

13. Raggedy Ann's New Sisters

Before Reading:

1. Imagine something you own is copied hundreds of times and given to children around the world. What would you want to have copied?
2. Look at the picture on page 61. Why do you think there are so many Raggedy Anns all together?
3. How many new sisters do you think Raggedy Ann will have? Where do you think they will come from?

Marcella was having a tea party up in her room when Daddy called her. She left the dolls around the little table and ran downstairs. She took Raggedy Ann with her.



Mamma, Daddy, and their friend John were talking in the living room. Marcella had never met John so Daddy **introduced** them to each other.

He was a big man with kind eyes and a nice smile. His smile was as pleasant as Raggedy Ann's. Because Daddy, Mamma and Marcella liked him, Raggedy Ann liked him too.

"I have two little girls," he told Marcella. "Their names are Virginia and Doris. Doris has a doll called Freddy. One time, we were at the **beach**. They were playing in the sand and they covered Freddy in the sand. After they covered Freddy, they went farther down the beach to play. They forgot all about Freddy.

"When it was time for us to go home, Virginia and Doris remembered Freddy. They ran back to get him, but the **waves** came and pulled

Freddy out into the water. They saw Freddy go under the water and they could not find him again. Virginia and Doris were very sad and they talked about Freddy all the way home.”

“It was too bad they forgot Freddy,” said Marcella.

“Yes, it was!” John said as he took Raggedy Ann up and made her dance on Marcella’s knee. “But it was okay after all, because, do you know what happened to Freddy?”

“No, what happened to him?” Marcella asked.

“Well, first of all, when Freddy was covered with the sand, he enjoyed it very much. He didn’t mind when the waves came up over him. He thought Virginia and Doris would come back and get him.

“But then Freddy felt the sand above him move. It felt as if someone was getting him out. Soon his head was uncovered. Now he could look right up through the beautiful green water. What do you think was happening?”

“The waves were washing away the sand and uncovering Freddy. When he was completely uncovered, the **undertow** pulled him out to sea. Then the waves threw him up into the air with the ocean **spray**. The wind and the waves helped carry him back to the beach.”

Marcella couldn’t wait to hear what happened next.

“The next day, Virginia and Doris found him on the beach, looking very happy after his wonderful adventure!”

“Freddy must have enjoyed it and your little girls must be very glad to have Freddy back again!” said Marcella. “Raggedy Ann went up in the air on the tail of a kite one day and fell and was lost. So now I am very careful with her!”

“Would you let me take Raggedy Ann for a few days?” asked John.

Marcella was quiet. She liked the man, but she did not want to lose Raggedy Ann.

“I promise to take very good care of her and I’ll give her back to you in a week. Will you let her go with me, Marcella?”

Marcella finally agreed and when John left, he put Raggedy Ann in his bag.

“It is lonely without Raggedy Ann!” said the dolls each night.

“We miss her happy, painted smile and her fun ways!” they said.

And so the week went by slowly....

When Raggedy Ann finally came back, all the dolls wanted to hug Raggedy Ann and ask her many questions. They could hardly wait until the time when Marcella left them alone.

They hugged Raggedy Ann almost out of shape! She had to straighten her hair and feel her button eyes to see if they were still there. Then she said, "Well, what have you been doing? Tell me all the news!"

"Oh we just had the usual tea parties and games!" said the Tin Soldier. "Tell us about yourself, Raggedy, we missed you so much!"

"Yes! Tell us where you have been and what you have done, Raggedy!" all the dolls said.

Just then, Raggedy Ann saw that one of the penny dolls was **missing** a hand.

"How did this happen?" she asked as she picked up the doll.

"I fell off the table and hit the Tin Soldier last night when we were playing. But don't worry about a little thing like that, Raggedy Ann," the penny doll said. "Tell us about yourself! Did you have a nice time?"

"I will not say anything until your hand is fixed!" Raggedy Ann said.

So Helen ran and found a bottle of **glue**. "Where's the hand?" Raggedy asked.

"In my pocket," the penny doll answered.

Raggedy Ann glued the penny doll's hand in place and put a piece of cloth around it to hold it until the glue dried. Then she said, "When I tell you about this wonderful adventure, I know you will all feel very happy. It made me almost **burst with joy**."

The dolls all sat on the floor around Raggedy Ann. The Tin Soldier sat with his arm over her shoulder.

"Well, first, when I left," said Raggedy Ann, "I was put in John's bag. It was **stuffy** in there, but I did not mind it. I think I fell asleep. When I woke up, I saw John's hand. Then the hand took me out from the bag. John danced me on his knee. 'What do you think of her?' he asked three other people sitting nearby.

"I was so interested in looking out of the window that I did not listen to what they said. We were on a train and the **scenery** was just flying by! Then I was put back in the bag.

"The next time I was taken from the bag, I was in a large, clean, bright room and there were many, many workers all dressed in white aprons.

"John showed me to the people in aprons. Then they cut my seams and took out my cotton. And what do you think? They found my lovely candy heart! It had not melted at all as I thought. They put me on a clean white cloth on a table. Then they drew all around my body with a pencil. After that, they filled me with cotton again and dressed me.

"I stayed in that clean, big, and bright room for two or three days and nights. I watched my sisters grow from pieces of cloth into dolls just like myself!"

"Your SISTERS!" the dolls all shouted in **astonishment**. "What do you mean, Raggedy?"

"I mean," said Raggedy Ann, "that John borrowed me from Marcella so that he could make dolls exactly like me. Before I left the big clean room, there were hundreds of dolls. They are so much like me you wouldn't be able to say which one is me and which one is not."



"We could tell it's you by your happy smile!" said Lisa.

"But all of my sister dolls have smiles just like mine!" answered Raggedy Ann.

"And button eyes?" the dolls all asked.

"Yes, button eyes!" Raggedy Ann said.

"I would know that it's you because of your dress, Raggedy Ann," said Lisa. "Your dress is fifty years old!"

"But my new sister rag dolls have dresses just like mine. John used cloth for their dresses that was exactly like the cloth in my dress."

"I know how we could tell you from the other dolls, even if you all look exactly alike!" Helen said. She had been thinking for a long time.

"How?" asked Raggedy Ann with a laugh.

"By feeling your candy heart! If the doll has a candy heart then it is you, Raggedy Ann!"

Raggedy Ann laughed, “I’m so glad you all love me so much, but I am sure you wouldn’t be able to tell me from my new sisters, except that I’m old and worn. Each new doll has a candy heart, too! On each heart are the words ‘I LOVE YOU’ just like my own candy heart.”

“And there are hundreds and hundreds of the new dolls like you?” asked the little penny dolls.

“Hundreds and hundreds of them, all named Raggedy Ann,” said Raggedy.

“Then,” said the penny dolls, “we are really happy and proud of you! The new Raggedy Ann dolls will bring the love and happiness that you give to others.”



After Reading:

1. How did Raggedy Ann get new sisters?
2. In what ways was Raggedy Ann the same as her sisters? How was she different?
3. Raggedy Ann’s friends were at first afraid that they wouldn’t be able to tell her from the other dolls, but in the end they were happy. Do you think special things should be copied? Why or why not?