

The Best Birthday

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Illustrated by Jean Morin





"I've been waiting all year for today. I love that our birthday always starts with Gramps making a special breakfast. Remember last year?" Ethan asks.

"How could I forget?" says Emma. "I couldn't believe Mom let him give us chocolate eggs and put chocolate milk in our cereal. Gramps is awesome! As Mom says, 'One crazy breakfast out of 365 days is fine.'"

"Last night, I heard Mom asking Gramps to make us something healthier for our birthday breakfast," replies Ethan.

"Fine with me," says Emma. "Remember how sick we felt after our last birthday breakfast? Let's go see the surprise Gramps has for us this year!"



"Wow! Look at the size of that pancake!" says Emma.

"It's huge. It's enormous! It's a pan-birthday-cake!"

Ethan adds. "And it has blueberry candles."

"Gramps is really trying to make this healthy!" says Emma.

"Too bad there is just 1 pancake. We'll have to share."

"We always do," Ethan says with a sigh.



Emma and Ethan are experts at sharing. They talk and they plan, and then they plan and talk some more.

Together, they try to fold the enormous blueberry pancake in half. They find that very difficult to do.

Emma and Ethan decide to rip the pancake to make 2 fair shares.



"Perfect! Now we have 2 pieces—1 for me and 1 for you," Ethan says quickly.

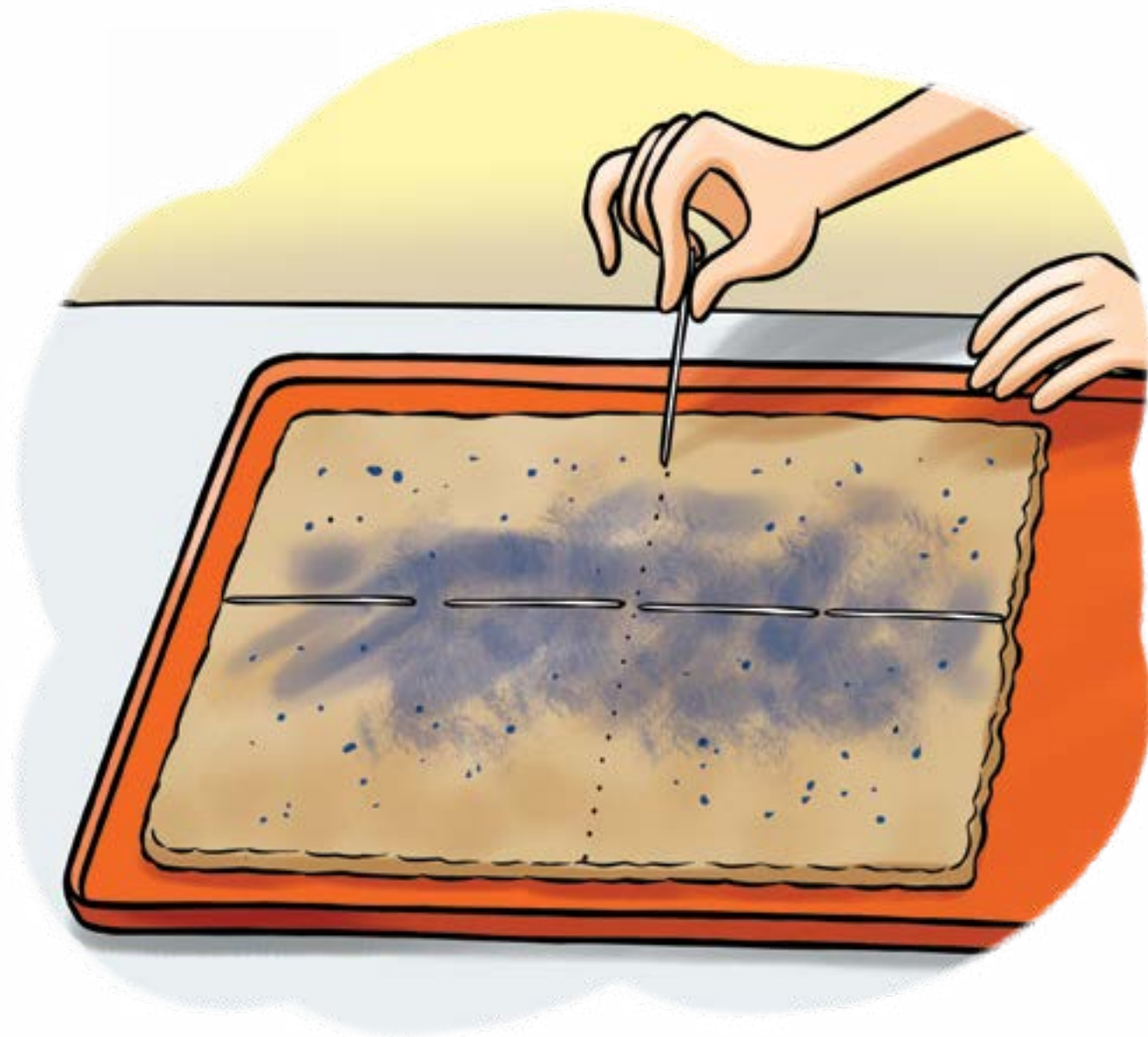
"Not so fast! These are not fair shares," replies Emma. "The pancake was **not** cut in half! See, your piece is a little bit bigger."

