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Tommy Tales feature the lovable rascal Tommy Tomkins and his friends.

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BOOK 14



Tommy the Bullfighter



Tommy Tales

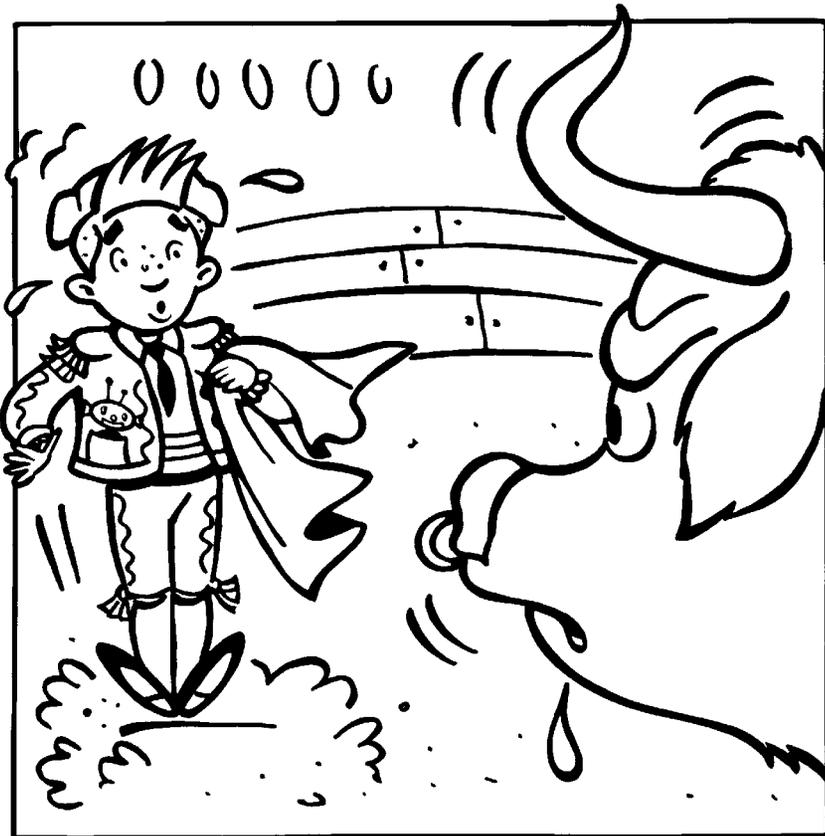
Tommy was in Spain, in a bullring.

A big, black bull was about to charge him.

Tommy's robot friend, RK-5, was in his pocket.

"What can I do?" cried Tommy.

"Don't worry," said RK-5. "I can talk to the bull. I speak his language."



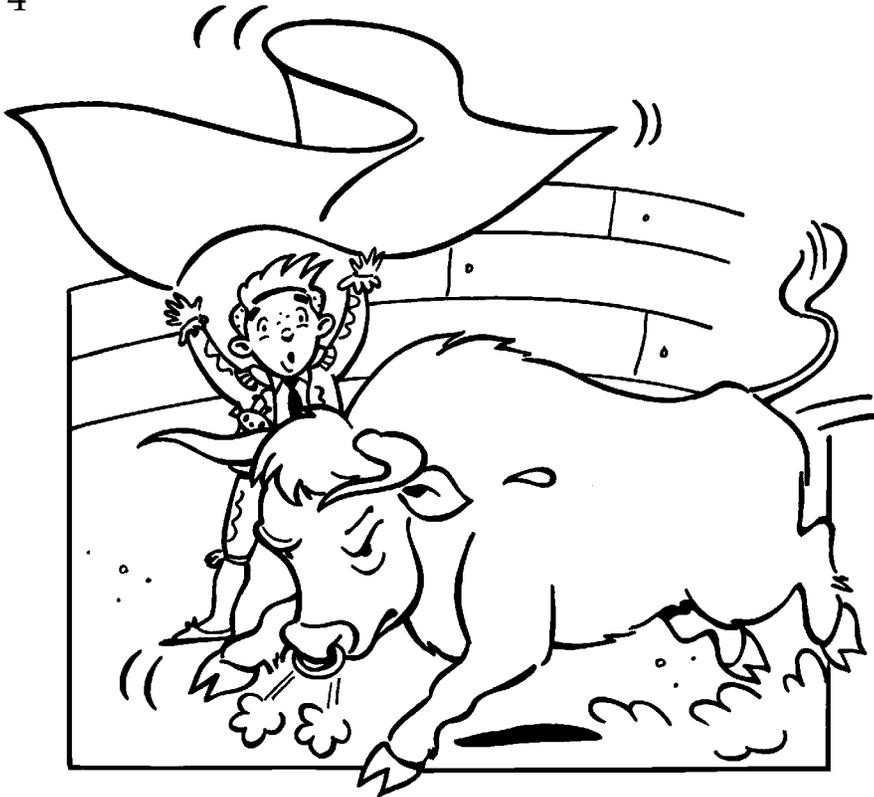
"Don't charge us," RK-5 said to the bull, in language he would understand. "We are friends. Your daughter, Isabela, sent us here to help you. I have a plan."

