

SAVED BY THE BELL (Girls)

By Carole L. Cooney

In the sport of Boxing, if a boxer is badly injured or has been knocked down, and the referee counts to ten, when the bell rings, that boxer doesn't have to continue the fight. Now, in the 20th century, this saying means a last-minute rescue from a bad situation.

Setting: A school playground

Characters:

Narrator

Wanda

Emma

Wendy

Lindsey

Judy

Narrator: It is a cold and windy November day. All the students are excited about Thanksgiving vacation time. A group of girl friends huddle close while eating their snacks.

Wanda: Hey, Emma, aren't you *happy* school is ending soon?

Emma: I can *hardly* wait! Wendy, how about you?

Wendy: Well...I guess so.

Emma: What do you mean?

Wendy: Well, my family is kinda...oh, forget it. OK?

Emma: Sure.

Lindsey: Well...is anyone doing anything during the holidays?

Judy: I don't know yet. My Mom and Dad were talking about a camping trip. I - can't - stand camping!

Wanda: Sounds like fun to me.

Judy: Do *you* want to go for me?

Wanda: (laughing) I don't think so.

Lindsey: I think we should all stay home so that we can have some fun.

All: Yeah!

Lindsey: I know what! Let's make plans right now.

All: Okay. Great idea!

Judy: I think we should go to the mall *every day*!

Wendy: *Boring!* Maybe one day, but not *every day*.

Judy: I think every day would be great 'cause we could go to a movie and then shop and then eat and then –

Wanda: Wait a minute! I thought we were *all* going to plan what to do.

Wendy: Yes. Let's do something different each day.

Judy: *Boring.* What else is there to do? Do you want to go to the zoo and see all the boring animals??

Emma: Oh, stop being nasty, Judy. She's making a good suggestion and I *like* it.

Lindsey: Me, too. Let's go to the mall one day for shopping. What else could we do?

Wendy: I know! Let's go to the beach!

All: Yes!

Lindsey: You could all come over to my house and we'll make some fudge.

Wanda: And we could watch videos. I'll bring some favorite ones that I know you'll all like.

Emma: I know. Let's bring all of our makeup to my house. Then we can experiment! That would be crazy!

All: (laughing and giggling) Okay.

Lindsey: (The school warning bell sounds. Students begin returning to their classrooms) Hey! I think we better get back to class. I think everyone else is going in.

Narrator: The school bell rang. The girls ran to their classroom. Mrs. Madison, their teacher was not in the room. The girls rushed to their seats. The door opened and in walked their teacher. The girls looked at each other and smiled. They knew they were "saved by the bell."