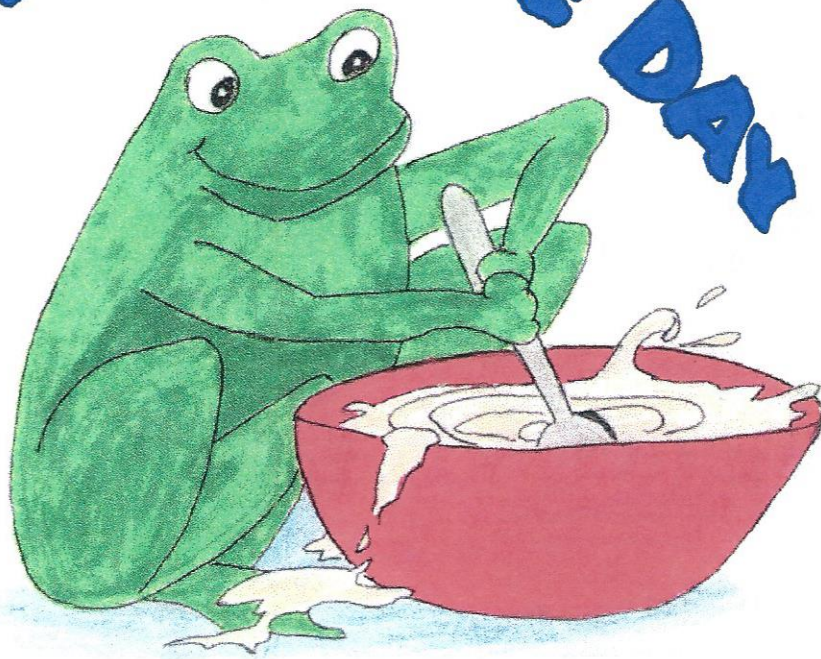


ZACH AND TOADY

THE PANCAKE DAY



Story and Illustrations

by

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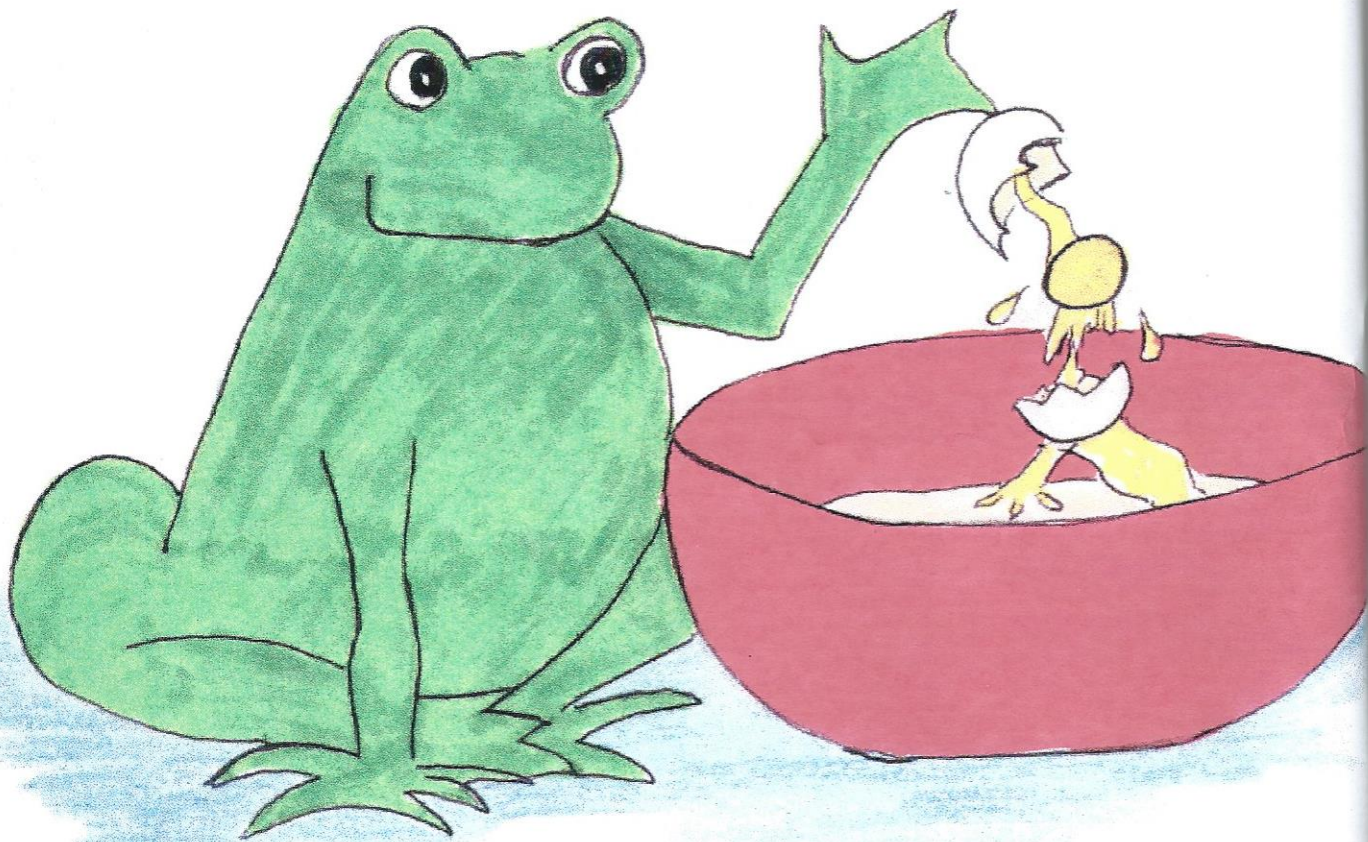
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This was a special day for Zachary D. Wood and his much loved stuffed animal friend, Toady. They had been watching the COOKING IS FUN show on TV and decided that they would make pancakes for breakfast. Daddy said he would help. They would surprise Mommy by fixing breakfast for her. Toady was wearing the big white chef's hat which Daddy wore when he grilled steaks in the back yard. It made him feel very important. Zach brought out the Pancake Mix, eggs, milk, a big bowl, and a mixing spoon. Toady had the big griddle pan ready. "This will be easy. I watch Mommy do it all the time," smiled Zach.



