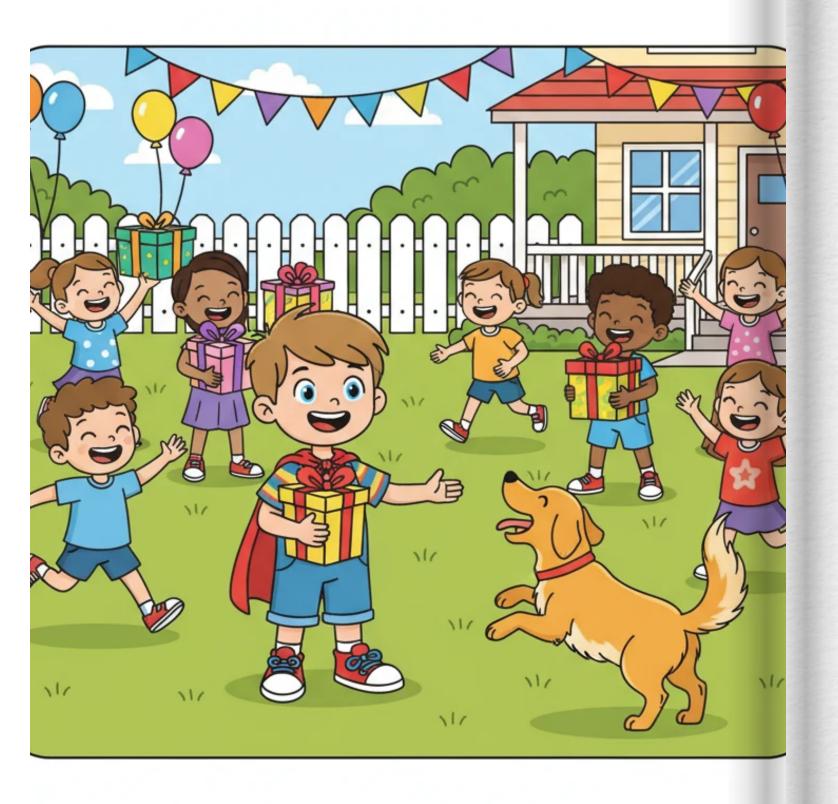


The Great Cake Caper

by Famisan Mark Bernard



The backyard buzzed with excitement as the party preparations began. Colorful balloons bobbed in the breeze, streamers danced, and a magnificent birthday cake sat proudly on the table. Timmy, eyes wide with anticipation, watched as his friends and family prepared for the festivities.



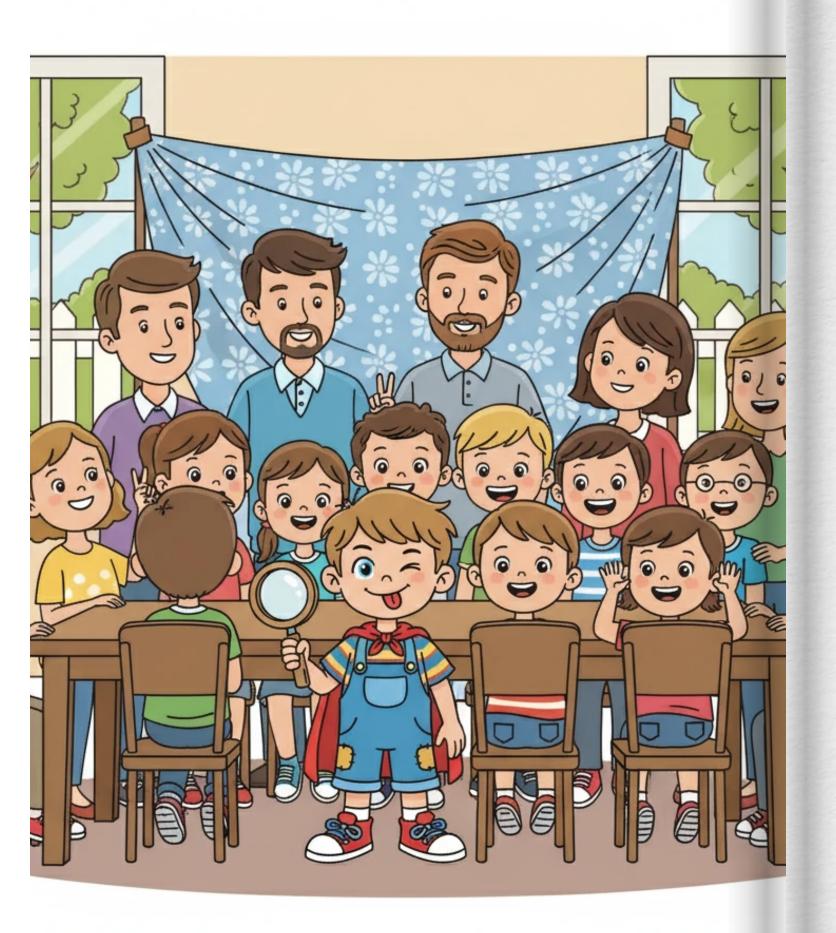
Guests arrived, their arms laden with brightly wrapped presents. Laughter filled the air as children ran and skipped towards the party, eager to join the fun. Timmy's dog, a playful golden retriever, wagged its tail furiously, greeting everyone with excited barks.



