

A long, long time ago, there was a rocking horse called Sugar Lump. He was a beautiful rocking horse with a dappled grey coat and a long flowing mane. He lived with two kind children called Ben and Sally and they loved him very much.

Every day, Sugar Lump would listen for the sound of feet running quickly along the hall towards the playroom. Suddenly, the door would burst open by the children with smiles as bright as the sun. This was the best part of Sugar Lump's day!

"Howdy Sugar Lump," Ben would call climbing on his back, then he would pretend he was a cowboy galloping in the Wild West!

"MY TURN, you've been a cow boy for ages," Sally would cry, "Sugar Lump wants me to ride her now." So Sally would, one moment she would be a jockey in a famous horse race, the next minute Sugar Lump was a unicorn and they were flying to a magical distant land.

Sugar Lump loved Ben and Sally and Ben and Sally loved Sugar Lump.

One day, Sugar Lump waited patiently as always for the sound of feet hurrying along the hall to the playroom. He was very excited about another wild west adventure with Ben or exploring a mysterious land with Sally. All of a sudden the sound of feet came sprinting down the corridor, the playroom door opened and Ben and Sally flew in.

"We'll miss you very much, but we promise to go on an adventure as soon as we come home," explained Sally, kissing Sugar Lump on the nose. "Take care Sugar Lump, we're going on holiday to the seaside, sadly you can't come with us but we'll bring you a present back!" whispered Ben, as he patted Sugar Lump.

Before, Sugar Lump could understand what was happening, the children were ushered out of the playroom by their Dad as they frantically waved and blew kisses back towards the dazzled rocking horse. Then, the front door closed with a bang, shaking the whole house and Sugar Lump heard the sound of the family car as it drove away.

"A holiday," thought Sugar Lump. "What's a holiday?"

Sugar Lump decided not to worry and thought Ben and Sally would be back soon. Hours passed and the house was silent. Nothing could be heard except the faint ticking of the grandfather clock. Night began to fall and the stars started appearing in the sky, twinkling like iridescent diamonds. Sugar Lump began to worry, "Ben and Sally have never been gone so long."

Days passed and Sugar Lump hung her head, she missed Sally and Ben so much. She spent her days glazing fondly out the window dreaming of the lovely times she'd spent with the children.

One evening, just before the blazing sun set, Sugar Lump breathed a huge sigh, "I don't think I'll ever see Ben and Sally again," and he began to sob quietly to his self. All of a sudden, he heard a car pull up outside the house, then a key turn in the lock and the front door burst OPEN! "Could it be?" thought Sugar Lump excitedly. "Could it be Sally and Ben?" He listened carefully, then heard footsteps like elephants thundering up the stairs and along the corridor!

Suddenly, the play room door burst open and in ran Sally and Ben with smiles even wider and brighter than Sugar Lump had ever seen. Without hesitation, they both flung their arms around his neck and snuggled him tightly. "We've missed you so much," whispered Ben and "I bet you've missed us too," whispered Sally. Sugar Lump was so happy that the children were back and he couldn't wait for their next adventure. Several hours later, after a trip to the moon and a far way galaxy, the children were told it was time to get ready for bed. Just as they were saying their good night wishes to Sugar Lump, Sally remembered. "We've forgotten to give Sugar Lump her holiday present." Ben rushed out and came back in to the play room with something held tightly behind his back.

"For the only and only Sugar Lump, the best rocking horse in the world and our best friend," he said and pulled out a bright red hat that said 'Wish you were here!' He placed it proudly on Sugar Lump's head and poked his ears through two ear sized holes that had been cut.

"It suits you," smiled Sally. "If we ever go on holiday again, you'll know that we'll miss you and we won't be gone for too long!"

Both children hugged and kissed Sugar Lump goodnight as they left the room.

"See you tomorrow for more magical adventures," whispered Sally as the door softly closed.

Sugar Lump sighed, happy and content, excited about the adventures tomorrow would bring.

From that day on, Sugar Lump wore his hat proudly whenever the children went on holiday and knew they missed him but, he didn't worry as they would be home soon.