"Now watch carefully, Toady." Zach filled the measuring cup with pancake mix and emptied it into the bowl. Then he filled the cup with milk.

"Before I put the milk in, you crack these two eggs and put them in the bowl, Toady," said Zach. Toady whacked an egg hard against the side of the bowl and watched it slide in, shell and all.

"Oh no," said Zach. "I'm sorry, Toady. I forgot to tell you that you have to take the egg out of the shell and throw the shell away. We can't eat the shell. I'll help you get all the little pieces of shell out and then I'll show you how to do it."



After they removed the shell, Zach carefully added the second egg, and poured the milk into the bowl. Then he gave the big spoon to Toady and let him stir the mix. Toady did a good job. He only spilled a little of the batter on his foot.

"Of course Daddy will have to cook the pancakes. The stove and griddle are very hot, so cooking is for grown-ups. Daddy's a good cook," said Zach. "We'll all surprise Mommy for breakfast." I bet Daddy can flip the pancakes in the air and catch them on the griddle, just like that chef did on TV!"

"Oh yes, your Dad is a great cook," said Toady, clapping his hands. "He should wear the chef's hat now." They put the hat on Daddy's head. "Flip it, Daddy, flip it!" Laughed Zach. "Toss it high in the air, Daddy!"

"Oh, I don't think I should try to flip the pancake in the air," said Daddy. "I never tried to flip a pancake before."

