

AMELIA EARHART – THE BACKYARD

By Carole L. Cooney

Not satisfied with the Ferris wheel, Amelia and her friend, Ralphie, decided to make a roller coaster slide. Uncle Carl, nicknamed “Nicey,” helped them make it. The slide was built on the side of an eight foot tool shed and ran to the ground. Amelia felt like she was flying and loved every minute of it. However, when her mother saw the danger, she made them take it apart. Soon after, Amelia’s mother and father gave the children a swing and a merry-go-round.

Setting: Amelia’s back yard

Characters:

Narrator

Amelia

Ralphie, a friend

Nicey, the nickname of Uncle Carl

Mrs. Earhart, mother

Narrator: One day after the Ferris wheel ride, Amelia decided to make a roller coaster. She was helped by her Uncle Carl, nicknamed Nicey, and her friend, Ralphie.

Amelia: Nicey, where do you think we should make the roller coaster slide?

Nicey: (Looking around the back yard) I think over there by the tool shed is a good place.

Amelia: (excited) Yes! Nicey. Oh, yes. Ralphie, isn’t that a great idea?

Ralphie: Yes! How do we start, Nicey?

Nicey: Let’s gather up the lumber in the shed and drag it out by the shed door. I’ll get some hammers and nails and then we can begin.

Amelia: This is so exciting I can hardly wait!

Narrator: Nicey and the children drag some wooden planks from the shed and line them up side by side on the lawn.

Nicey: That should do it. Now let me show you where to pound in the nails.

Narrator: Everyone began to hammer the nails. When they were finished, they lifted up the roller coaster slide and leaned it against the side of the tool shed. Nicey climbed a ladder and fastened the slide securely to the shed. The wood was smooth but Nicey told Amelia to get some towels to sit on so that they wouldn’t get scratched. Quickly, she ran into the house, grabbed two towels and returned to the backyard.

Amelia: Here’re the towels. Can I go first?

Nicey: Well, now, Meelie, I think I should test it out.

Narrator: Nicey took a towel, climbed the ladder, spread the towel on the top landing and sat on it.

Nicey: Well, here goes!

Narrator: With a little push, Nicey zoomed down the slide, landing at the bottom with a thud!

Amelia: Oh, Nicey, that was so wonderful. May I go *now*?

Nicely: Just be careful, Meelie. It goes very fast and you're done before you know it.

Narrator: Amelia carefully climbed the ladder, spread out the towel and sat for a moment catching her breath. Excited to be so high up, she took a deep breath and gave herself a little push. A scream came out of her mouth as she flew down the slide. Just then the back screen-door swung open. There stood Mrs. Earhart, wide eyed and mouth open.

Mrs. Earhart: Meelie, what on earth are you doing? Come over here this instant!

Narrator: Amelia walked slowly over to her mother and explained what they were doing. Mrs. Earhart let out a sigh and smiled.

Mrs. Earhart: All right, Meelie. You certainly are a clever one! And a daring one, too.

Amelia: I'm sorry, Mother.

Mrs. Earhart: Let me talk with Father when he comes home and see what ideas he might have so that you can fly – and fly safely.

Amelia: Thank would be wonderful, Mother. Thank you.

Mrs. Earhart: But first, let's remove the slide before Father sees it.

Narrator: Nicey, Ralphie and Meelie carefully remove the nails and return the lumber to the shed. That night, Mother and Father decided how to solve this problem.

Mrs. Earhart: Meelie, your Father and I have decided to buy a swing set for the old oak tree and a merry-go-round for the back lawn. Will that satisfy your wanting to fly?

Amelia: Oh, Mother! Oh, Father! That will be perfect! Thank you very, *very* much.