

BENNIE, THE PUPPIE

KEYWORD: Proportion.

The twins, Bobbie and Billie, were back again in their lovely home on Plymouth Boulevard in Los Angeles. Some one had made them a present of a pup which they called

Bennie. They loved him very much, and the puppy was never so happy as when playing with them.

They heard that everyone who had a dog must tie it up and not let it run about the streets, because some dogs had bitten little children. The twins were so afraid of losing their puppy or that a big man from the city might pick him up and take him away that they planned together without saying anything to Mother or anybody about what they were going to do. The consequences were that they nearly killed the poor little puppy themselves, which shows that it is best to ask Mother before doing anything important.

In the back part of their house there was a very small, dark closet, where Mother kept all the castoff clothes and shoes, which the Salvation Army used to come and take away every now and then. One evening when Mother went out, the twins took a bowl of milk from the refrigerator, and put it in the closet. Then they fetched one of Mother's pretty cushions from the front room and put that in too. They then took the puppy and showed him the milk. He went in to get it, and they shut the door. Of course the puppy was so busy lapping up the milk that he paid no attention to the door being closed, and the twins went to bed satisfied that no one was going to take their puppy away from them.

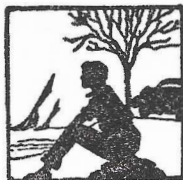
Janie missed the milk, and the next morning the twins heard her telling Mother about it. They both felt guilty but said nothing.

After breakfast they crept to the closet to take a look at their puppy, and how do you think they found him? Why, he was all doubled up close to the door trying to breathe, and he didn't have any strength to move.

The twins called loudly to Mother, who came running with Janie to see what the trouble was. At sight of the milk Mother guessed what had happened. She picked up the

poor little puppy, and carried him into the outer air. Janie got some water and, opening the puppy's jaw, dropped it in a little at a time. At last he began to revive, opened his eyes and started whining. Mother got a wooden box, put a nice clean sack in it, and put the puppy out in the sunshine.

The twins told Mother why they did it. She explained that the closet door shut very tight, and there was no window to let the air in. The puppy tried to breathe by getting as close as he could to the crack under the door, but the door was so close to the floor that he could not get enough air,



and so he stifled in the closet all night. If the twins hadn't opened the door when they did, they surely would have found their puppy dead, for animals, like human beings, cannot live without air.

Then Mother took the twins down town to the toy department of a big store, and bought them each one of those squeaky balloons that you blow through and that swell up ever so big. Bobbie and Billie tried to see which could blow the harder. When they stopped blowing into them, the air went out, and the balloons became flat. Mother told them that was how the puppy felt when the air went out of his lungs and he could not get any more to take in.

So you see here was another lesson that the twins learned, though it almost turned out to be a sad one.