

Otto's Tales



THE NATIONAL ANTHEM & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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Ruff Ruff!

We're going on another big adventure. It's time to learn about patriotism and why we should love our country—the United States of America.



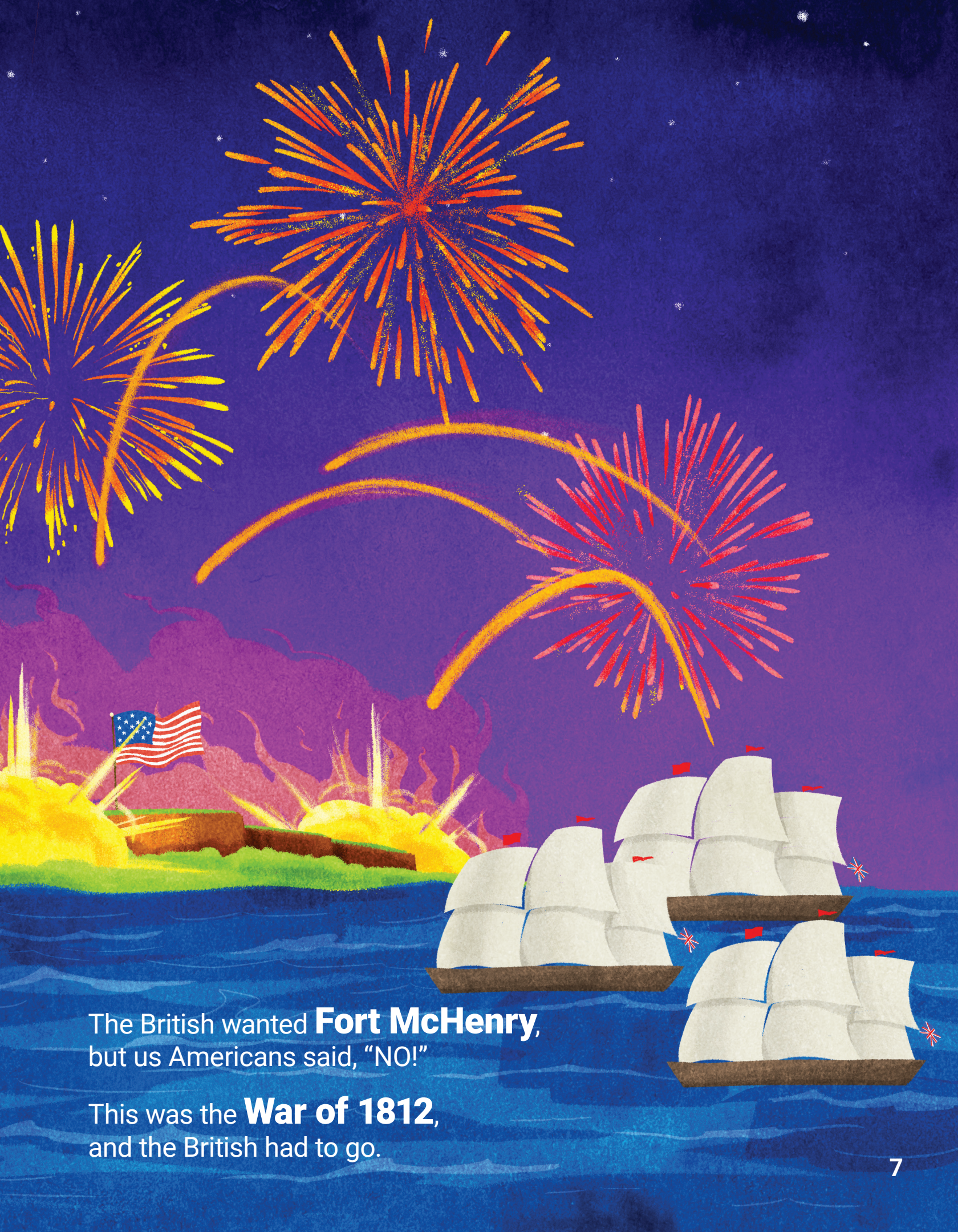


We dressed up like the flag in red, white, and blue.
We jumped in our ship and just like that ***ZOOM...***



Off to 1814 in **Baltimore**—there was an ongoing war.

The British came to fight, but couldn't take much more.




The British wanted **Fort McHenry**,
but us Americans said, "NO!"

