Webb. “I hope it’s an electric nest heater!”

“A surprise gift? I hope it’s a pair of duck leg warmers!” said Quackie.

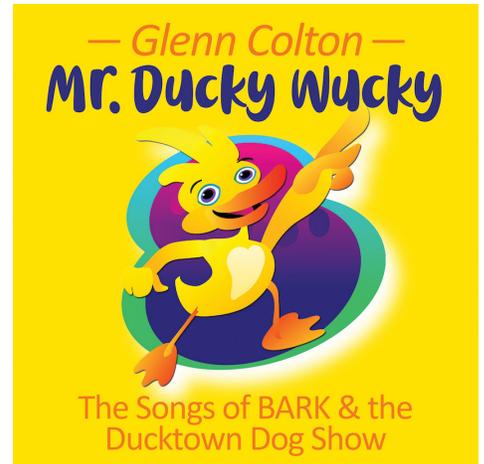
“A surprise gift?” quacked Bill. “I hope it’s a steering wheel cover for our golf cart!”

Mr. Mallard continued, “Right now, I invite all of the ducks to show us what your dogs can do! Every bird get ready! One, two, three...go!”

The parking lot was instantly transformed into a circus-like atmosphere. Every dog was trying to impress the judge, who was watching from behind the stage curtain.

A moment later, Mr. Mallard began playing Glenn Colton's new album, "The Songs of BARK & the Ducktown Dog Show", through the sound system.

Ducky Wucky was impressed with the great tricks he was seeing. Some dogs were dancing on two legs, some dogs were skateboarding, and Bill's dog Bubba was steering a golf cart!



Ducky Wucky looked up to see Quackie's dog, Buttercup, had left her piano, and was dancing to "CONGA LINE FEVER" with Glenn Colton. Then, Ducky Wucky looked down to see Bella performing her favorite trick: rolling over so she could get a belly rub and a treat.

From behind the stage curtain, a small, furry friend wearing the judge's vest was watching everything.

The merriment continued for a few moments until Mr. Mallard announced, "Great job, everyone! Now, it is time to meet our judge. May I please have a drum roll?"

The sun had dropped behind a cloud. The wind was still. In an instant, the crowd was silenced by what they saw. A drum roll began as the dogs and ducks slowly turned their heads, frozen in their tracks.

"As the owner of Mallard's Music Mart, it is my pleasure to introduce the judge for today's Ducktown Dog Show. Every bird, please put your wings and your paws together, and welcome to the stage..."

22: Here Comes the Judge

Walking onto the stage, wearing the judge's vest was Acorn, the neighborhood squirrel. At first, all was quiet as the crowd blinked their eyes in disbelief. But seconds later, the dogs began to pull away from their owners and charge toward the stage. Even with his judge's vest on, Acorn was still a squirrel.

There was one dog, however, that did not pull away from his owner. Bella sat RELAXED with her tail wagging, looking up at Ducky Wucky. "Good girl, Bella," he said as he handed her a treat.

Meanwhile, Acorn was smiling. He calmly scampered up to his assigned branch that was hanging over the stage. He climbed up, sat down, and pulled an apple slice out of his vest. He was enjoying his snack as the dogs below ran in circles, BARKing and jumping. Acorn pulled out a pad and pencil, looked at the supercharged dogs below, and began taking notes.

A moment later, Acorn left his branch and scampered down the tree. He whispered a few words to Mr. Mallard, handed him his notes, ducked behind the curtain backdrop, and was gone.

"Attention everybody," said Mr. Mallard. "Owners, please control your dogs. The squirrel has left the building. I repeat... the squirrel has left the building!"

The crowd quieted down as Mr. Mallard continued.

"My feathered friends, today's event gave all of us a chance to meet, and to share our talents with each other. Acorn told me that he was impressed with many of your great tricks. He saw everything from his branch. Now is the time we have all been waiting for...we will now announce the winner of the Ducktown Dog Show!"

Many BARKS were heard.

23: And the Winner is...

"In third place," said Mr. Mallard, "Let's hear it for Quackie and her dog, Buttercup! She played, 'The Flight of the Hummingbird' beautifully on the piano."

The crowd offered a polite round of applause.

"In second place, let's hear it for Bill, and his dog, Bubba! Boy, that dog can really steer a golf cart!" Again, the crowd flapped their wings a bit louder.

The applause slowly faded into silence as Mr. Mallard said, "And now, the moment we have all been waiting for. The winner of today's Ducktown Dog Show is..." The crowd was silent as Mr. Mallard stopped to preen his feathers.

He finished preening, and continued. "The winners of today's dog show paddled all the way across Ducktown Pond to be here. Let's hear it for...Ducky Wucky and Bella, the Cockapoo!"

The sun had dropped behind a cloud. The wind was still, and the birds went wild! It felt like a dream, but Ducky Wucky wasn't dreaming.

Bella, did we just win the Ducktown Dog Show?

He hugged Bella and flew to the stage. A moment later, they were shaking feathers and paws with Mr. Mallard.



