

## Farmer Dan and his big brother Stan

### Major helps Ben

Read the story by yourself or with an adult. You will stop part way through and then have a go at sheet at Day 12- Sheet 10

The weather at sunny bank farm had been terrible. Rain, rain, rain for days. But now the sun was shining and Farmer Dan and his big brother Stan needed to mend the damaged fence in the bottom Meadows.

The first thing they had to do was to collect some new fence posts from Harry Blaydon. When they arrived at the sawmill on their tractors, Harry wasn't there. His son Bob run out to meet them in a bit of a panic.



"Oh! I'm so pleased to see you two. I've been trying to phone the fire station to get some help for Ben the horse. He's been working with dad in the lower plantation in puddly wood. The ground is very muddy after all the rain. He's so big and heavy that he's got himself stuck in the mud. Please can you go down there and help dad with him until the fire engine arrives? I can't go as I have to stay and show the firemen the way as soon as they get here."

Farmer Dan was very calm, and said quietly to Bob,

"Don't worry, Stan and I will leave the trailers here. We can go over into Puddly Wood right away on the tractors, because with their big fat tyres, and a little bit of luck, we should be able to drive right over the very soft ground."

Dan left Stan at the entrance of the wood to warn the fire engine, because even stands big tractor started to sink into the soft mud.

It was possible that the big heavy fire engine might also sink or even get completely stuck. Stan could hear the sound of Major's engine getting quieter and quieter as Farmer Dan disappeared into the green of the Lower Plantation.

Dan and Major drove into the heart of the wood where they found Harry Blaydon with big Ben, his horse. Poor Ben, he had been pulling logs out of the wood. In fact, they were the logs to be made into some of the fence posts for Farmer Dan and his Big Brother Stan. Ben had stepped off the path into a very boggy part. He was now stuck sunk-right up to his tummy in soft mud. He was stuck so tight he could only move his head.

### **Have a go at the task DAY 12- SHEET 10**

Hey look at the noisy little tractor as if to say,



"Please help me."

Dan told Harry that the ground might be too soft for the fire engine to get through. Poor Harry, he looked very downhearted when Dan told him this.

"Don't worry though, Harry. Major come lift Ben up out of the mud, even if the fire engine can't get here.

Dan then said to Harry with a laugh, "Come on, Harry. Give me a leg up this tree, just like we did all those years ago when we collected conkers."

"Have you gone mad, Dan?" asked Harry. "We've no time for tree climbing. Anyway, you are too old and you might hurt yourself."

Eventually, farmer Dan persuaded Harry to help him climb up the tree. As Dan eased his way along a huge strong branch that was hanging directly over big Ben the horse, he shouted down to Harry. "There's some rope on the back of Major. Fasten it on to the logging chain that you have been using with Ben. Then throw the end up here to me, please, Harry."

This he did and Farmer Dan pulled up the piece of rope over the tree branch. Farmer Dan kept pulling the rope over with the big heavy chain attached to it, until the end of the chain hung down near Ben. Quickly, farmer Dan made his way back along the branch, and sliding down the tree was soon back on the ground.

Lying flat on the soft, muddy ground near the big horse, Dan wriggled the end of the chain under Ben's muddy tummy, finally fastening the other end to Major. Farmer Dan climbed onto the tractor. Once back in the driver's seat, he started the engine. Vroom, Vroom, the little tractor had to pull and pull. The big engine roared, the noise echoing through the entire wood.

Even Stan could hear Major's engine roaring as he waited for the fire engine. The tree was creaking. The branch over Ben was groaning. The big engine was roaring more and more. The huge tyres were spinning, skidding, splattering mud everywhere, then eventually, very very slowly, Ben started to come up out of the mud. Farmer Dan had instructed Harry to cut small branches and bushes, and together he and Dan pushed those under Ben, packing them down until they were firm enough for the big horse to put his huge feet on. Then Ben just stepped out of the mud.

"What a great idea!" shouted Harry, so pleased to his horse safe.

After being delayed, trying to find a firm path through the wood, the firemen arrived just in time to see Ben step out of the mud onto firm ground. Then all cheered. The firemen gently washed all the mud off the big horse, some even gave him one or two sugar-lumps. And as a special treat, using high pressure hoses, the firemen washed all the mud from Major.

Soon he was gleaming and clean. When they also saw how muddy Farmer Dan was, they offered to wash him with their pressure hoses.



Farmer Dan didn't waste any time. As soon as Major was clean, he went speeding off down the track through the wood, away from the firemen and their hoses, making Stan really laugh! All the firemen fell about laughing too. Poor Dan! He didn't realise it was a joke! He just went back to Sunnybank Farm to get his tools to repair the fence and keep his animals safe.

The End