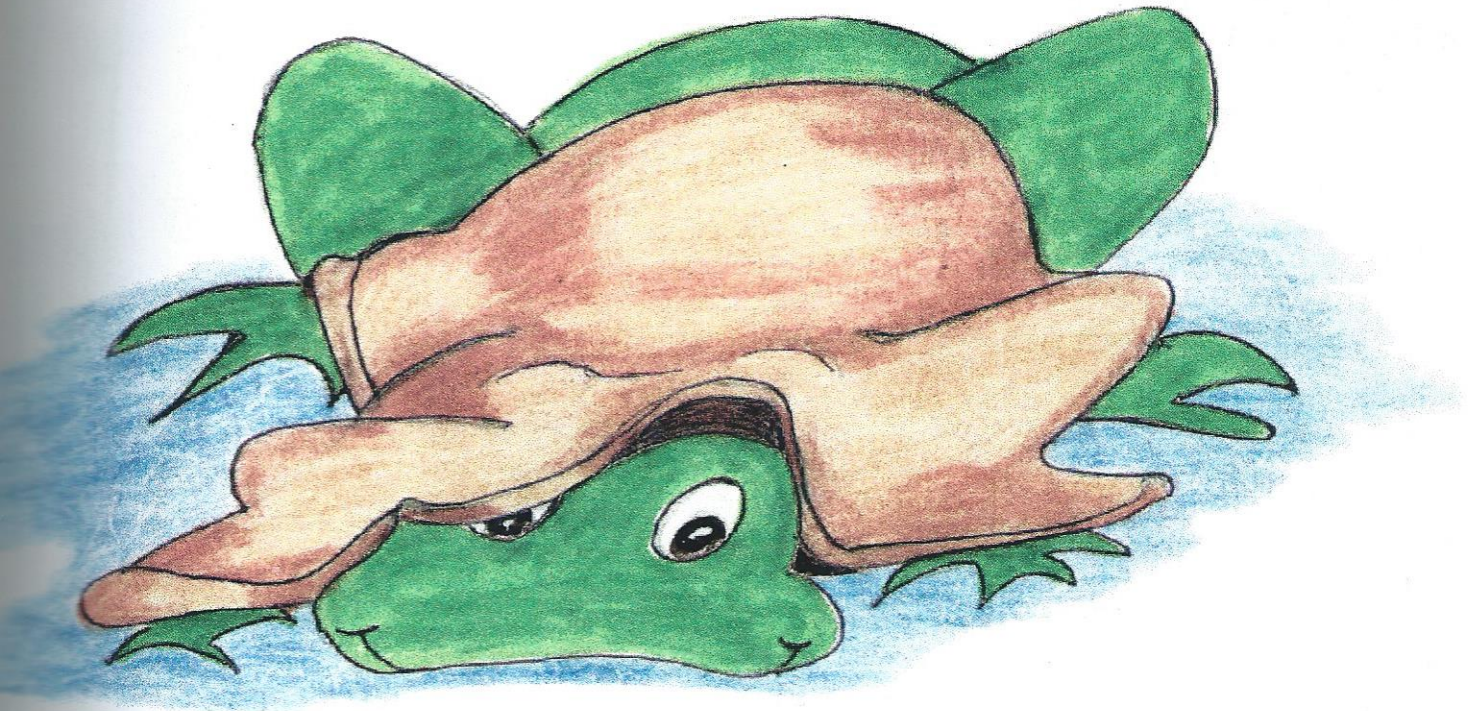
"Oh, come on, Daddy, you can do it," laughed Zach clapping his hands, "OK, stand back!" laughed Daddy. "I'm going to try it!"

Daddy flipped the pan cake high in the air and got ready to catch it in the griddle pan.





