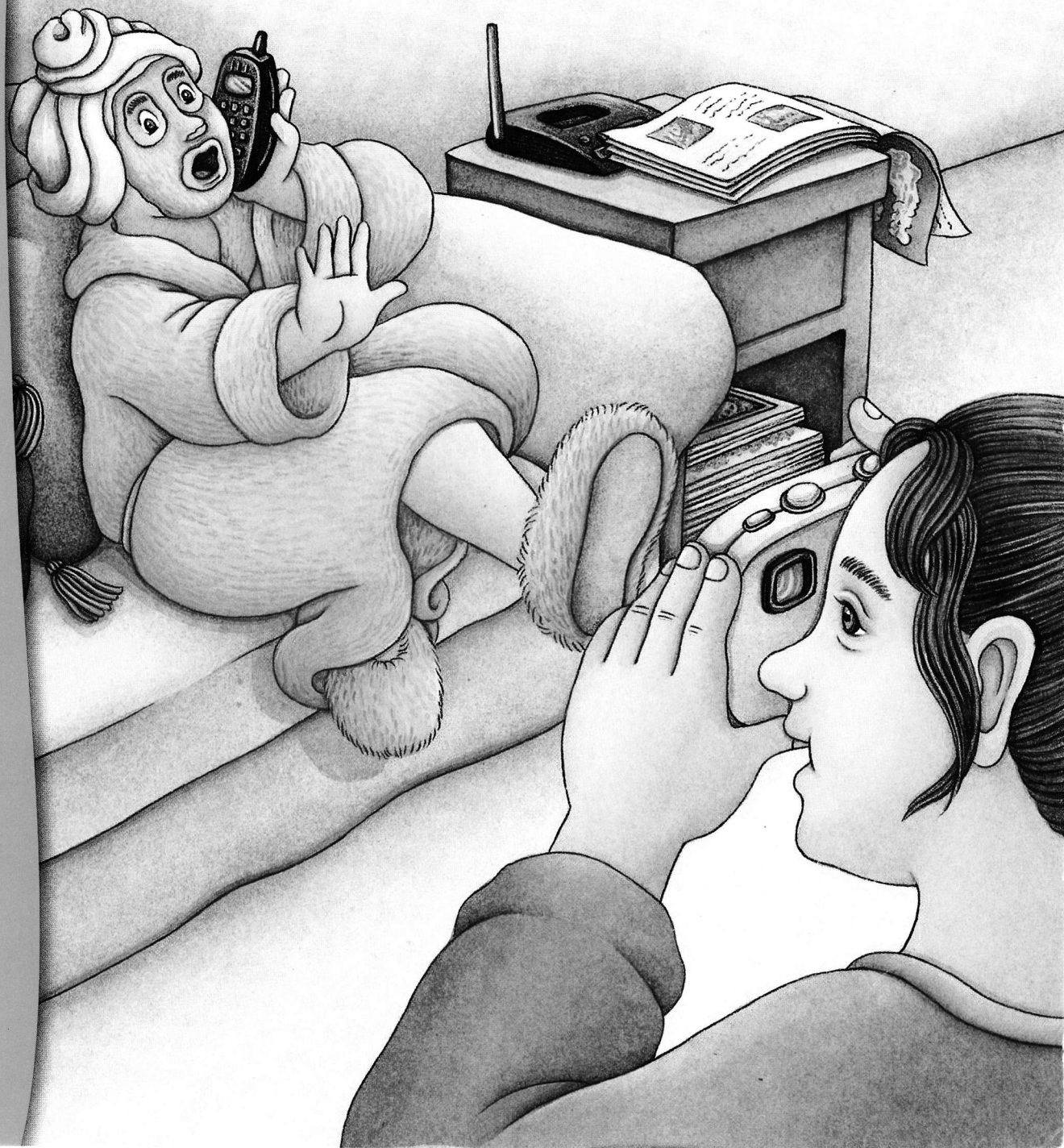


# Nita's First Camera

by Judy C. Sternberg



Papa gave Nita a camera. It was a great gift. Nita had fun with it.

She put some film in the camera. Her camera needed to have film to make pictures. Nita had enough film to take twenty-four pictures.

Nita looked around. Mama was cleaning the tub. Nita pointed the camera.

"Don't take my picture, Nita!" Mama said. "I look awful." But Nita took the picture.

Papa was at the sink. He was washing his face. Nita called, "Hey, Papa!" He looked up. There was soap all over his face. Nita took a picture.

Juan was asleep in a chair. His mouth was open. He looked funny. So Nita took his picture.

Cass was on the phone. Her hair was wet. There was a towel around her head. She had cream on her face. Nita grinned. Then she took a picture.

Nita took more pictures. She never said, "Smile," or "Get ready." She just surprised people.

Nita loved her gift. She couldn't wait to get more film. But her family was worried. Maybe the camera wasn't such a great gift after all.

## COMPREHENSION

**A** Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 Another good name for this story is
  - a** Smile and Get Ready.
  - b** Don't Take My Picture!
- 2 Nita liked to
  - a** surprise her family.
  - b** ask people to smile.
- 3 The people in Nita's pictures
  - a** looked pretty and neat.
  - b** looked awkward and funny.

4 Nita's family was worried because she

- a** had used all her film so quickly.
  - b** might take only more funny pictures.
- 5 The next thing Nita will most likely do is buy
- a** more film.
  - b** another camera.

## LEARN ABOUT WORDS

**B** A contraction is a short way of writing words. An apostrophe (') shows where letters are left out.

*don't* is made from *do not*

*hasn't* is made from *has not*

Say the contraction for each pair of words. Write the contraction.

- 1 have not
- 2 do not
- 3 was not
- 4 did not
- 5 are not

**C** Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence below? Write the word.

- 6 Mama \_\_\_\_\_ want her picture taken.
- 7 Juan \_\_\_\_\_ happy when he saw his picture.
- 8 "Nita's pictures \_\_\_\_\_ going to win prizes," said Cass.
- 9 Nita said, "I \_\_\_\_\_ taken all the pictures yet."
- 10 "Next time \_\_\_\_\_ waste your film," Papa told Nita.

## THINK ABOUT IT

- D** The bird's **song** was as **sweet** as **honey**.

This sentence helps you understand how sweet the bird's song was. The phrase "as sweet as honey" is a figure of speech. It is a different way of saying that the bird's song was very lovely.

Choose the word from the first two sentences that best fits in the blank. Write the word.

- 1** Silver is shiny. Dust is grey.  
Nita's gift was wrapped in paper as shiny as \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2** The sky is blue. The grass is green.  
The bow on the package was as \_\_\_\_\_ as the sky.
- 3** A cave is dark. A spotlight is bright.  
The inside of the camera was as \_\_\_\_\_ as a cave.
- 4** Snow is white. Coal is black.  
The soap on Papa's face was as white as \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5** A fox is sly. A cow is dumb.  
Nita was as sly as a \_\_\_\_\_.

- E** Read each set of words. Write the word that comes first in alphabetical order.

- |           |           |          |        |
|-----------|-----------|----------|--------|
| <b>6</b>  | camera    | called   | candy  |
| <b>7</b>  | surprised | sunshine | such   |
| <b>8</b>  | Mama      | maybe    | make   |
| <b>9</b>  | lower     | looked   | loved  |
| <b>10</b> | face      | fairy    | family |