When the crowd quieted down, Mr. Mallard handed a beautiful, blue ribbon to Ducky Wucky. He then turned to Bella and gave her a treat. Even though she was starting to get full, she gladly accepted it in the spirit of BARK. In other words, she was willing to risk it, for the biscuit.

Ducky Wucky held up his blue ribbon and quacked, “Bella and I would like to thank you for this gift, Mr. Mallard.”

“Ducky Wucky,” said Mr. Mallard, “Our judge, Acorn, was very impressed with you and Bella. When he walked onto the stage, all of the other dogs were excited, yet you and Bella stayed RELAXED. What is your secret?”

“It’s not really a secret, Mr. Mallard. In fact, what helped us to do our best today is meant to be shared. I think Bella can answer your question better than I can.” Ducky Wucky placed the microphone in front of Bella, and she BARKed.

Every beak in the crowd was open, but not a sound was heard.

Ducky Wucky removed a large piece of paper from his pocket, unfolded it, and held it up for every bird to see. Written on the paper, in large, capital letters, was the word BARK.

Every bird in the crowd was looking at the word, repeating it quietly with curious looks on their faces. The ducklings from Mrs. McHen’s class smiled because they remembered what BARK was all about.

Ducky Wucky waddled over to the microphone, and quacked, “Ducktown, there are four letters in the word BARK. Each letter represents a healthy choice. When you choose to make these four healthy choices a part of your day, wonderful things can happen. BARK is all about ducks steering their lives in a direction that they want to go.”

Then, he quacked the words that were written on his piece of paper.

BARK

B – BE PREPARED

A – ALWAYS GIVE YOUR BODY WHAT IT NEEDS

R – RELAX IN SILENCE

K – CHOOSE KINDNESS

“Mr. Mallard, the Ducktown Dog Show was a test. I really wanted to do my best today, so I created a BARK poster just like this one. I hung it on my wall, and I looked at it everyday. The four letters in BARK gave me the tools to stay focused on what I wanted to accomplish. Then, I created a picture in my mind. In the picture, I was at the Ducktown Dog Show with Bella, and you were handing us a surprise gift on stage. As time went by, that picture in my mind kept getting clearer. Today, thanks to the word BARK, the picture that was in my mind came true. And you know what the best part was? I loved every minute of it!”

He RELAXED IN SILENCE for a moment, and looked at the large crowd.

“Taking tests are a part of life. If we are PREPARED, we do well. We learn, we grow, and good things start happening to us. I believe ducks like us can accomplish anything that we place our attention on.

The sound of crickets filled the air. No bird quacked a quack. Ducky Wucky looked at the crowd and saw Granny Squirrel and Mrs. McHen sitting next to each other. They were smiling at him.

“I would also like to thank my two special teachers for sharing the word BARK. I could not have done my best on today’s test without the KINDNESS of Mrs. McHen and Granny Squirrel. I will always remember their words: “When you choose to make the four healthy choices in BARK a part of your day, wonderful things can happen.”

When Granny Squirrel heard this, her eyes got watery. “I love that youn’un,” she squeaked. Mrs. McHen leaned over, handed her a handkerchief, and quacked, “Granny, I do too.”

Ducky Wucky leaned toward Bella and added, “I would also like to thank Bella for being a great friend.”

Bella responded the only way she knew how, by giving Ducky Wucky one of her sloppy kisses. Mr. Mallard responded the only way he knew how, by giving Ducky Wucky a towel.

A BARK was heard, and once again, the birds went wild.

24: Not so Fast, Ducky Wucky

The crowd put their wings together and flapped their approval as Ducky Wucky shook feathers with Mr. Mallard. Ducky Wucky slowly waddled off the stage with Bella and his blue ribbon. He was very happy to have won the contest, but his feelings were changing.

Ducky Wucky began to realize just how much he was going to miss Bella, the Cockapoo.

Mr. and Mrs. Mandarin waddled toward them and quacked, “Congratulations, you two! We can see that Bella learned a lot from you while we were away. We would like to thank you for taking such good care of her.”

“You’re welcome, Mr. and Mrs. Mandarin,” he quacked. “I learned a lot from her, too.”

He slowly handed Bella’s leash to Mr. and Mrs. Mandarin and tried to be strong. Ducky Wucky managed to quack, “She’s a good girl. She likes her belly rubbed.” He gave Bella a hug and said, “I meant what I said on the stage, girl. You are my best friend. I hope to see you soon. I love you.”

Bella tilted her head, looked Ducky Wucky in the eye, and chuffed, “I Rrr-rove roo too.”

With his head hung low, Ducky Wucky slowly waddled over to his mom and dad. They gave him a hug, and the three of them headed for the pond. Ducky Wucky was paddling toward home when heard a familiar voice in the distance, coming from the stage.

“Not so fast, Ducky Wucky,” quacked Mr. Mallard with a smile. “As the winner of the Ducktown Dog Show, your surprise gift is here on the stage, waiting for you.”

