

## 3 Get Well, Nick!

14 Nick did not come to school this week. On Friday, our  
27 teacher, Mrs. White, told us that Nick was home sick. She said he  
42 would be out of school for another week as well. She did not tell us  
47 why he had been absent.

59 Mrs. White thought we should each make a card for Nick to  
71 cheer him up. Everyone thought that was a good idea. So she  
82 passed out crayons, glue bottles, and colored paper. I drew pictures  
96 of trains and pasted them on the front of the card. Sarah drew a  
108 picture with teddy bears. Andy put stickers of stars and planets on  
122 the back of his card. On the inside of my card, I wrote, “Get  
130 yourself on the right track, Nick! Get well!”

143 A week went by, but Nick was still not back at school. Some  
156 of the other students started to worry and asked Mrs. White if she  
169 could call his house and ask how Nick was doing, and when he  
182 was coming back. Mrs. White told us not to worry, that she would  
194 call Nick’s home in the evening, and would let us know tomorrow

207 how he was doing. We were relieved that she would find out for  
208 us.

220 The next morning we met our teacher at the door and one  
230 student after the other began pestering Mrs. White with questions  
243 about Nick. She told each of them that she would tell the whole  
253 class at once, once we were all inside and settled.

264 Mrs. White began by reminding us that we were all mature  
275 young ladies and gentlemen, and that we needed to listen carefully  
288 to what she was going to tell us, so that misinformation, what we  
297 called ‘rumors’, would not spread false information around our  
309 campus and neighborhood. She told us that Nick recently went to a  
318 regular doctor’s appointment, and that during the examination, the  
330 doctor discovered a tumor on Nick’s skin and would need to run  
340 additional tests to determine whether it was benign or malignant.  
351 Mrs. White explained to us that benign was generally not serious,  
360 whereas malignant was. Fortunately, she said, Nick’s tumor was  
373 benign, and that he was going to be okay. That was great news!