"Oh," Ethan sighs.



They give PJ the smaller piece. They know PJ likes blueberry pancakes, too.

Emma and Ethan agree that they need to make a new plan. This time, they feel certain they **will** make 2 fair shares!



Emma and Ethan work together to measure and check. They check and measure again to make sure, and then they mark the pancake in half.

"Now we'll have 2 fair shares," they agree.

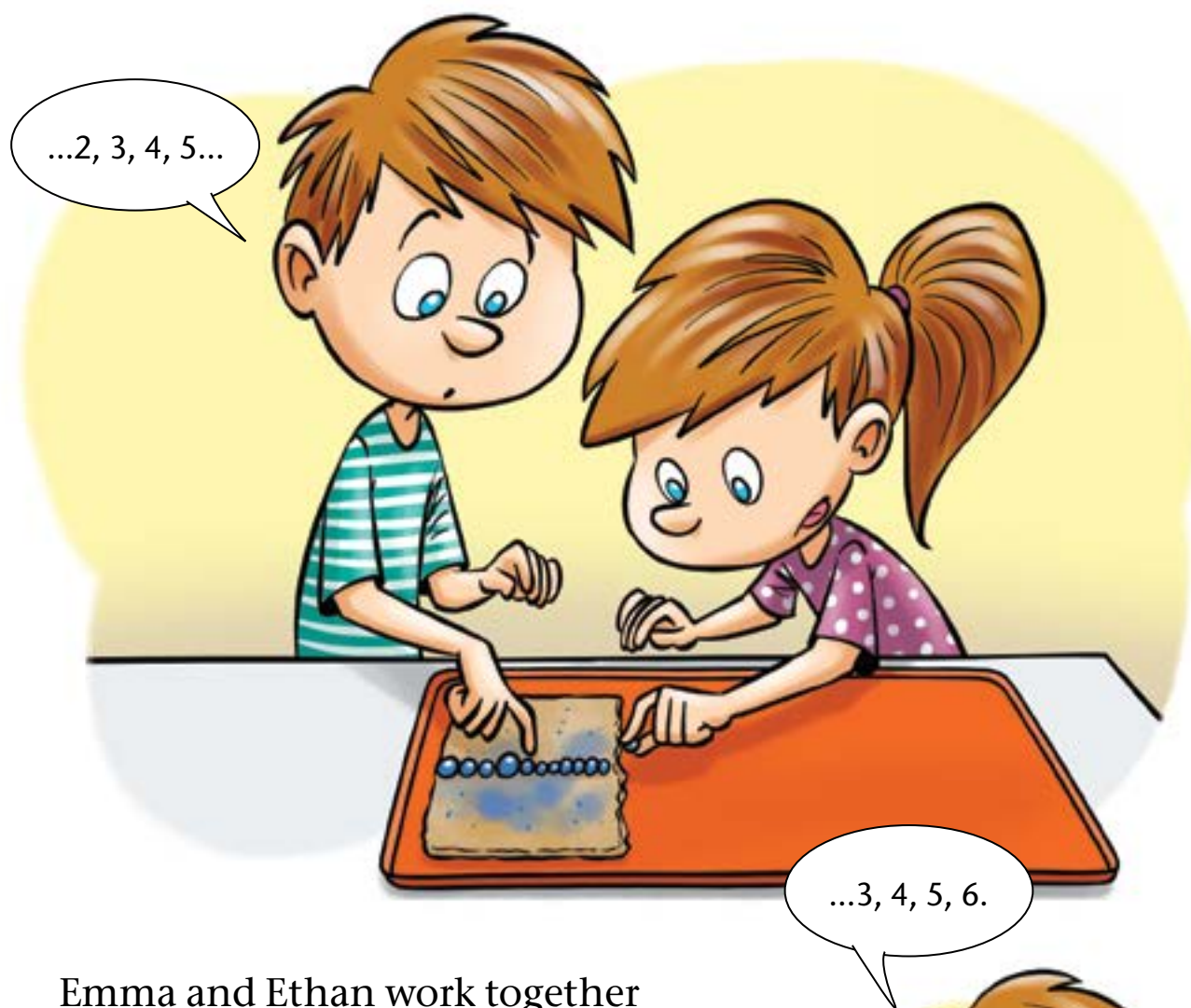
Carefully and gently, Emma and Ethan rip the big blueberry pancake piece to make 2 fair shares.



"Yours is a bit bigger than mine. Mine is smaller!" Ethan points out. "These are not fair shares because the piece was not cut in half!"

"Oh," Emma sighs.

Once again, Emma and Ethan give the smaller piece to PJ.



Emma and Ethan work together to make a new plan.

They measure and check, and then they check and measure again. Then they count and count again.

They mark the pancake in half and agree that the shares will be fair.

Carefully and gently, they slowly pull the big blueberry pancake piece to make 2 fair shares.