The beautiful, fluffy pancake did two big turns-over in the air,

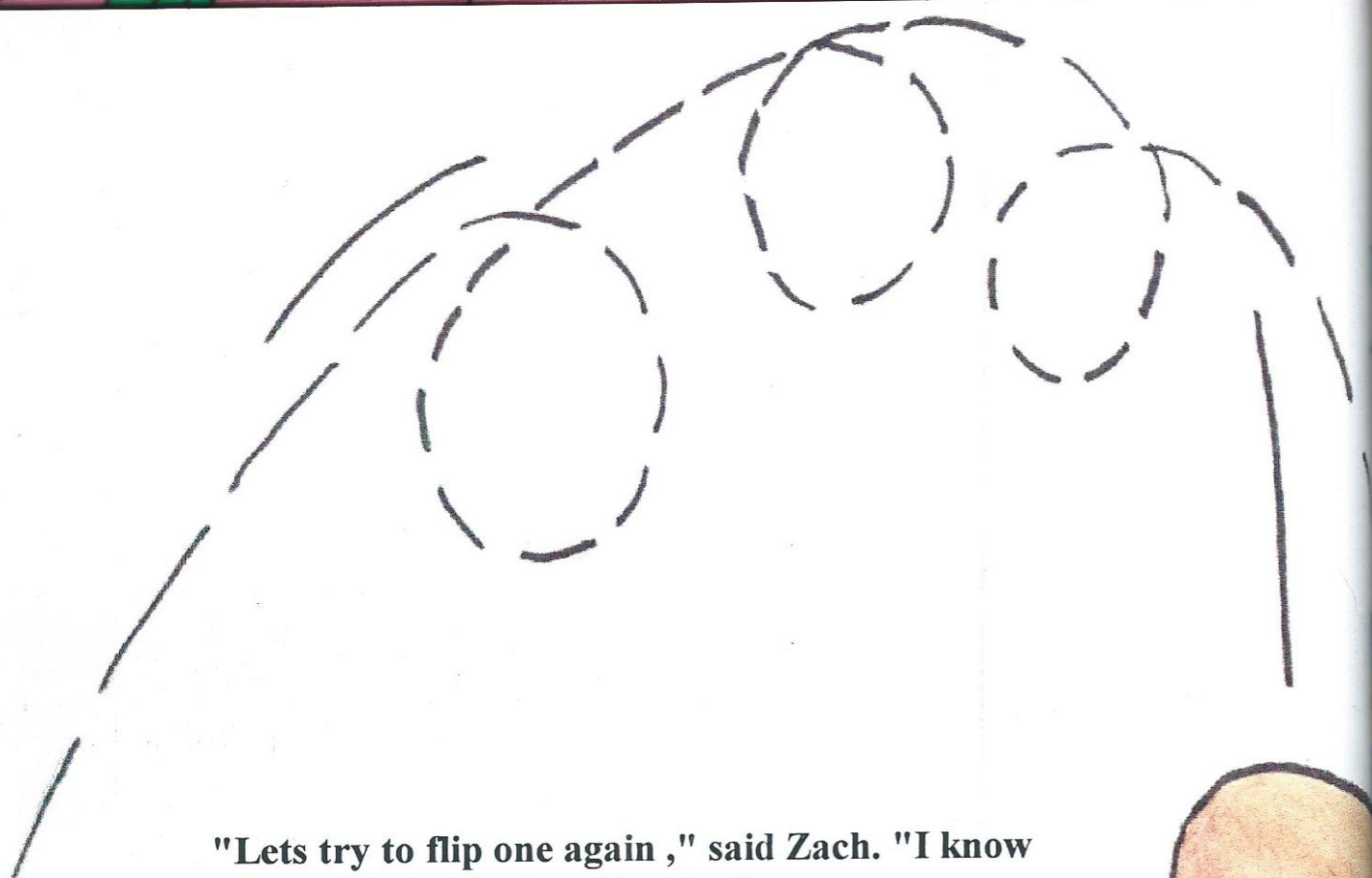


then came down fast and landed, KURPLOP! on the counter top, right on Toady's head!

"Are you OK, Toady?" asked Zach.

"Yes," said Toady, crawling out from under the pancake. Before Zach could say anything else, Toady took a big bite of pancake. "Mmmm... pretty good, but it needs lots of gooey syrup all over it," slurped Toady, licking his mouth. "But please put the syrup on the pancake and not on me!"

Everyone laughed.



"Lets try to flip one again ," said Zach. "I know you'll catch it this time, Daddy."

"I really think I can do it now," said Daddy. He got ready, then he flipped a big pancake high in the air again. This time it went very high and turned over three times in the air...but oh where was it going?

Just then Mommy came into the kitchen. The pancake came falling through the air and came down right in front of Mommy's face! It landed, PLOP!, on the floor right in front of her feet! Mommy jumped back in surprise.

"Oops!" said Daddy.

"We wanted to surprise you," said Zach.

"Oh, you surely did surprise me!" laughed Mommy, still looking down at the pancake at her feet. "I think Daddy had better use the spatula to flip the rest of those pancakes over... gently. It was sweet of you all to cook breakfast for me. Thank you very much."

