

Kids Corner – Clancy the Cowbell

Belleville has expanded significantly in recent years. Toby, the town bell, stands proudly at the town's center. Freddy, the fire bell, is always ready at the fire station, while Danny, the dinner bell, consistently calls his family to dinner each evening. On the town's outskirts, farms have grown, with many farmers using bells on their livestock to track their whereabouts during the day. The Carter farm, which recently acquired a cow fond of wandering, found her and the donkey near Toby after a week or two of roaming.

Young Tom Carter headed to the general store to purchase a cowbell, concerned about affording one but hopeful for a solution for the farm's livestock. Many bells were priced at 25 pennies, but Tom had only 5 pennies. Noticing Tom, the store clerk pointed to a bell on the bottom shelf, priced at just 5 pennies. Tom was relieved to find a bell that would assist his family in monitoring their livestock.

Clancy the cowbell had felt increasingly lonely on the shelf, fearing he would never be taken home to serve a purpose. Overhearing Tom's

need for a bell after chasing the cow all day with only five pennies to spend, Clancy listened intently. Tom paid for the bell and left with Clancy, eager to begin his role at the Carter farm. Clancy had felt isolated and despondent in the store, but now he saw his opportunity to fulfill his duty by alerting everyone to the lost livestock at the Carter farm.

As Tom took Clancy and the cowbell out to the barn to fasten the bell around the cow's neck, he noticed how big it was around the cow's neck. He looked around and gave a weary sigh. Tom just knew he was going to spend another whole day looking for his cow if the cowbell fell off. He looked over at his family's donkey, who was of faithful and sturdy creature. Tom took the bell and put it around the donkey's neck. He knew he would be able to find Clancy and his livestock with the cowbell around the donkey's neck. Tom went outside early the next morning to hear that cowbell clinging down near the pond. Tom smiled and knew the bell would save him a lot of time looking for livestock on his farm...that was a nickel well spent.