RK-5 quickly explained his plan to the bull. Seconds later, the bull put his head down and charged at Tommy.

Tommy waved his red cape, and the bull ran right past him at full speed.

"What did you say to that crazy bull?" Tommy screamed at RK-5. "He's trying to kill me!"





“No, he’s not,” replied RK-5. “I told him to pretend to charge you. He won’t hurt you. He’s going to make you look like a great bullfighter.”

The snorting bull turned and charged again. This time the bull came so close that he brushed against Tommy’s side. The crowd cheered loudly, and Tommy bowed to the crowd.

The bull charged three more times. Each time Tommy waved his red cape at the bull. Each time the crowd cheered louder.

The bull charged again. This time, the huge animal stepped in front of Tommy and fell to the ground.

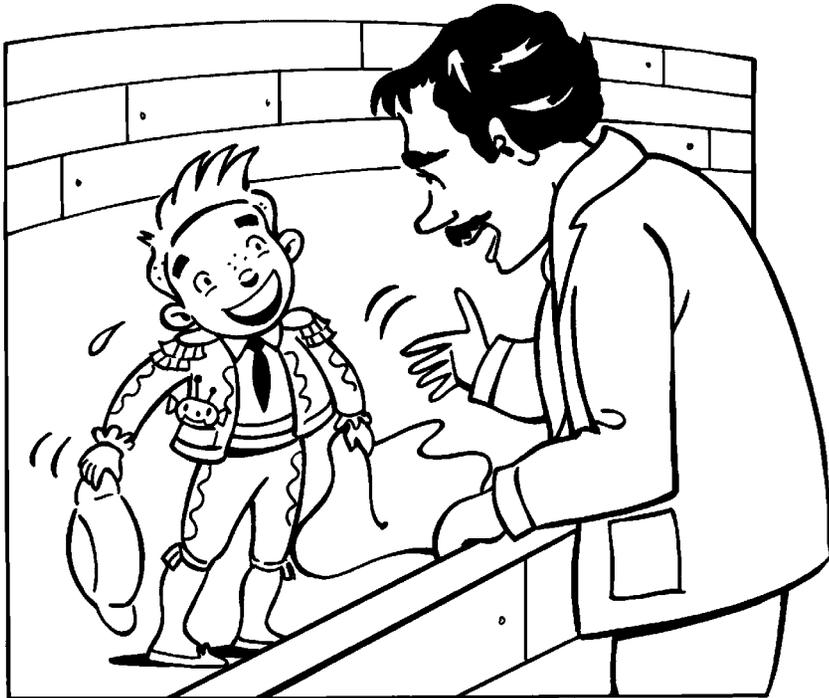
The crowd went wild. They had never, ever seen such a great performance from such a young bullfighter.



A man in the front row stood and spoke to Tommy. Hidden in Tommy's pocket, RK-5 quietly translated from Spanish.

“He is the mayor of the village. He said that you are the best young bullfighter he has ever seen. He said he will give you whatever you want.”

With RK-5's help, Tommy told the mayor that all he wanted was for the bull to be set free. The bull put up such a brave fight.



The mayor said that it was very unusual to let a bull go free. The bulls were always killed. However, as he had given his word, he would grant Tommy's wish.

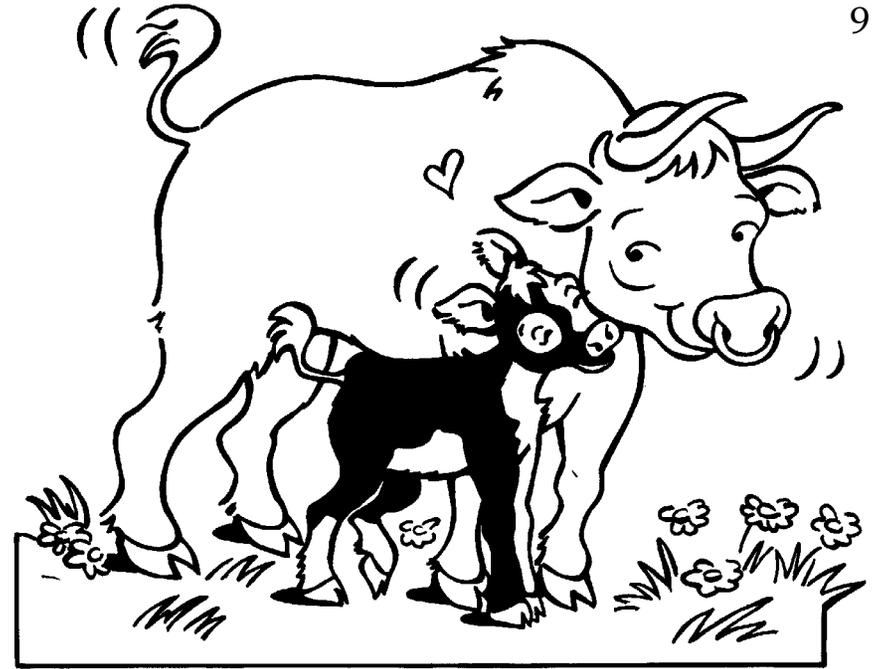
The crowd cheered as Tommy let the big bull out of the ring. When they were outside of the big gates, the bull let out a series of loud roars.