At first, Ducky Wucky thought he was hearing things. *Did Mr. Mallard just announce that my surprise gift is on the stage, waiting for me?*

Ducky Wucky was confused. He thought that the blue ribbon was his surprise gift. Then, a familiar picture appeared in Ducky Wucky's mind once again; he was seeing himself at the Ducktown Dog Show with Bella as Mr. Mallard was handing them a surprise gift.

Mr. Mallard continued to quack through the PA system, "Ducky Wucky, please fly back to the stage. There is somebody up here who wants to meet you!"

Did Mr. Mallard just say that somebody wants to meet me?

Ducky Wucky's beak was open, but not a sound was heard.

The crowd was silent. The sun had suddenly appeared from behind a white, puffy cloud. Ducky Wucky paddled back to the shore, looked up at the stage, and froze in his tracks.

In his wings, he could see Mr. Mallard holding a cute, little ball of fur. The ball of fur looked like a miniature version of Bella. He had big brown eyelashes, floppy ears, wavy light brown fur, and a pink tongue hanging out of his mouth like a tiny slice of ham.

"Ducky Wucky, please fly up here and meet...your new puppy!"



25: A Surprise Gift

Ducky Wucky could not believe what he was seeing. It felt like a dream, but he was not dreaming.

Was this really happening? Did I just win a puppy?

Ducky Wucky hugged his mom and dad and flew to the stage with tears of joy rolling off of his feathers.

No one was more surprised than Bella. She gave Mr. and Mrs. Mandarin each a sloppy kiss and ran to the stage at her top speed of 20 miles per hour.

They both arrived on the stage at the same time. When Mr. Mallard handed the puppy to Ducky Wucky, once again, the audience quacked and flapped their approval. Birds everywhere were smiling. If banana trees were nearby, every piece of fruit on them could have been eaten sideways.

“Hi boy! Nice to meet you,” Ducky Wucky quacked. “Would you like your belly rubbed?” The puppy BARKed and rolled over.

As Acorn watched from the side of the stage, he thought to himself: *I like belly rubs, too.*

Ducky Wucky hugged his puppy and said, “I have a feeling that you and I are going to be great friends.” Bella came over and gave the puppy a sloppy kiss as if to say, “Me too!” The puppy responded by giving Bella a mini sloppy kiss.



Mr. Mallard offered Ducky Wucky the microphone and invited him to say a few more words to the crowd.

With his new puppy under his wing, he said, “Mr. Mallard, thank you for organizing this wonderful event, and thank you for my puppy. I’m 16 weeks old, and this the best day of my life!”

The crowd continued flapping their wings and quacking as Ducky Wucky continued.

“I would like every bird in Ducktown to know that the four letters in BARK are meant to be shared. BARK began with Grandpappy Squirrel, who shared it with Granny Squirrel. Granny Squirrel shared it with Miss McChick-Hen, who became Mrs. McHen. Mrs McHen shared it with our class, and today I invite you to share it with every bird you know.”

He concluded by quacking, “BARK is all about ducks steering their lives in a direction that they want to go.”

Ducky Wucky waddled off the stage with Bella and his new puppy. Acorn scampered over and squeaked, “Good job today, Ducky Wucky! You and Bella really impressed me. Have you decided on a name for your puppy?”

“Yes I have. Acorn, I'd like you to meet the newest member of our family. His name is Bark.”

Mr. Mallard returned to the microphone and quacked, “I would like to thank every birdie for participating in today’s First Annual Ducktown Dog Show. Right now, the excitement continues, so don’t fly away! I invite every bird to please put your feathers together, flap your wings and welcome to the stage, all the way from Orchard Park, NY, Glenn Colton, live in concert!”

Mr. Mallard handed Glenn the microphone...

26: Glenn Colton, Live in Concert

“Thank you, Mr. Mallard. Hello, Ducktown! My name is Glenn Colton. I just flew in from Orchard Park, and boy, are my arms tired!”

The sound of crickets filled the air. Every beak in the crowd was open, but not a sound was heard.

“I would like to dedicate my first song to a very special duck who shared the wonderful lessons of BARK with us today. This is a song called, “MR. DUCKY WUCKY.”

The song was a big hit with the crowd, so Glenn played it again.

“For the rest of my show,” Glenn continued, “I hope you enjoy these songs from my latest record, ‘The Songs of BARK & the Ducktown Dog Show’. Every bird can stream or download them from the web.”

Hearing this, Bill turned to Webb and quacked, “Hey, since when are you known as ‘the’ Webb? And how did you get Glenn’s new songs already?”

‘The’ Webb had no idea what Bill was quacking about, but the ducks did enjoy Glenn’s new songs. The lyrics were inspirational, the melodies were catchy, and the rhythms were upbeat. Every bird felt good during Glenn’s show, especially when he played his new hit song, “A RANDOM QUACK OF KINDNESS.”

