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

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**BOOK 13**



**Tommy Goes  
to Spain**



**Tommy  
Tales**

Tommy and his friends were playing in the park.

“Look, here comes Andy with his grandfather,” said Kim.

Andy ran over to his friends.

“Look what Granddad gave me!” said Andy.

He had a cardboard tube. He pulled out a beautiful old poster from the tube. The poster showed a bullfighter waving a red cape as a big bull charged past him.

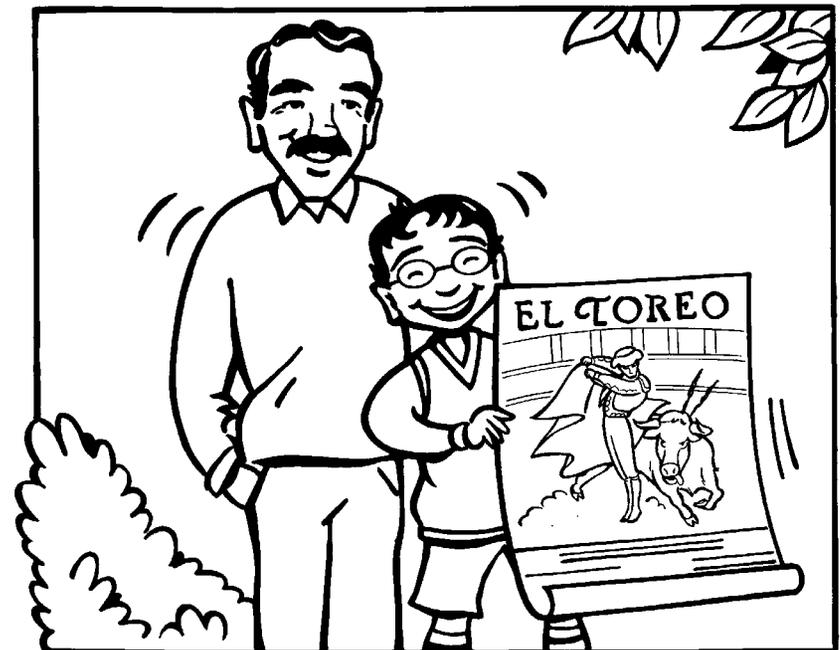


“Where did you get the poster, Mr. Flores?” asked Tommy.

Andy’s grandfather told them that his uncle gave him the poster when he was a little boy in Mexico.

“I have my new camera,” said Lucy. “Andy, may I take a photograph of you with your granddad?” she asked.

Andy and his grandfather posed for a photograph. Andy proudly displayed the bullfighting poster.





“I have to go now. You kids have fun,”  
said Mr. Flores.

“Adiós, Andres,” he said to Andy.

“What did your granddad say to you?”  
asked Sam.

“He said, ‘Goodbye, Andy’ in Spanish,”  
replied Andy.

“Everybody speaks Spanish in Mexico,”  
he added.

“Andy, can you speak Spanish?” asked Lucy.

“I can speak a little,” said Andy.

“So can I,” said a little voice from Tommy’s  
pocket.

It was RK-5, Tommy’s little robot friend.

“I can speak any language. I can even talk  
to animals,” added RK-5.

“We know, we know,” laughed Tommy.

“You’ve told us enough times.”

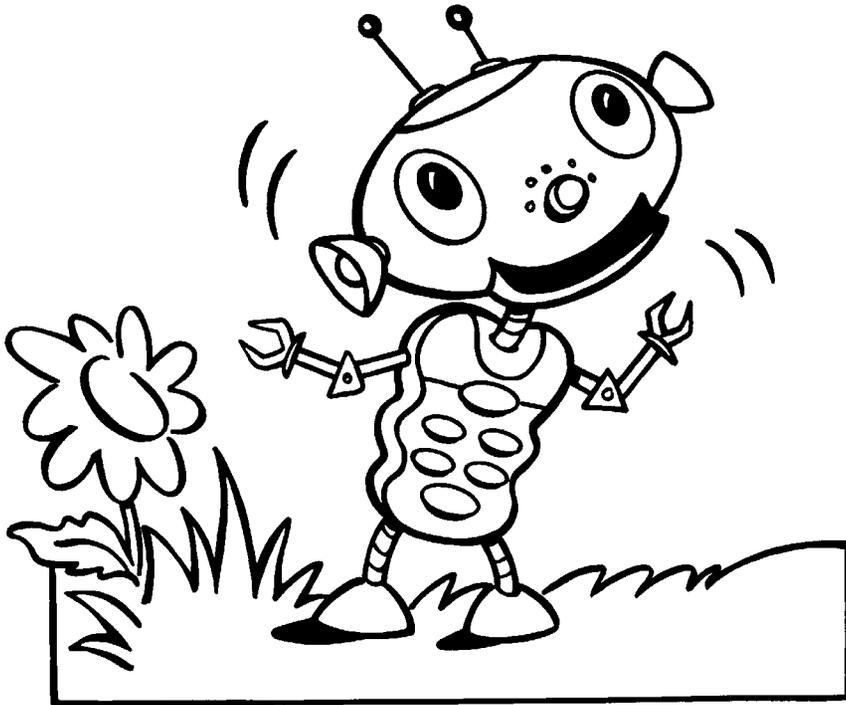


“Let’s get RK-5 to take us to Mexico,” said Sam. “Then we can hear Andy and RK-5 speak Spanish.”