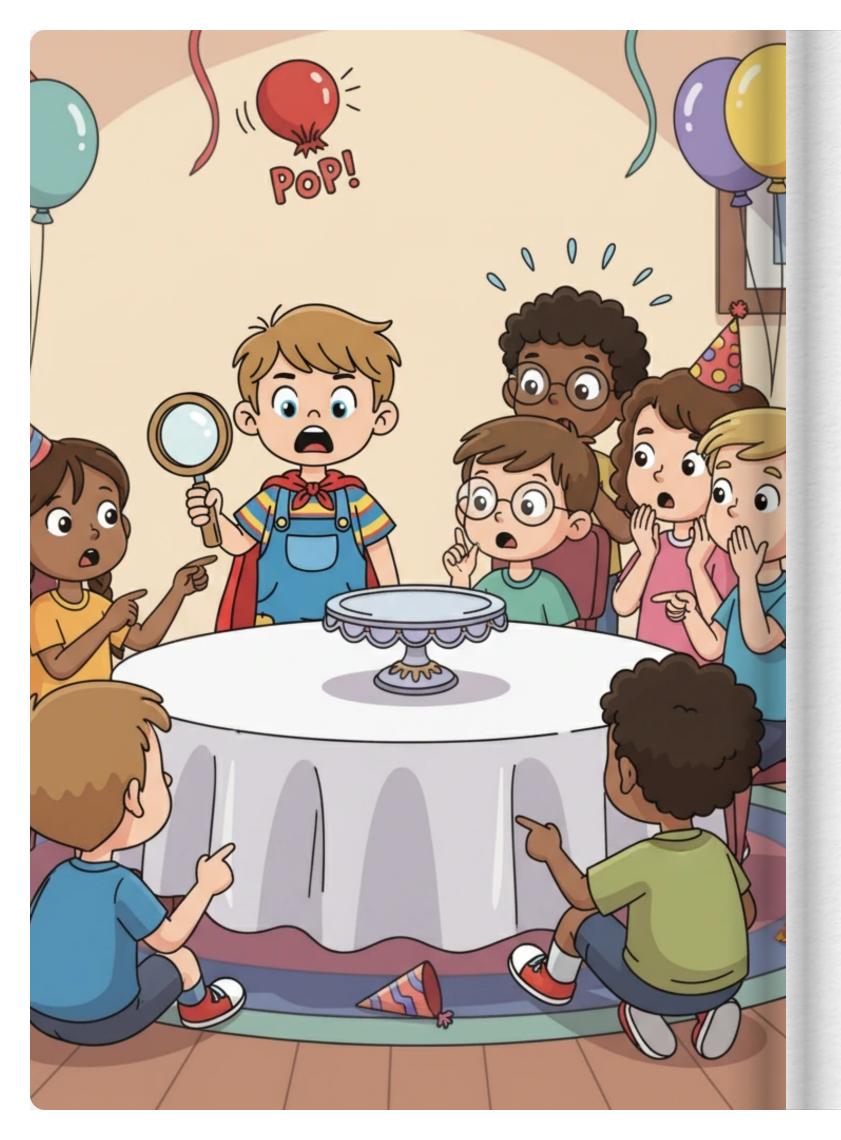
The games began! Kids played pin the tail on the donkey and ran sack races. Giggles and shouts of joy echoed throughout the backyard. Even Timmy's usually shy friend, Sarah, couldn't help but join in the playful chaos.



All eyes turned to the centerpiece of the party: the birthday cake. It was a masterpiece, adorned with colorful frosting, sparkling sprinkles, and cheerful candles. Everyone admired its beauty, already dreaming of the delicious first bite.



It was time for the group photo! Adults gathered the children around the table, a cloth draped behind them. Some kids smiled wide, while others made funny faces. Little did they know, a mystery was about to unfold!



Suddenly, a loud pop! A balloon burst, startling everyone. As they turned back to the table, a collective gasp went up. The birthday cake, the heart of the celebration, was gone! Confusion and disbelief washed over the partygoers, the hunt was on!