The Littlest General Takes Her Turn





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horse-riding	friends
trainer	trotted
wailed	usual
guess	breaths
calm	special
together	bottle
blanket	bleeding
galloped	beamed

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Meet the Littlest General. She likes to be the boss. She likes to be the one in charge. She likes to be first at everything.



Today, she is taking a horse-riding lesson with her friends, Molly and Mia.



"I want the black horse. It's the biggest. Let me up," she said to the horse trainer. "Please wait your turn. Molly will be having a turn on the brown horse first. Your turn will be soon," said the horse trainer.



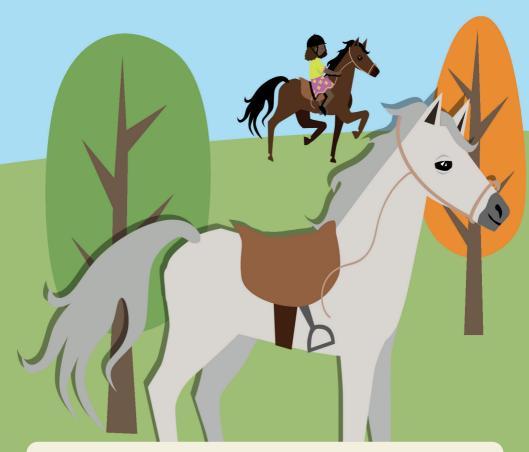
"Why can't I be first? I am the tallest. I am the oldest. I should go first. Now let me up. Let me up!" she cried.



Molly and the brown horse trotted away. The Littlest General started to cry. In fact, she wailed. And as usual, she stamped her feet. "Come along Mia, it's your turn on the black horse now," said the horse trainer.



"No way. That's not fair. Let me have a turn now. Please.... Pretty please," said the Littlest General. "Mia, hop up on the horse please," said the trainer.



"When will it be my turn?" shouted the Littlest General. "Very soon, the white horse is waiting for you. But my horses do not like to carry people when they are angry. It makes the horses angry too," said the trainer.



"Oh," said the Littlest General. "I guess I better count to ten and take some deep breaths so I can calm down," she said to herself.



"I'm ready. I am not angry anymore. I am ready to take my turn," she said. "I think you are ready too. Climb up. Meet Snowy, the white horse," said the horse trainer.



"Our white horse is a special horse. He likes to be in charge so he needs a strong girl to keep him on the right track," said the horse trainer.



The Littlest General trotted along for a while. She saw Molly and Mia on the path up ahead. Molly and Mia were crying.



"My horse has cut his leg on a rose bush," cried Mia. "And I'm crying because Mia is crying," cried Molly. "We don't know what to do," cried the girls together.



"I know what to do," said the Littlest General. She climbed off Snowy with her backpack. She washed the horse's leg with some water from her water bottle. She took her blanket and tied it around the horse's leg to stop the bleeding.



"Wait here Molly and Mia. I'll ride with Snowy back to the horse trainer and get help," she said. The Littlest General on the white horse galloped back to the stables. "Come quickly please, the girls need help. Mia's horse has cut its leg," she said.



When they reached the path, the girls had stopped crying. "Mia's horse is better now. The bleeding stopped," said Molly. "It takes a strong girl and her horse to be so brave. Thank you for staying calm and saving the day," said the horse trainer. The Littlest General beamed. She was glad she waited for her turn after all.

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