

## CHAPTER ONE

# The Big Prize



In Safari Land, the famous cageless zoo,  
a turtle hid in his shell.

Not far away, a giraffe stretched his  
neck to see the world.

“It is here! It is here!” Joe Giraffe cheered.

“What is the hubbub?” Sparky asked, poking his head out of his shell.

“Do you remember the contest I entered?”

“Of course,” said Sparky. “You found the paper on the ground. You wrote your name on it. You put the paper in the mailbox.”

“Do you remember the prize?”

“Yes. You talked about it for weeks.”

“I won!” Joe shouted. “I won the big prize! There it is at the end of the road.”

“Giraffes do not win big prizes.”

“Some do,” said Joe.





“I do not see your big prize,” Sparky said. “I see your big feet.”

“You do not see much. That is the trouble with stumpy necks.”

“Can you give me a lift?” asked Sparky.

“Always, my small, green friend.”





Joe lowered his head. Sparky climbed on top. Joe ran.

“SLOW DOWN! SAFETY FIRST!”  
Sparky yelled.

But Joe did not like slow. He ran as fast as he could.

At the end of the road was the Safari Land office. There was a lady with a green dress. There was a fancy car with no roof.

“There it is!” Joe said. “My bright yellow Super Flash 5000.”

“It is bright,” Sparky agreed.

Joe looked in the car. On the seat was a hat covered with fruit.

“Slam dunk! I won a hat, too!” Joe said.

He put Sparky on the seat.

“Is that a hat or is it lunch?” Sparky asked.

Joe put on the hat. He got into the car.

“We will go on a road trip,” Joe said.

“Only if it is very short. And very slow,” Sparky said. “Safety first!”

Joe started the car and drove to the gate.





“How do you know how to drive?”

Sparky asked. “How do you know about contests and Super Flash 5000s?”

“I like to listen. I like to stretch my neck and see the world.”





“I like to hide in my shell,” said Sparky.

Suddenly, **BOOM! BANG!**

The Super Flash 5000 came to a halt.



“We are at the gate now,” said Joe.

“You are a good driver, Joe. You know how to stop,” Sparky said.