Glenn wrapped up his show by saying, “I’d like to thank every bird for making me feel so welcome in Ducktown. My new book is entitled, ‘BARK & the Ducktown Dog Show,’ and it is available at The Ducktown Bookstore.



Always remember, when you choose to make the four healthy choices in BARK a part of your day, wonderful things can happen.”

When the concert was over, every bird waited in line to meet Ducky Wucky and Bella. They wanted to congratulate them on a job well done. The ducks were so impressed with Glenn Colton’s new hit song, they began addressing Ducky Wucky as Mr. Ducky Wucky. Every bird told him that as soon as they flew home, they were going to place a BARK poster on their wall.



Mr. Ducky Wucky was KIND. Even though he was getting tired, he gladly shook feathers with every duck who had waited patiently in the line. By the end of the day, he had put a smile on the face of every bird in Ducktown.

Mr. Ducky Wucky was getting ready to migrate home when he spotted Glenn Colton relaxing next to his tour bus by the stage, writing a new song called “My Place In the Sun”. He and Bark waddled over to say a quick hello.

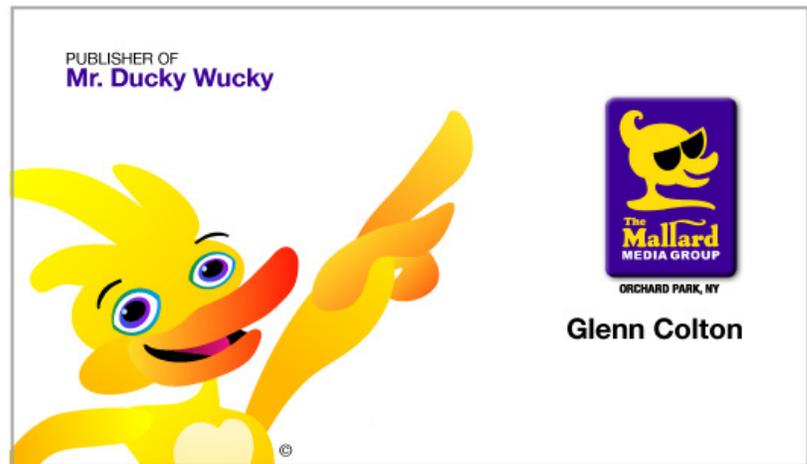
“Hi Glenn, I enjoyed your songs, especially, ‘MR. DUCKY WUCKY.’ I never dreamed I would have a song written about me. Thank you.”

Glenn handed him a book and replied, “Mr. Ducky Wucky, you are very welcome, and congratulations. I would like to share a copy of my latest book with you. It is called, ‘Mr. Ducky Wucky - BARK & the Ducktown Dog Show’. Even though you know how the story ends, I think you will enjoy reading it. It is the story of your journey, and how you won The Ducktown Dog Show today. It also explains why your name is now Mr. Ducky Wucky because of my song. From the web, you can also download or stream my new record, ‘The Songs of BARK & the Ducktown Dog Show’.”

“Thank you, Glenn,” he quacked. “But...but...how did you write a book and record songs about something that just happened today?”

Glenn smiled, handed Mr. Ducky Wucky his card and said, “Give me a call sometime. I’ll be happy to explain it to you.”

“Thank you, Glenn. I promise I will call you,” he quacked.



Glenn gave Mr. Ducky Wucky a high feather, and then gave his driver the go-ahead to take him to his next show. Mr. Ducky Wucky and Bark waved goodbye as the tour bus started to pull away. Glenn leaned out the window and said, “Mr. Ducky Wucky, always remember that ducks can accomplish anything that they place their attention on!”

A moment later, a cloud of dust and silence filled the air.

Mr. Ducky Wucky turned to his new puppy and quacked, “Bark, what a great day we had. Well, it’s time for us to go home, boy.”

He tucked the book under his wing, placed Bark on his back, and waddled toward the shore.

As he paddled home, Mr. Ducky Wucky had time to RELAX IN SILENCE. He was looking forward to sharing Glenn’s book and “The Songs of BARK & the Ducktown Dog Show” with his family and friends. After all, the word BARK was meant to be shared.

On Ducktown Pond, a BARK was heard.

27: Welcome to the Family, Bark!

Mr. Ducky Wucky arrived home with Bark, the puppy, on his back, and waddled to his front porch.

“I know what to do. I’ve got this!” he quacked. Mr. Ducky Wucky created a picture in his mind, then got busy making that picture come true.

A few minutes later, his mom overheard him talking to Bark on the front porch.

“OK boy, your food and water bowls are set up in the kitchen, your bed is comfy, you just did your business outside, and I just cleaned it up.”

Next, Mr. Ducky Wucky attached the blue ribbon to his BARK poster and remembered the two promises he made to himself –

- 1 - *I will remember the four letters in BARK and use them everyday!*
- 2 - *I will remember to give a belly rub and a treat to Bark, the puppy, everyday!*

Mr. Ducky Wucky kept those two promises.

His BARK poster was always in his room to remind him that when ducks make the four healthy choices in BARK a part of their day, wonderful things can happen.