“He said, ‘Thank you, brave bullfighter,’” RK-5 said.



Tommy's friends were waiting for him outside. They showered him with questions. They didn't know that the bull had let Tommy win the bullfight.

The bull invited all the friends to ride on his back. When they were all seated comfortably, the bull ran down the road. He was headed straight for the field where his daughter was waiting.



Isabela was very excited to see her father. After the bull told her the story, she was so happy that she gave Tommy a big, sloppy kiss.

"They want to take you all to their home. They insist on having a party in your honor," RK-5 told Tommy.

Sam jumped on Isabela's back, and the others rode on the bull. The children were looking forward to the party at the home of Isabela and her father.

They traveled through the fields for about half an hour. Eventually, they came to a small ranch. There were several barns and sheds. At the end of a lush green lawn was a beautiful white ranch house with a red tiled roof. A farmer and his wife were working in the yard. Their children were playing on the lawn.

The farmer said his name was Pedro Castro.

Tommy shook hands with Mr. and Mrs. Castro and explained to them what had happened at the bullfight.



Mr. Castro told the children that Isabela had wandered off the day before. Her father went to look for her and neither one had been seen since.

The Castro family was so glad to have Isabela and her father back. The animals were part of the family. Isabela's mother was also happy to have them back.

"Now, let's celebrate. We'll make a traditional Spanish meal—the best food you have ever tasted," said Mrs. Castro.

While the meal was being prepared, Tommy and his friends played with the son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Castro. The boy's name was Armando, and his sister was called Catalina.

Lucy took lots of photographs. She gave copies of the photos to Armando and Catalina.

All of the children ran to the large wooden table when they heard Mrs. Castro call.



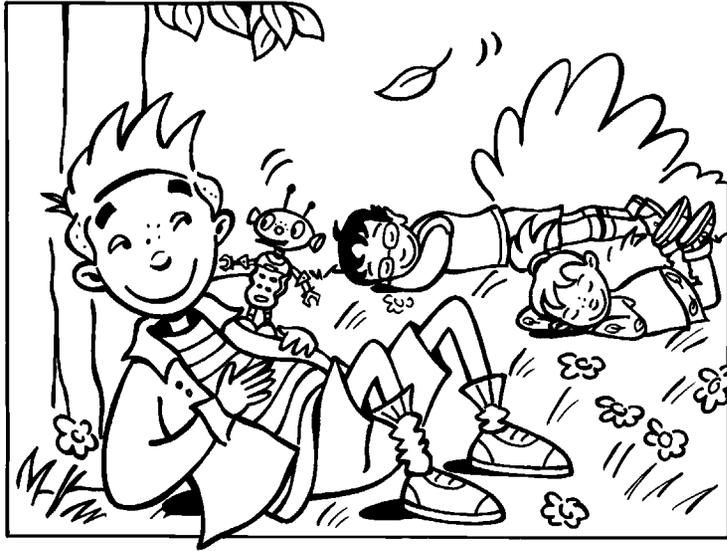
Lunch was ready, and it looked delicious.

There were fresh fruit and vegetables, fish dishes, and meat dishes. Tommy's favorite was a rice dish called paella.

Kim loved the omelet. It was like no omelet she had ever tasted before.

The farmer's wife brought out a huge plate of fried custard squares for dessert.

"I'm glad I left room for dessert," said Sam.
"These custard squares taste so good."



After the meal, all the children sat under a big tree. Armando and Catalina were teaching them the Spanish words for the food they had just eaten.

The children were feeling very happy. They were full after the delicious meal. It was warm and pleasant under the shady tree. One by one, everyone fell asleep.

After twenty minutes, RK-5 buzzed in Tommy's ear, "Time to go. Time to go."

Tommy woke up his friends. They all said goodbye to their Spanish hosts, including Isabela and her dad, the bull.

The children walked to a field of sunflowers just out of view of the farmhouse.

Tommy pressed the buttons on RK-5's pad, and in a flash, they were back at the park.

Andy still had the bullfighting poster his grandfather had given him. He unrolled it and said, "It's a pity we don't have a poster of Tommy fighting the bull."

"We may not have a poster," said Lucy, "but we do have these photographs of the brave little bullfighter."

