

BAPTIST FEATURES

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CHILDREN'S PAGE
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DOUGLAS AND NATHAN
BY: Elizabeth Y. Resler

Douglas always liked to help Mother clean the attic. They were sure to find some treasures, or something he had forgotten about. And Mother would tell him the most fascinating stories about the funny-looking clothes stored up there.

"Now, then, I think I'll take these old magazines down. I see the paper man coming down the alley and he'll take them right away. I'll be back in just a few minutes, dear," said Mother as her head disappeared below the stair railing.

While she was gone, he'd just look around, thought Douglas.

"I wonder what these things are--they look like drapes." He picked up the long blue material. Then he wrapped it around himself. Another smaller piece he fitted on his head. He caught a glimpse of himself in an old mirror and became even more interested in his costume.

"H'm, I look a little like the picture in our Bible story book," he said as he tugged at his clothes and walked back and forth. "I wonder what Mother will think of me."

And thinking of Mother he suddenly realized she had been gone a long time. Not wanting to take off his fancy clothes before she saw him, he sat down on top of the pile of drapes to wait.

Douglas wasn't sure how long he sat, but suddenly that pile of old drapes seemed to turn into a big white cloud. And like clouds do, it was sailing along in the sky--with Douglas sitting comfortably on top of it.

Looking down over the edge, Douglas saw that the cloud was sailing out over an ocean. In fact quite soon he could see no more land at all.

"I wonder if this is the Atlantic Ocean?" he said.

But almost before he could say it the cloud was above the land again. And then his unusual air coach was slowly coming down. Then there was a gentle bump and he knew this was the end of his journey. Douglas began to look around.

Just then a boy came running around the corner of a house.

"Hello, my name's Douglas, what's yours?"

"I'm Nathan," answered the boy, "and my father is waiting for me to bring him a tool. Come along and meet my parents. Maybe you can help, too."

(more)

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-2- Douglas and Nathan

Sure enough on the other side of the house in the shady yard was the rest of Nathan's family. His father was busy with very odd woodworking tools. Nathan's mother was cleaning fruit for dinner.

Douglas was too polite to say so but he thought it strange that Nathan's father did not have an electric saw and drill. As he thought this he looked around for a place to plug one in the wall. Then he realized that there were no electric lights either. Small earthenware lamps were set around for light at night.

After a while Nathan's mother went to prepare supper. When she called that it was ready the three of them put down their work to go inside. At the door Nathan and his father stopped. They touched a tiny box fastened to the side of the door and repeated solemnly, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

Douglas knew the verse, too, so he joined in saying the familiar words.

All too soon the evening was over and the family went up the outside stairs to the rooftop. Here they unrolled mats. These were their beds. So, under the stars, the boys lay quietly thinking pleasant, friendly thoughts.

As Douglas watched the stars he felt himself being lifted again up, up, and away. His cloud was taking him home.

He must have been asleep, for here he was on that pile of clothes in the attic.

"Hi, there, did you think I was pretty slow?" laughed Mother. Then her eyes widened as she saw Douglas. "Now, who are you?"

Douglas grinned and walked up and down showing off his costume.

"I'm Nathan, the boy of Palestine," he said.

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MAY TIME

BY: Norman C. Schlichter

May time's a gay time
In our big land and fair.
While blossoms burst on fruit trees
Birds sing everywhere.

May time's a gay time!
A time for outdoor play,
When winds keep getting warmer
With every new day.

May time's a gay time!
Planting seeds is fun.
It's fine to help make harvests
of food for everyone.

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HIT THE FACE

By: Gene Wright

What do you do on rainy days? Here is a game that is fun to make as well as to play.

Use any cardboard box that is larger than a pie plate. Place a pie plate in the center of the box top and draw around it to make the shape of a head.

Draw and clip out two round eyes, a nose, and a mouth.

Give each player ten dry beans.

Stand back from the box.

Let each player take his turn in throwing ten beans at the face. Count five for each bean that goes into the mouth. Count ten for each bean that goes into an eye or the nose. The first player to score one hundred wins.