This was the **War of 1812**,
and the British had to go.



They fired cannonballs and rockets
at the Fort all night.

The **Second War for Independence**
was one heck of a fight.



But in the morning, at dawn,
our flag was raised high.
It was still there, waving in the sky.

Our worries were relieved when we saw such a sight.
Our American flag, still raised, had flown through the night.

Francis Scott Key, who was there at the time,
wrote a poem about the battle, and even made it rhyme.








The poem he wrote was quite the composite.
He carried it with him inside his front pocket.
“O say, can you see,” Francis did recall.
Dennis said, “I’ve heard that sung before a game of baseball.”



Francis continued, "The rocket's red glare,
the bombs bursting in air."

I barked, "That's why we sing,
'our flag was still there.'"





Dennis said, "It's our **Star-Spangled Banner** and it makes me so proud."

"I will always love our country!" I happily vowed.

I asked, "But why do people sing it before we watch a game?"

Dennis said, "Our **National Anthem** reminds us of how together we came."





"I'm glad you like my poem," Francis grinned at us on cue.

We looked up at the flag with its red, white, and blue.

Then ***zoom...*** off we went to 1954.

Our ship became a school bus, I almost flew out the door!

Our big yellow bus stopped in front of a school.
“Dennis,” I barked, “look at the kids—how cool!”



Lots of children were playing and having fun.
Then the bell rang and they started to run.



They went to their classes and
sat in their chairs.

They looked up at the teacher
with soft, quiet stares.



"Time to say the **Pledge**,"
the teacher did start.

The students stood up and put
their hands on their hearts.



"I pledge allegiance," they all
together did say.

"Dennis," I asked, "do they do this
every day?"

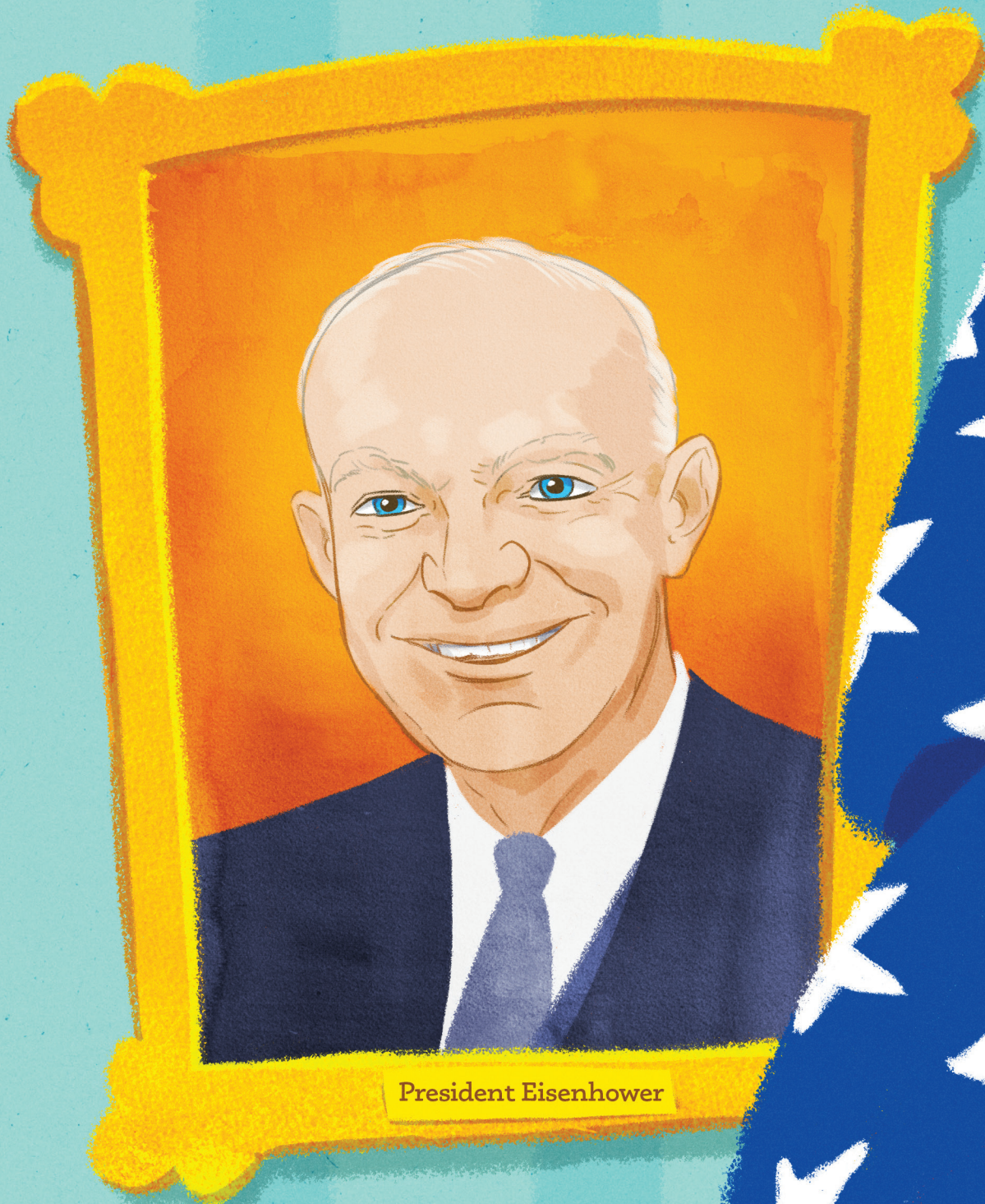
"Yes," Dennis said,
with his hand on his heart.