“I can do better than that,” said RK-5.

“I can take you to Spain, where the Spanish language comes from.”

“Yes, let’s go to Spain,” said Andy. “But first you must all learn to say ‘hello’ in Spanish. All say after me: ‘hola’.”



Once all the children could say “hello” in Spanish, RK-5 told Tommy which buttons to press on his button pad. After Tommy had pressed the buttons, there was a flash of light and a cloud of blue smoke. Tommy and his friends were on their way to Spain.

The children fell onto some long, soft grass. They were in a field. There were colorful wildflowers everywhere, and it was warm and sunny.



They could see a town in the distance.  
 “Let’s go into the town,” said Tommy.  
 “There’s a road at the other side of the field.  
 It doesn’t look far to walk.”

They started to walk along the road.  
 A man on a bike was riding by.

Sam said “Hola” to the man. He replied,  
 “Hola, niños.”

Sam was so proud that she was the first  
 to speak Spanish.



After walking for about five minutes, the  
 children heard a noise. It was coming from  
 behind some bushes.

“Whatever can that noise be?” said Kim.  
 “It sounds like crying.”

When the children looked behind the  
 bushes, they saw a little calf. She was black  
 and white.

The calf looked very sad. There were big  
 tears coming from her eyes.

“RK-5, please ask her what’s wrong. Why  
 is she so sad?” said Kim.

RK-5 spoke to the little calf in cow language. He then told the children what was distressing the poor little calf.

“This is Isabela. This morning some men came and took her father away. They took him into the town. Tonight he will be put in the bullring. He will be in a bullfight and will be killed by the bullfighter,” explained RK-5.

“Oh, no! That’s terrible,” said Kim. “We must do something to help.”



“Maybe her dad will win the bullfight,” said Lucy.

“No, the bull always loses,” said Andy.  
“The bull always gets killed.”

“That’s not fair,” said Lucy. “We will help somehow. Let’s go to the bullring and see what we can do.”

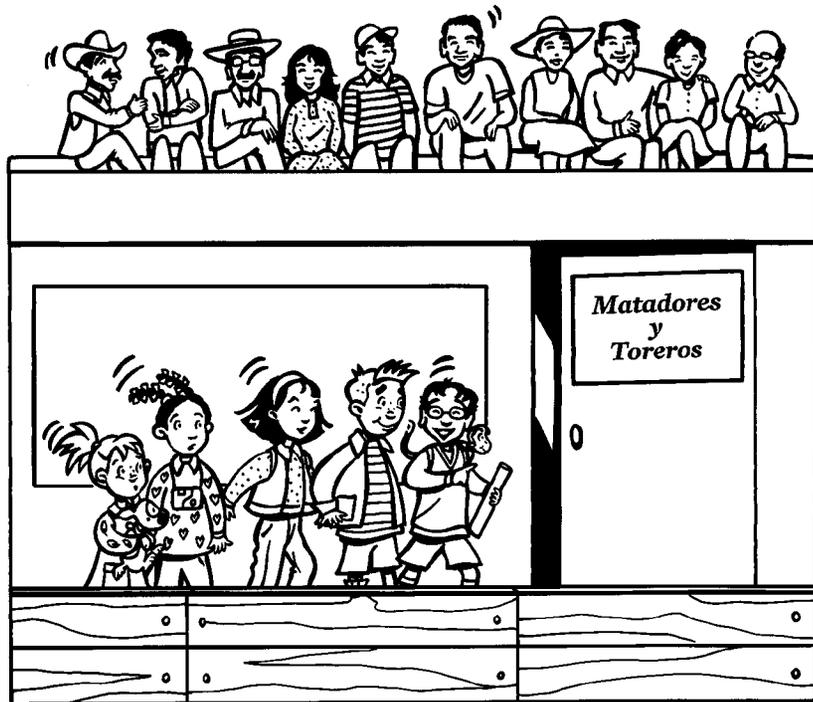
They told Isabela not to worry. They said “goodbye” and set off for the bullring.

When they reached the bullring, they saw many people. Everyone was crowding into the bullring ready to watch the bullfight.

“Look!” said Andy. “That door is open. We can get in through there.”

The sign on the door said “Matadores y Toreros.” It was the entrance for the bullfighters.

Nobody noticed the children quickly slip through the door.

