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Well, hi there kids. I've been waiting for you. Welcome back to Miss Robins place where "Different isn't bad" and kids can be themselves. This is a podcast just for you!

If you haven't met Stubby, the cat and all his friends go back and listen from the beginning. Stubby is actually a cat who lives in Miss Robin's backyard. You can see pictures of him on my website. Make sure you bring your adult when you visit.

In today's original story, Stubby visits Farmer Dave's ranch and meets a little mouse named Marley who likes to brag.

Do you know what it means to brag?

It's a way of making yourself look better in front of other people.

Have you ever done that? I have!

Stubby the cat shows Marley the mouse what it means to be a good friend and teaches him what it really means to be brave.

So now let's listen as Stubby the cat visits the little ranch on the prairie.

Ready, Set, here we go!!

Little Ranch On A Prairie

By Robin Marie Johnson

The Old blue truck went bump bumpity as Farmer Dave turned onto the country road that led to Rockin R Ranch.

Stubby curled up on his lap, wondering what this new place would be like. This was Stubbies first time visiting the ranch, and he was a little worried.

“It will be ok little Stubbs-roo,” Farmer Dave said as he stroked Stubby’s head. “All the ranch animals will like you”

Poking her head halfway out the open window, Lucy the dog barked with glee! This was not her first rodeo. She had been to the ranch many times! There was nothing better for a dog than miles and miles of open space, and Lucy couldn’t wait to see her friends..

“You’ll like my friend Poppy,” Lucy barked. “He’s a prairie dog. But he doesn’t look much like me!”

Stubby had never seen a prairie dog. He wondered if Poppy buried bones like Lucy did.

“There is a little mouse named Marley that could use a friend like you, Stubb-a-roo.” Lucy continued.

“I hope he won’t be afraid of me.” Stubby sighed. He was kind, but some mice didn’t trust him, he was a cat.

“You are different,” Lucy barked. “Once he meets you, he’ll love you just like we do.”

Farmer Dave nodded, flashing a smile that warmed Stubbies heart. He loved Farmer Dave’s big toothless grins. They made him laugh, which was just what he needed to settle himself down!

Marley mouse was excited. Mama told him a secret that none of his siblings knew!

Today, a cat named Stubby would come to the ranch.

“Is he friendly?” Marley asked his mama.

“Lucy and Farmer Dave said he is different from any cat we’ve ever met,” Mama mouse replied. “And you my little Marley will be the first to greet him.”

Straightening his whiskers and cleaning his teeny tiny paws, Marley mouse couldn’t contain his amusement!

“I will show Stubby around the ranch. I’m the best mouse on the prairie.” Marley bragged.

Mama mouse cocked her head.

“Don’t be so braggadocious my little Marley,” she corrected. Mama knew that being friends with a cat would teach her littlest boy lessons he needed to learn.

The big metal gate creaked as Farmer Dave slowly made his way up the long driveway. All the ranch animals waited outside the barn to see the unknown visitor he had brought with him.

Lucy didn’t waste any time. The minute the truck door opened she made a beeline for her friend Poppy, the prairie dog! Together they explored mountains of dirt, finding holes with hidden treasures while barking at the top of their lungs.

Lucy was funny!

Stubby stayed close to Farmer Dave. This was a new adventure, and Stubby felt uneasy.

“I’m Marley,” a tiny but brave little mouse approached Stubby. “Would you like to see the barn?”

“Yes,” Stubby meowed.

“Follow me,” Marley shouted at the top of his voice.

Running here and there Marley and Stubby were instant friends, but it wasn’t long before they ran into Billy, the bull snake.

Suddenly Marley froze! He knew that mice were Billy’s favorite snack and Marley didn’t want to be anyone’s snack, especially not a snake.

Inching closer, Billy prepared to lunge. He hadn’t eaten in days and he was hungry.

Marley didn’t feel so brave. He wanted to run but knew if he did it would be the last of him.

“You don’t want to hurt Marley. He is our friend, not our food.” Stubby’s voice was loud and steady. “Leave him alone!”

Slinking back into his hole, Billy knew he had met his match. This furry creature could have easily eaten him, but chose not to.

“Wow!” Marley shouted. “You really are the best Stubby. Not because you say you are, but because you show that you are. I want to be just like you.”

Stubby was thankful he showed kindness to Billy. He could have hurt him. But Stubby was different.

The sun went down and the sky grew dark as Stubby curled up next to Marley on the warm soft hay Farmer Dave had laid out for them.

This wouldn't be the last time Stubby visited the little Ranch on a Prairie.

“Good night, Marley.”

“Good night, Stubby,”

“Good night, Lucy.”

“Good night, Stubb-a-roo,”

Good night Farmer Dave.”

“Good night, Stubby,”

“See you all in the morning.”

So now it's your turn, kids. Pause the podcast and discuss the questions with someone you love and trust.

1. Why was Stubby worried about visiting the ranch?
2. What did Marley the mouse say that made his mama correct him?
3. Do you know someone who brags about everything? Have you ever bragged?
4. How can you be proud of who you are and what you've done without bragging?
5. How can you use your brave kind heart to help someone else?

Thank you for sharing your time with me. These short children's stories feel a little like the old time "Sit around the Radio" broadcast. It's a place my heart often yearns to return to. A place where families gathered together, listening to stories that made them laugh and cry.

If you enjoyed this episode and want to hear more about the adventures of Stubby the cat, have your adults subscribe to this podcast so you won't miss any of them. Ask them to give Stubby a review too! I know he would do the happy dance!

Do you write stories? I'd love to hear them.

There are special times when Miss Robin will share books she loves from famous authors and from soon to be famous authors like YOU!!

Have your loved one's fill out the "Share Your Story" form at the bottom of my home page on my website at www.robinmarie.org

Maybe you'll hear your story read on this podcast.

As always, your loved ones can find me Miss Robin in many places. On Instagram, Facebook and again on my website where I hang out a lot www.robinmarie.org there you'll find all my podcasts with show notes for our listening impair friends, Plus a resource page with coloring pages just for you!

That's all for now.