"Wait! Now yours is a bit bigger, and mine is smaller again," Emma points out. "These are not fair shares. The piece was not cut in half!"

"Oh," Ethan sighs.

Once again, Emma and Ethan give the smaller piece to PJ.



"Our blueberry pancake is now so small," Emma and Ethan agree sadly. They know that once again they need a new plan.

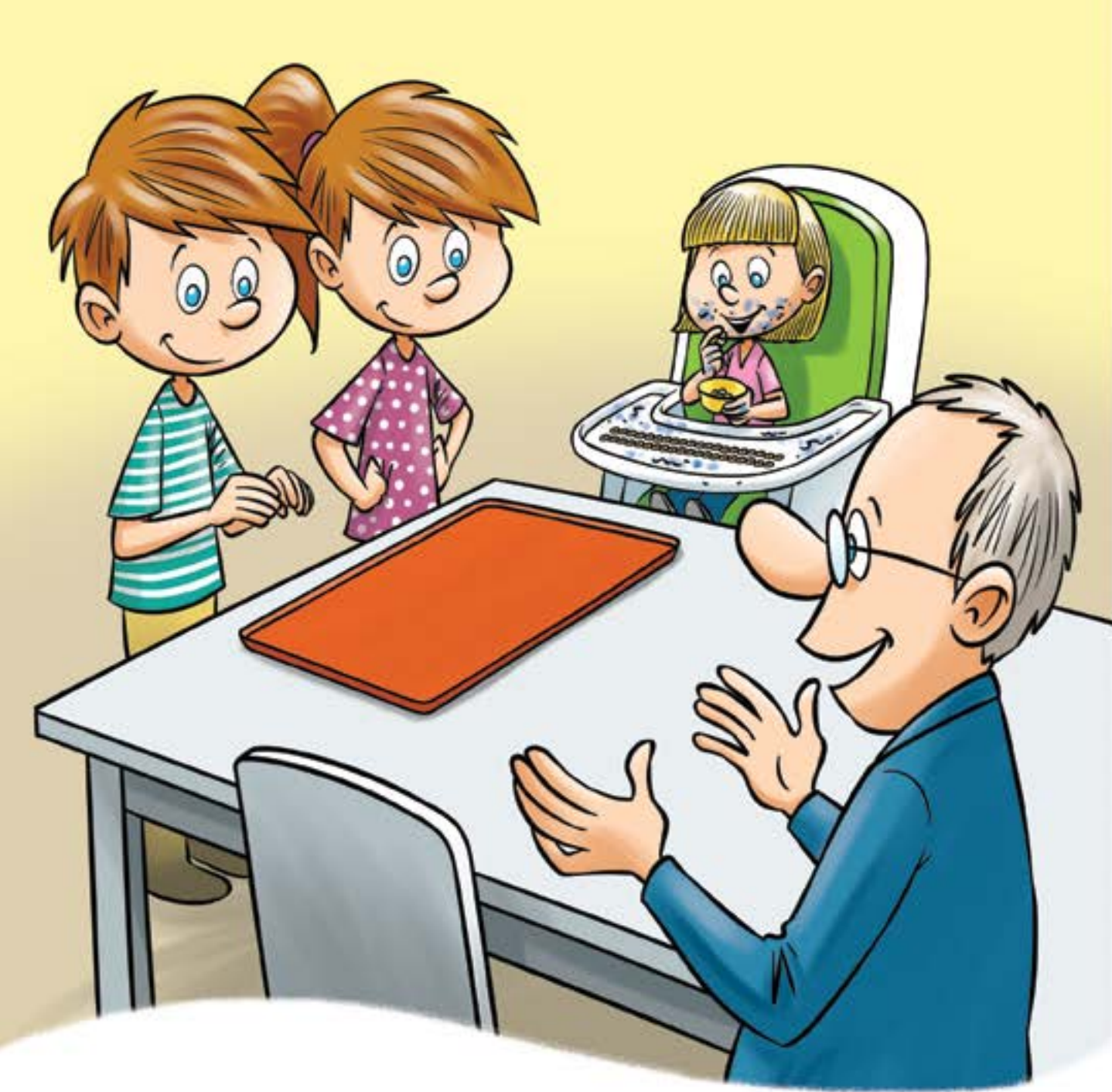
They think and they talk, and then they talk and think some more.

This time, they **will** make 2 fair shares!



"These are 2 very small fair shares, but finally we can eat! I am **so** hungry," says Ethan.

"Me too!" Emma agrees.



"Wow, I'm surprised! You two ate that **whole** pancake! You must be full," Gramps says. "I will bake 1 more special birthday treat—a **huge** banana bread. You can eat it later—when you get hungry, of course."



Ethan looks at Emma, and Emma looks at Ethan. Together they say, "Actually, we are very, **very** hungry now. Would you mind changing your plan, Gramps? Can you please bake **mini** muffins instead?"



"Awesome! Gramps, you made so many mini muffins!"
Ethan says. "Thanks!"

"They look delicious and healthy—and they will be so
easy to share!" says Emma.

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