28: Rrrr-review

Mr. Ducky Wucky enjoyed Glenn's new book, and was happy to share it with all of his Ducktown friends and neighbors. When Mr. Ducky Wucky and Bark walked through Ducktown, every bird would flap their wings and quack hello.

When Bark, the puppy, would BARK, the sound reminded every bird of the four wonderful life lessons that were learned on the day of the Ducktown Dog Show, and described in Glenn's book.

B – Be Prepared

A – Always Give Your Body What it Needs

R – Relax in Silence

K – Choose Kindness

The word BARK also encouraged the Ducktown ducks to live each day with confidence, not fear as their anchor. Whenever a contest was announced in Ducktown, every bird would sign up for it and quack, "Whether I win or lose, I will always know that I gave my best effort, and that I was not afraid to try."

BARK

**BARK is all about ducks steering their lives
in a direction that they want to go.**

**- Ducks, and all living creatures can accomplish
anything that they place their attention on.**

- BARK is meant to be shared.

**- When you choose to make the four healthy choices in BARK
a part of your day, wonderful things can happen."**

29: Slow Down, Granny Squirrel!

Bella and Bark were neighbors. They played together every day and became the best of friends. Their favorite game was called, “Catch the squirrel before the squirrel touches the tree”.

Because Acorn was fast on his paws, he had an advantage; Bella and Bark could not catch him. Acorn would often show KINDNESS by slowing down, and allowing himself to be caught right before he could touch the tree. When this happened, Bella and Bark would return Acorn’s KINDNESS in a way that surprised him - with a belly rub!

On some days, Granny Squirrel would play the game. Bella, Bark and Acorn would show KINDNESS by pretending to be out of breath so Granny Squirrel could touch the tree and win.

“You young ‘uns are just not fast enough for Granny!” she would squeak. A few minutes later, she would scamper down the tree and surprise them with a batch of her homemade carrot doggie biscuits.

Granny Squirrel would hand out the treats, and a BARK (and a squeak) would be heard in Ducktown.

Epilogue



The sound of a BARK (and a squeak) woke me up. I must have been asleep for a while, because when I opened my eyes, the sun was rising over Ducktown.

Was I asleep on the bench all night? I just had the most amazing dream!

I remembered a dog show, squirrels and the word BARK. Was I performing a concert in front of an audience of talking ducks? Talking ducks? I laughed as I reminded myself that ducks don't talk, they quack. I closed my eyes and tried to remember what the ducks in my dream were quacking about.

I promised myself that I would write about it when I got home.

The sun had dropped behind a cloud. The wind was still. Suddenly, I heard a real quacking sound. It was the ring tone on my phone.

“Hello?” I answered.

“Hi Glenn, this is Ducky Wucky. I really enjoyed your book and your songs.”

My mouth was open, but not a sound was heard. The duck call continued.

“Bella and I were teaching Bark a few new tricks, and we saw you sitting on the bench. May we swim across the pond to quack and BARK with you for a few minutes?”

At first, I was confused, not sure what to say.

*Am I still dreaming? Am I on the phone with Mr. Ducky Wucky?
Wait, I know what to do. I've got this!*

“Sure, come on over,” I replied. “And by the way, I believe your name is now Mr. Ducky Wucky. You have earned it.”

I looked up and saw that Mr. Ducky Wucky, Bella, and Bark were paddling toward me. The three of them waddled out of the water and approached the bench.

Mr. Ducky Wucky gave me a high feather and quacked, “Hi, Glenn. I think you are going to need this.” He handed me a towel as Bella and Bark greeted me in their own special way – with sloppy kisses!

I dried myself off, and Mr. Ducky Wucky handed me a book.
“Would you please read your story to us?” he quacked.

*Did Mr. Ducky Wucky just ask me to read my story to them?
Wait, I know what to do. I've got this!*

“Mr. Ducky Wucky, I would happy to.
After all, the four letters in BARK are meant to be shared.”

I opened the book and smiled so wide, I could have eaten a banana sideways.



On the inside cover, in my own handwriting, was written the words: “To my good friend Mr. Ducky Wucky. You chose to make the four healthy choices in BARK a part of your day, and wonderful things have happened. Congratulations on winning the Ducktown Dog Show.”

Bark, Bella and Ducky Wucky hopped onto the bench and sat on my lap. I closed my eyes for a moment, took a deep breath, and was reminded that ducks, and all living creatures, can accomplish anything that they place their attention on.

I opened my book and began reading to them, “I had been driving all day. Up ahead, a sign read: WELCOME TO DUCKTOWN. Did I read that right? Ducktown? It looked like a nice place to stop and rest for a few minutes.”



In the distance, a BARK was heard...

Your Very Own BARK Poster

Mr. Ducky Wucky and Glenn invite you to create your very own BARK poster, and display it in a special place. When you look at it, you will always remember to...