It is how every day
at school should start."

President **Dwight Eisenhower's**
picture hung on the wall.

"Who's that?" I whispered
in a voice oh so small.





President Eisenhower

"That's the current president,"
Dennis answered with a smile.

"He added 'Under God' to the Pledge
we've said this whole while."



“That’s pretty important,”
I whispered back to my friend.

“So is ‘liberty and justice for all,’ like we
say at the end.”

We hopped back on our bus and
then again ***ZOOM...***

VROOM, VROOM, VROOM, back to Dennis’s room.



"That was my favorite adventure yet!"
I barked.

"You say that every time, Otto."

"Well, I never knew how much
I loved our National Anthem
and the Pledge of Allegiance!"



"And that's why we stand for it when we sing the
National Anthem and say the Pledge," I replied.

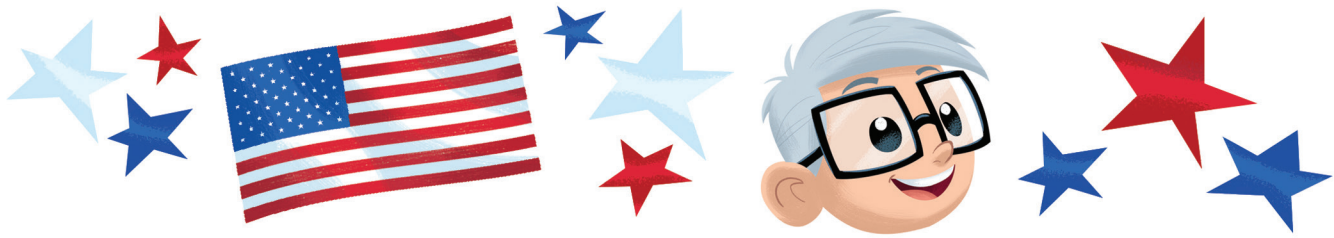
"We don't say the Pledge because America is a perfect place,"
Dennis explained. "We say the Pledge because America is a
good place. And because it is our place."



"And we can make it even better!" I barked.

"We've been doing that since 1776. God bless America!" shouted Dennis.

"God bless America! Ruff Ruff!"



We Love Our History

Baltimore: The largest city and harbor in the state of Maryland. This is where the Battle of Fort McHenry took place in 1814.

Fort McHenry: This was a fort used by the American military to defend Baltimore against the British. It was attacked by British ships in 1814, but survived the bombardment. That battle inspired the words of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” which would become America’s National Anthem.

War of 1812: A war fought between the United States and Great Britain between 1812 and 1815.

Second War for Independence: During the War of 1812, the British nearly took back America, so when America won, it became known as our “Second War for Independence.”

