

Read Along to...Sam's Stop it Watch 🌟

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Look into your imagination and find...

Sam's Stop-it-Watch

Sam woke up on his birthday happy and sad.

Happy because it was his birthday, and sad because his Grandpa George had died the night before.

Grandpa George had promised to take Sam to the Zoo on his birthday, as he'd hardly seen him since he got sick, but it was too late.

Sam opened up all his presents leaving his Grandpa's present for last.

He couldn't bear to open it and didn't open it for some three hundred and twenty two days later.

On that day Sam had visited his Grandpa's grave and found a note in his pocket saying *open it*.

Sam ran back home, past the boys playing cricket in the street, and pulled out his present from beneath his bed.

His hands trembled as he read the birthday message.

'Have a great **time** with this Sam.' it said, and at the bottom read, 'Love Grandpa George.'

A tear trickled down his face as he slowly tore into the wrapping.

It was tightly wrapped but soon enough Sam had ripped through to reveal a small box. Sam carefully opened the box and lying at the bottom was a watch.

It was a nice open faced silver watch with little hands ticking around the words *Stop-it-Watch*.

Below was a button that said Stop. Sam immediately pressed the button and something strange happened. The laughing and joking from the boys playing cricket seemed to stop.

In fact everything stopped. Sam walked around the house. The TV had paused. Craig the Cat was stuck off the ground in a jump and Mum was stood cuddling his sister Sarah.

As Sam watched he heard a voice.

'Hello Sam.' came the voice from behind him. Sam would recognise that voice anywhere, but he was too afraid to turn around.

'Don't worry Sam.' said the voice. 'It's OK.'

Sam slowly turned and to his astonishment there stood Grandpa George with a huge smile on his face. Sam ran as fast as his legs could carry him and jumped into a hug with his Grandpa.

Sam didn't want to let go but eventually Grandpa moved back and spoke to Sam.

'The watch Sam.'

'But how?' asked Sam.

'We're **out** of time. That's how.'

Sam looked at his watch with a smile.

'Now my boy, I promised you I'd take you to the zoo, so the zoo I will take you.'

Sam held his Grandpa's hand as they walked all the way to the zoo. Sam was so happy he didn't even think about the three and a half mile walk and soon they were entering the great zebra coloured sign saying *Welcome to the Zoo*.

Sam jumped on Grandpa's shoulders as they walked right up to the Giraffe. Sam could barely touch the neck of the Giraffe even on Grandpa's shoulders.

Next was the Lion.

'Watch this Sam.' said Grandpa as he hurdled the high fence into the Lion's Den.

'No Grandpa.' said Sam, scared until he remembered nothing was moving.

Throughout the day they raced a Cheetah, tickled a huge bear and pretended to ride the rhinos. It was such fun. Grandpa laughed and joked all day long. Sam was happier than he had been in all of the previous three hundred and twenty two days put together.

Then Grandpa said it was time to go and they made their way back home, but not before Grandpa had put a feather up the nose of an old man. He looked so funny.

Sam walked back into his house with his Mum and Sarah still in an embrace.

He looked at his watch then looked at Grandpa, 'but...'

'It's OK Sam, I will always be just a click away.'

Sam gave his Grandpa one last hug and waved goodbye as he pressed his watch once more.

Suddenly his Mum and sister noticed him.

'Sam.' said Mum, 'when did you get here?'

Mum's face suddenly changed, 'and where did that smile come from?'

Sam couldn't remove it from his face, even if he tried, which he didn't want to.

'So go on then.' smiled Mum, 'why so happy?'

Sam looked at his watch, 'I'll tell you one day mum, but now, I'm out of *time*.'

Sam chuckled to himself and went back up to his room where he hugged his watch with glee.