

The First Day of School

The house bustled a little differently for him today.
His leisurely bath filled with pirates and boats and
His breakfast of Cheerios, apple juice and toast
Advanced to double time as he prepared for another milestone
In his journey through life.
His freshly hemmed pants and snappy new shirt
Fought to contain his emotions of pride, anticipation,
And yes,.. a little fear.
Finally, the time arrived, mom scurried, putting together
His bright new school bag while
He and his Dad exited to awaken the car from
Its slumber in preparation for the ride ahead.
His parents told him of the world of puppets, and swings,
And songs, and dance that awaited him just a few miles ahead.
He wondered aloud what color the bathroom would be.
He paid attention to every detail of the scenery along the avenue,
The color of horses and their tails, the brightness of the summer sun and
The clarity of the cloudless sky took on a special significance today.
He listened to every positive aspect of the school experience
In an effort to convince himself that it was the right place to be.
The coloring sounded like fun, he promised to draw a picture of
Himself, his cat, a dog, and a fox.
But then his head turned, his eyebrows raised quizzically as he asked;
"How do you draw a fox?"
The car slowed as we reached our destination.
He grabbed his bag, mom made one last attempt to tame
His still moist hair, and then, the door opened...
With a kiss to Dad and one last hug
He grasped his mother's hand, leaped out of the car
And earned another step of independence.
As he strutted away, his new shoes walked a bit unsure at first
But grew steadier by the pace.
The lump in his father's throat was replaced by a laugh as
He just had to believe that the "little man" was going to "make it."

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