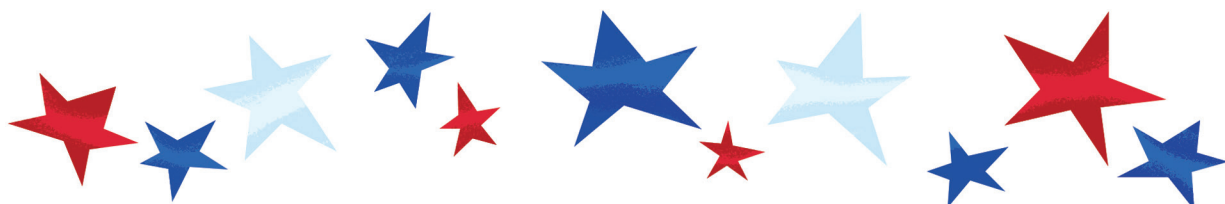
Francis Scott Key: The young lawyer from Maryland who was in Baltimore Harbor the night the British attacked Fort McHenry. He wrote a poem he called “The Star-Spangled Banner” about the battle.

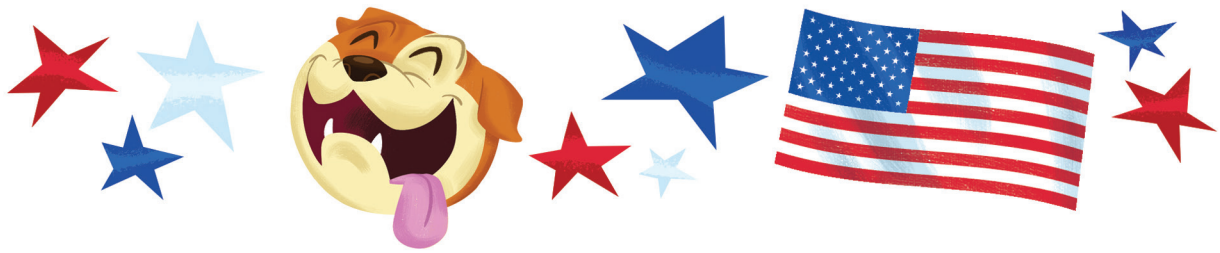
Star-Spangled Banner: The name of the poem written by Francis Scott Key about the Battle of Fort McHenry. It refers to the really big American flag (the “star-spangled banner”) that was flying at Fort McHenry, and remained flying even after the British bombarded it. Key’s poem later became our National Anthem.

National Anthem: Every country has a National Anthem, which is a song that expresses their love for their country. This love of country is called “patriotism.” America’s National Anthem is called “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and singing it is one of the ways we express our patriotism.

Pledge: The Pledge of Allegiance is a promise we make to our country, with our hands over our hearts, facing the American flag. In the pledge, we promise to be loyal to our country and what it stands for—Liberty, God, and unity.

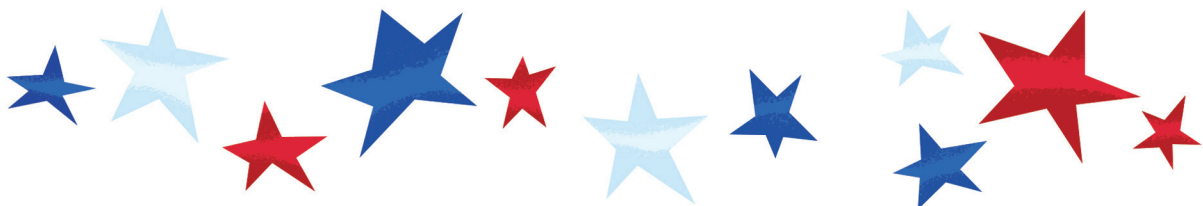
Dwight Eisenhower: The 34th President of the United States, from 1953-1961. He added the words “Under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance because he wanted Americans to remember that their rights ultimately come from God, not government.





National Anthem (Star-Spangled Banner)

*O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*



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**See you in
our *next* adventure!**

- Dennis and Otto

ABOUT

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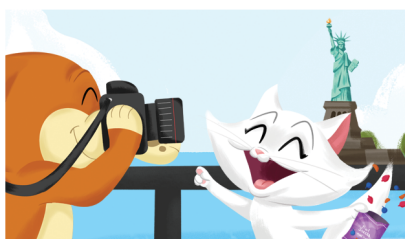
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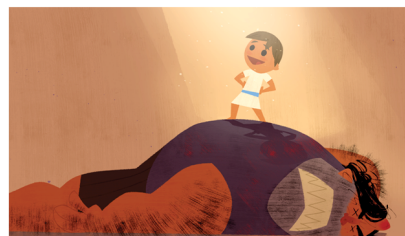
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