BARK

B – BE PREPARED

A – ALWAYS GIVE YOUR
BODY WHAT IT
NEEDS

R – RELAX IN SILENCE

K – CHOOSE KINDNESS

B·A·R·K



BARK is all about ducks steering their lives in a direction they want it to go. When ducks choose to make the four letters in the word BARK a part of their day, wonderful things can happen.

The Wonderful Thing About 'B'

The letter 'B' is a reminder to **BE PREPARED**. Ducks can accomplish anything that they place their attention on. When ducks create a picture in their mind, they will find a way to make that picture become a reality. So ducks, create that picture!

The Wonderful Thing About 'A'

The letter 'A' is a reminder to **ALWAYS GIVE YOUR DUCK BODY WHAT IT NEEDS**. Ducks can help themselves with a good night's sleep, exercise, plenty of water, and healthy foods. Their duck bodies will then have the energy to do their best in school, and to put their best-webbed foot forward every day!

The Wonderful Thing About 'R'

The letter 'R' is a reminder to **RELAX IN SILENCE**. This happens when ducks turn down the noise, get quiet and connect to a special kind of duck energy. It is the kind of energy that can calm them by bringing their duck body and their duck mind together. **SILENCE** can also help ducks to think clearer!

The Wonderful Thing About 'K'

The letter K is a reminder to choose **KINDNESS**. Kind ducks think about other's feelings and not just their own. They help those in need, and they are kind when other ducks are not. Kind ducks enjoy putting smiles on the faces of all living creatures. When they do, something wonderful often happens; their **KINDNESS** comes back to them in surprising ways. When it comes to **KINDNESS**, in giving we receive. And the best part is, the opportunity to offer a random quack of kindness is always there!

**Download or stream
Glenn's music from anywhere...**



My Place in the Sun

Words and Music by Glenn Colton

I know what I like, I like to build Leggos
Star Wars, racing cars, dinosaurs and there's still room for more
Yes, I have a future plan, building things the best I can
Some day I'll be an engineer who designs landing gear

My life has just begun
I can't wait to find my place in the sun, in the sun

I know what I like, I like to make music
Trumpet, clarinet, singin' great songs that you won't forget
Yes, I have a future plan, I'll learn every song I can
Someday I'll be writing songs this is where I belong

My life has just begun
I can't wait to find my place in the sun, in the sun



Yes, I have a future plan,
Today I'll do the best I can

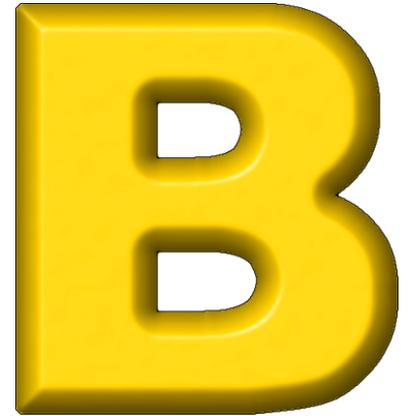
Someday I'll be glad that
I was not afraid to try

My life has just begun
I can't wait to find my place in the sun
In the sun

Be Prepared

Words and Music by Glenn Colton

The Wonderful Thing About 'B' - *The letter 'B' is a reminder to BE PREPARED. Ducks can accomplish anything that they place their attention on. When ducks create a picture in their mind, they will find a way to make that picture become a reality. So ducks, create that picture!*



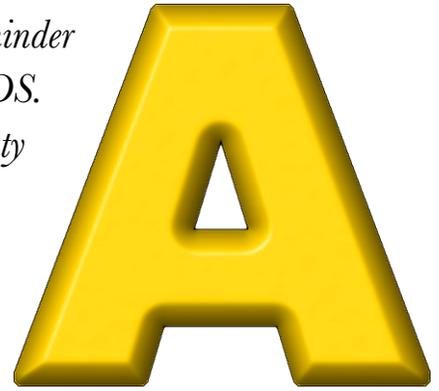
I have seen what it means to be prepared, to be prepared
What comes my way every day, I will be prepared, be prepared

I won't put it off until the last minute
I've got the time, I might as well begin it
I will be prepared, be prepared, be prepared, be prepared!

Always Give Your Body What it Needs

Words and Music by Glenn Colton

The Wonderful Thing About ‘A’ – *The letter ‘A’ is a reminder to ALWAYS GIVE YOUR DUCK BODY WHAT IT NEEDS. Ducks can help themselves with a good night’s sleep, exercise, plenty of water, and healthy foods. Their duck bodies will then have the energy to do their best in school, and to put their best webbed foot forward every day!*



Last night I was yawnin’, when I should have been countin’ sheep
When I woke up this morning, I needed a lot more sleep
So today I made this promise, a promise that I can keep
When I lay my head on my bed, I’ll give my body what it needs
Plenty of rest – that’s what my body needs

I know that it sounds so simple, yes I do believe
To do my best on every test, I’ll give my body what it needs
It’s good to give my body what it needs

