

Name _____ Date: _____

Almost Forever

They knew that Old Violet was going to die, so it was no surprise when she did. She left her perch on Tuesday at noon. Then she lay down on her side on the floor of the cage. She stayed that way for the next three days. On Friday, Amy and Eva said goodbye. The funeral was held on Sunday. Close friends were asked to come.

Billy came and he brought the box. Elizabeth came to the funeral too. She brought a ribbon to tie around the box. She also brought her younger brother Danny. They were old and dear friends of the bird. Amy placed Violet on a bed in the small white box. Billy, Elizabeth, Danny and Eva watched. They buried the bird and planted some seeds at the end of the garden. It was a short funeral. "We will now have a reading. First, I will read the poem that I wrote," Amy said.

"Count me out! I just got an awful pain in my side," said Billy, waving goodbye. "Oh, that's too bad. Amy made some fruit punch," said Eva. Billy paused "with real fruit." Amy added. Billy stayed and he felt much better. Amy read her poem.

Violet, dear Violet
If you could only see
How sad I am that you are gone,
You'd fly right back to me.

"That's pretty," said Danny. "I could cry, it's so lovely," said Elizabeth. Eva clapped her hands. Billy groaned. "This is very boring," he said. Punch was served. Billy was happy at last. Then, the friends went home. Amy and Eva walked back to the house. "It was such a lovely funeral. Violet would have liked it. I'm sorry she wasn't there," said Amy. "I'm sorry she was!" said Eva.

The cage hung empty in the dining room. Amy just couldn't bear to look at it. A big white cat rubbed up against Eva's leg. Eva bent down to pet it. "We still have Blanche forever," she said. "Nothing lasts for ever," said Amy sadly. She went up the stairs to her room. The cat followed Eva into the kitchen. She would have her kittens any day now. Eva poured some milk into the bowl.

When Blanche has her kittens, she thought, I will keep one. I will call the kitten Blanche. When that Blanche grows up, she will have kittens, and I will keep one of hers. I will name her Blanche. She will grow up and have kittens and I will keep one and name her Blanche. Eva was all excited. She ran up the stairs to talk to Amy. Maybe nothing lasts forever, but Eva knew a way to make it last a long, long time.