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The Dental Exam

16 Jerry sat nervously in the dentist chair. The clock on the wall showed
32 9:13 am. The dentist came in and told Jerry that the first thing they would do
46 would be to take x-rays of his teeth. Next, she started poking around Jerry's
59 mouth with her sharp, shiny metal instruments. Dr. Gonzalez told him that it
71 would take just a few minutes to check and clean his teeth.

85 Jerry's mind started to race as he felt the tapping and scraping on his
99 molars, which are the teeth in the back of the mouth. Was Dr. Gonzalez
113 going to find any cavities? Jerry wondered if he had been eating too many
127 foods with too much sugar. Jerry thought about what his dad told him about
143 drinking soda, and how bad it was for his teeth. Jerry started to sweat in the
157 dentist chair as the assistant came back in the room with his x-rays. Jerry
170 tried to remember if he had been brushing his teeth every morning before
180 going to school, and every night before going to bed.

195 To Jerry, it seemed like it took forever. He had to keep his mouth open
212 for a long time. He felt drool leaking out of the sides of his mouth. The paste
225 Dr. Gonzalez used to clean his teeth tasted really bad, like medicine. "That's
235 it", Dr. Gonzalez finally said with a smile, "No cavities."

249 Relieved it was over, Jerry looked up at the clock again. It was 10:02
263 am. It seemed like the appointment had taken all day. He thought he'd be
279 going back home now, but as he got in the car with his mom, she said,
295 “Great! I can get you back to school in time for you to take your spelling
296 test.”