Sam Saves a Squirrel – Oral Reading

Sam and his mother just moved to a big city. He was new to the city, and had not met any other children. He wanted to make some new friends soon. To pass the time, he watched squirrels gather nuts and build nests in the trees in the local park.

On Monday, Sam went to work with his mother, and met her new boss’s son, Ben. Both boys were friendly, and soon they began to talk about animals.

“I like to watch the squirrels in the park near my apartment,” Sam told Ben.

“I like squirrels, too,” said Ben. “Actually, I saw one sleeping on the sidewalk on my way in.”

“Huh, that’s odd,” said Sam. “I thought squirrels usually slept in trees.”

“Let’s check the internet and see if we can find out more about where squirrels are supposed to sleep,” Ben suggested.

They borrowed Ben’s mom’s laptop, and searched online for some information about squirrels. They learned that squirrels don’t usually sleep on the ground.

“Maybe the squirrel you saw is injured,” said Sam.

They decided to call the city park zoo and ask for help. The park zoo sent an expert to examine the squirrel. She determined it was injured and took it to the zoo hospital.

“I’m glad we were able to help the squirrel,” said Ben.

“Yeah, so am I!” agreed Sam. He was glad he met Ben, too. He thought it had been a terrific day.
Johannes Gutenberg was born in 1398, in Germany. His father worked in the town mint, a place where coins were made. Young Gutenberg grew up learning a lot about goldsmithing, or how to make things out of gold.

While he was a teenager, Gutenberg also worked at the town mint. He learned about pressing designs onto metal coins, which gave him the idea of pressing words onto paper to make books.

At that time, all books were handwritten one word at a time. It was very slow. It took a very long time to copy all the words to make one book. Gutenberg thought there must be a faster way. He thought if books were made by machine, then many books could be made at one time.

Gutenberg came up with a way to make metal letters that could press ink onto a page to print words. He lined up metal letters on a board to form words and sentences. He learned that the metal letters had to be the same height to print in a straight line. The machine was called a printing press. Books had never been printed this way before.

Gutenberg started a book-printing business. In one shop, he printed Bibles. In another shop, he printed other kinds of books. Gutenberg printed the first Bible by machine in 1455. It was known as the Gutenberg Bible. Some of the first copies still exist. They are among the world's greatest treasures.

The method Gutenberg invented for printing books has stayed the same for hundreds of years. Next time you read a book, think of Gutenberg. He made printing books faster and easier than ever before!