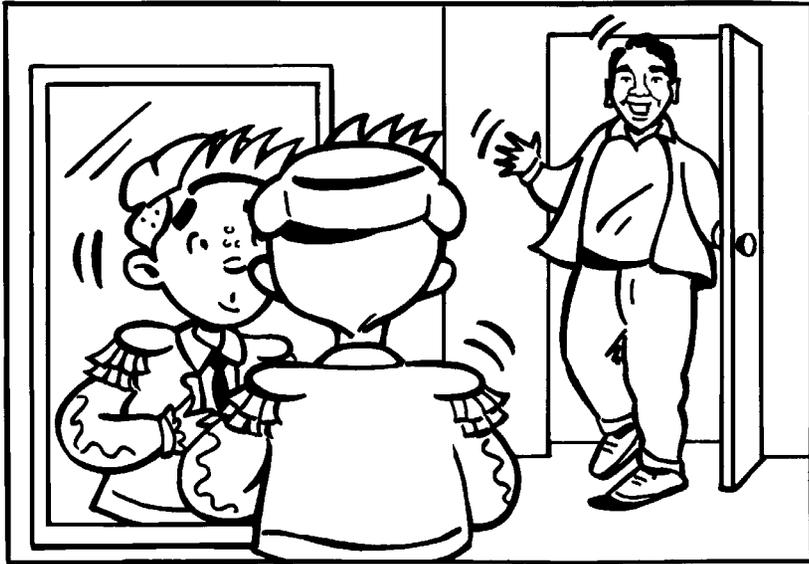


They were in a large room. Along one wall were many colorful bullfighter costumes.

“Look at all these outfits. They are beautiful,” said Kim.

“Here’s a small one,” said Tommy. “I think it will fit me. There’s even a little pocket for RK-5!”

Tommy tried on the costume. It was a perfect fit. As Tommy was admiring himself in the mirror, the other children heard someone coming and hid.

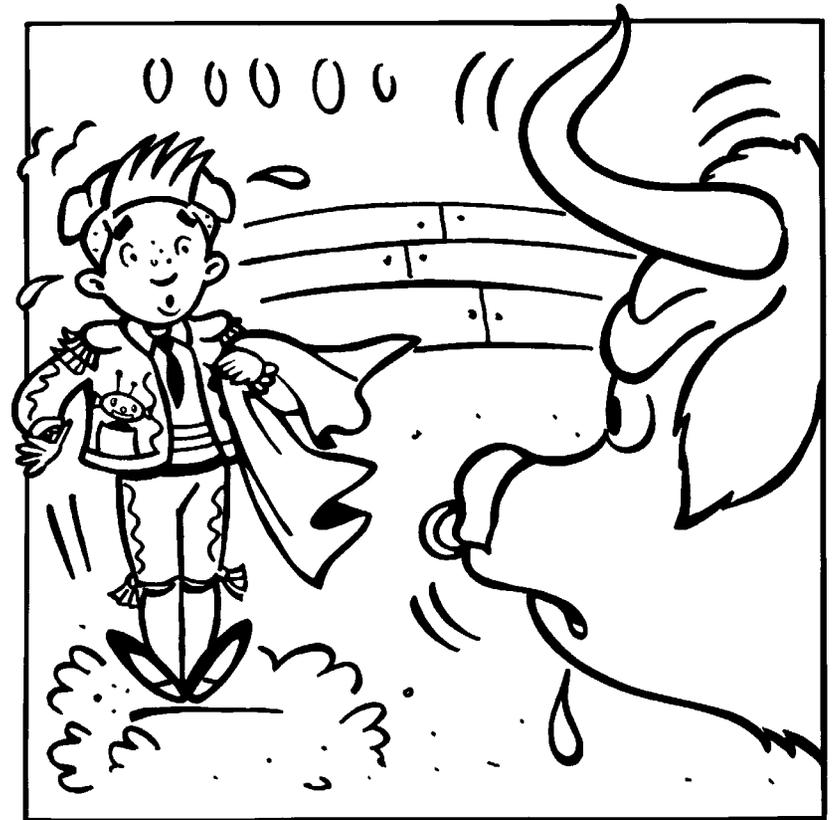


Tommy was still looking in the mirror when a large man came in and said something to Tommy in Spanish. Tommy nodded. The man then took hold of his arm and led him out of the room.

Tommy thought that he was in trouble for wearing the bullfighter outfit. But he was in much more trouble than that! Bullfights began with youngsters who were training to be bullfighters. The man thought Tommy was a young bullfighter and was leading him to the bullring to face a fierce bull.

The man gave Tommy a red cape and pushed him into the bullring. Tommy heard the gate slam behind him. It was then he saw the bull staring at him from the other side of the ring.

“What am I going to do now?” Tommy asked RK-5, who was peeking out of his pocket.



TO BE CONTINUED IN BOOK 14