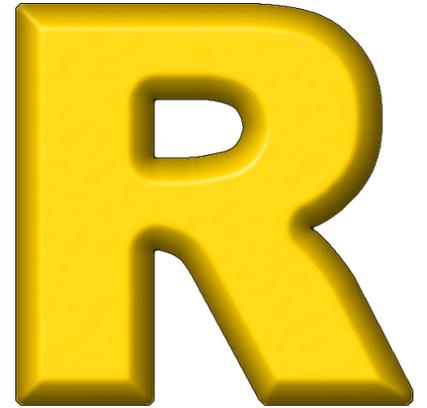
Yesterday I skipped breakfast, had no time I was runnin’ late
My stomach soon was a-rumblin’, I had a really bad headache
So today I made this promise, a promise that I can keep
When the school day starts I’ll do my part, I’ll give my body what it needs
A healthy breakfast - that’s what my body needs

I know that it sounds so simple, yes I do believe
To do my best on every test I’ll give my body what it needs
It’s good to give my body what it needs!

Relax in Silence

No Words just Silence by Glenn Colton

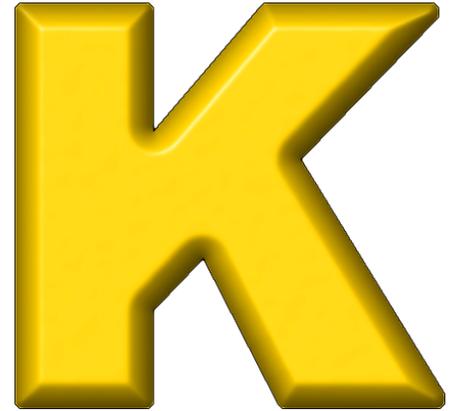
The Wonderful Thing About ‘R’ – *The letter ‘R’ is a reminder to RELAX IN SILENCE. This happens when ducks turn down the noise, get quiet and connect to a special kind of duck energy. It is the kind of energy that can calm them by bringing their duck body and their duck mind together. SILENCE can also help ducks to think clearer!*



A Random Quack of Kindness

Words and Music by Glenn Colton

The Wonderful Thing About ‘K’ - *The letter K is a reminder to choose KINDNESS. Kind ducks think about other’s feelings and not just their own. They help those in need, and they are kind even when other ducks are not. Kind ducks enjoy putting smiles on the faces of all living creatures. When they do, something wonderful often happens; their KINDNESS comes back to them in surprising ways. When it comes to KINDNESS, in giving we receive. And the best part is, the opportunity to offer a random quack of kindness is always there!*



A random quack of kindness is perfect and it’s free
It happens when we help a friend unexpectedly

I was paddling in a circle, when you swam up to me
You told me not to worry, your webbed foot will soon be set free

We were flying in a “V” formation, you quacked to me I was amazed
Would you like to take the lead spot? I smiled so wide
I could have eaten a banana sideways

My name is Granny Squirrel, and I loved what I saw
When I was walking with my twig
And you lent me a helping paw, a helping paw

A random quack of kindness is perfect and it’s free
It happens when we help a friend unexpectedly!

The Feather Nest Elementary School Song

Words and Music by Glenn Colton

Every birdy knows about a random quack of kindness
Every birdy knows what it means to be a friend
Every birdy knows where we belong
Here at school quacking this song
So come on every birdy quack along!

I will be kind to every bird in the water
I will be kind to every bird in the sky
I will respect you and me
It's our responsibility
We are the Ducktown community!



Mr. Ducky Wucky & The Ducktown Dog Show

Words and Music by Glenn Colton

A duck is flying home from school, and if he's really lucky
A furry friend is waiting for Mr. Ducky Wucky

His neighbors are flying south, their first stop is Kentucky
Who's watching Bella the Cockapoo? Mr. Ducky Wucky

They took a trip to Swan Lake the weather was not yucky
Who will fly them safely home? Mr. Ducky Wucky

Every bird in Ducktown knows his name but he's not star-strucky
Who taught us B-A-R-K spells BARK, Mr. Ducky Wucky

His friends enjoyed this brand new song, they were oh so clucky
Who would like to quack along with Mr. Ducky Wucky

Quack, quack quack...



Conga Line Fever

Words & Music by Glenn Colton

Well it looks like a train, and it moves like a snake
So put your hands on the shoulders of the
Person in front of you for goodness sake!

Who's that in the middle, lookin' so fine?
Goodness gracious, I do believe we've got a conga line!

So follow the conga line leader
You'll catch the conga line fever
Make yourself a believer
Catch the conga line fever

We gotta keep it movin' like we're never gonna stop
You can shuffle your feet, you can move to the beat
Do the bunny hop
Who's that in the middle, lookin' so fine?
Goodness gracious, I do believe we've got a conga line!



Everybirdy Limbo!

Words & Music by Glenn Colton

Come on everybody, get up and do it quick
We're havin' a party, beneath the limbo stick

Limbo, everybody limbo
Everybody limbo, the limbo is hot

Limbo, everybody limbo
Everybody limbo, so give it all you've got

You can move your body, you can move your feet
We're havin' a party, so dance to the limbo beat!



The Dream (Theme from BARK)

Words & Music by Glenn Colton

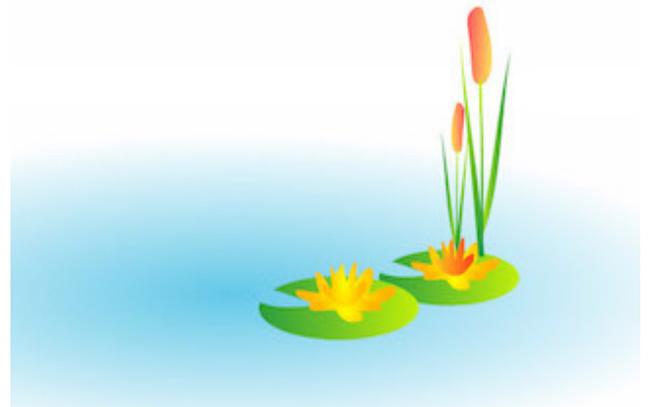
Some call me a dreamer, I don't mind if they do
I have had my share, of dreams that came true
Years ago I took some paper, and a fountain pen
I wrote these words to remind me, every now and then

It's the dream that keeps you going
The beauty of not knowing, what life has in store for you
Show me a dream you have believed in, your whole life through
And I'll show you a dream, that's on its way to you

I would love to travel and I would love to fly
Thinking about the dream makes me want to try
There's power in a picture, that always on my mind
And, I can see it's getting clearer all the time!

Be Prepared for tomorrow
Always Give Your Body What it Needs
Relax in Silence, make more time for
Kindness, with love and confidence I will proceed, I will succeed

And I'll show you a dream, that's going to come true!



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Glenn Colton



Glenn has performed over 4000 high-energy educational concerts in elementary schools.

He gained much of his performing experience in the 1980's working as a solo singer/acoustic guitarist in the resorts of eastern Long Island. During the summer months of 1984 - 1988, he performed seven nights a week (eight hours on Saturdays, and eight hours on Sundays).

In 1988 with degrees in Business and Elementary Education, Glenn began his career as a third grade teacher at Key Largo Elementary. In time, he decided to turn his talents as an educator and songwriter toward the young minds of tomorrow by taking his musical classroom on the road.

The years of 1994-2001 were a time of growth and learning for Glenn as he created and marketed his live shows to elementary schools. In 2009 Glenn was inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame.

He has released 7 full-length recordings of original material, 2 children's books and a Live Greatest Hits DVD. His music can be streamed and downloaded from every online music source, including Apple Itunes, Amazon and Spotify.

Bella, the Cockapoo

Bella has been a part of the Colton family since we brought her home from Lakeshore Doodles on March 10, 2009. She has a loving personality, and enjoys treats and belly rubs. She also loves to BARK!

Bella can perform every trick that is mentioned in the book except driving a golf cart and playing the piano.



BARK is all about ducks steering their lives in a direction that they want to go.

The setting is Ducktown, a fictional place where the bird population has adopted human attributes. On Ducky Wucky's first day of school, his teacher quacks, "When you choose to make the four letters in BARK a part of your day, wonderful things can happen."

BARK represents four uncomplicated life principles that illustrate how ducks, and all living creatures, can accomplish anything that they place their attention on. Grown-ups will enjoy sharing this story with the young people in their lives as a way to introduce them to life's possibilities.

Ducky Wucky is given the opportunity to take care of Bella, the Cockapoo. Bella belongs to Ducky Wucky's neighbors, who are flying South for the winter. As Ducky Wucky and Bella's friendship grows, they discover that the lessons in BARK serve as a great way to help them prepare for the First Annual Ducktown Dog Show. Together, they learn to face the youthful challenges of growing up in Ducktown with confidence, not fear as their anchor.

"Mr. Ducky Wucky, BARK & The Ducktown Dog Show" is a duck tale of family, friendship, struggles and triumph with just the right amount of humor.

Nine original songs bring the story to life in a truly unique way. As the music and lyrics are enjoyed together, a connection is made between the adult, the "young'un", the songs and the life lessons. What a wonderful way to start an open-ended conversation that has the power to shift one's view of their future from "making a living" into "designing a life".

What folks are quacking about ...

"Glenn has put his finger on the pulse of what is needed in education today. It is engaging, heartwarming, funny and clever, and contains vital timely lessons for our children. HOME RUN!"

Dr. Mary Lou Stahl | Assistant Principal, St. Francis High School, Hamburg, NY

"My students begged to hear more of the story each day, as they cheered on Bella, the Cockapoo. They also love to sing the songs and talk about how they incorporate BARK into their daily lives. THIS BOOK IS A NATURAL FIT FOR EVERYONE."

Melissa Campbell | First Grade teacher, Maplemere Elementary, Sweet Home CSD, Amherst, NY

Information on Glenn's author visits
& more can be found at:
glennicolton.wixsite.com/mysite