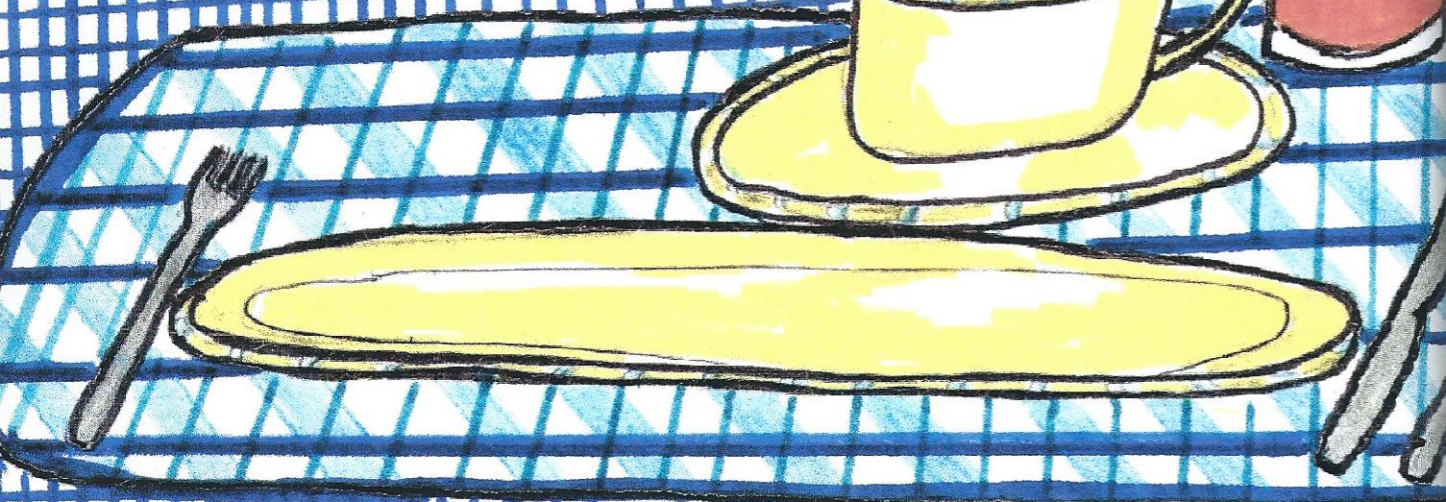
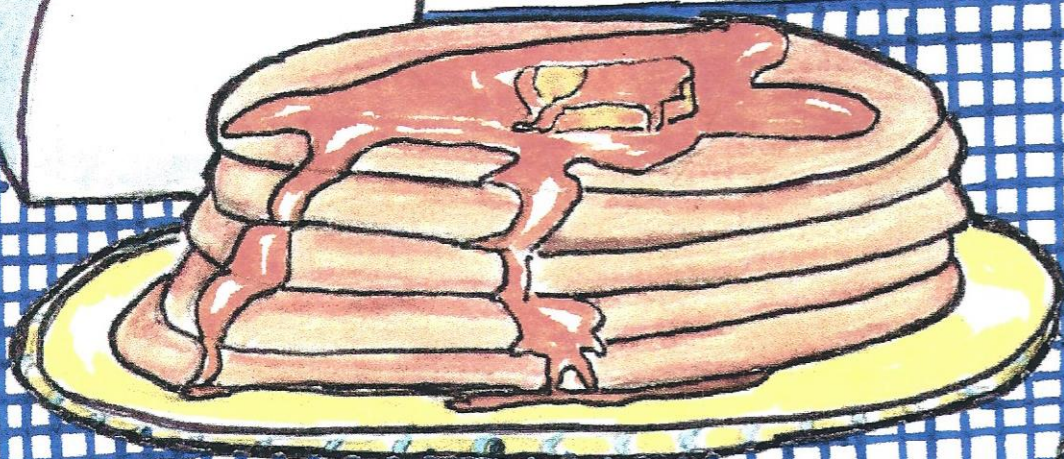
She kissed Zach on the cheek and then went upstairs to get dressed while Zach, Daddy, and Toady finished cooking more pancakes.

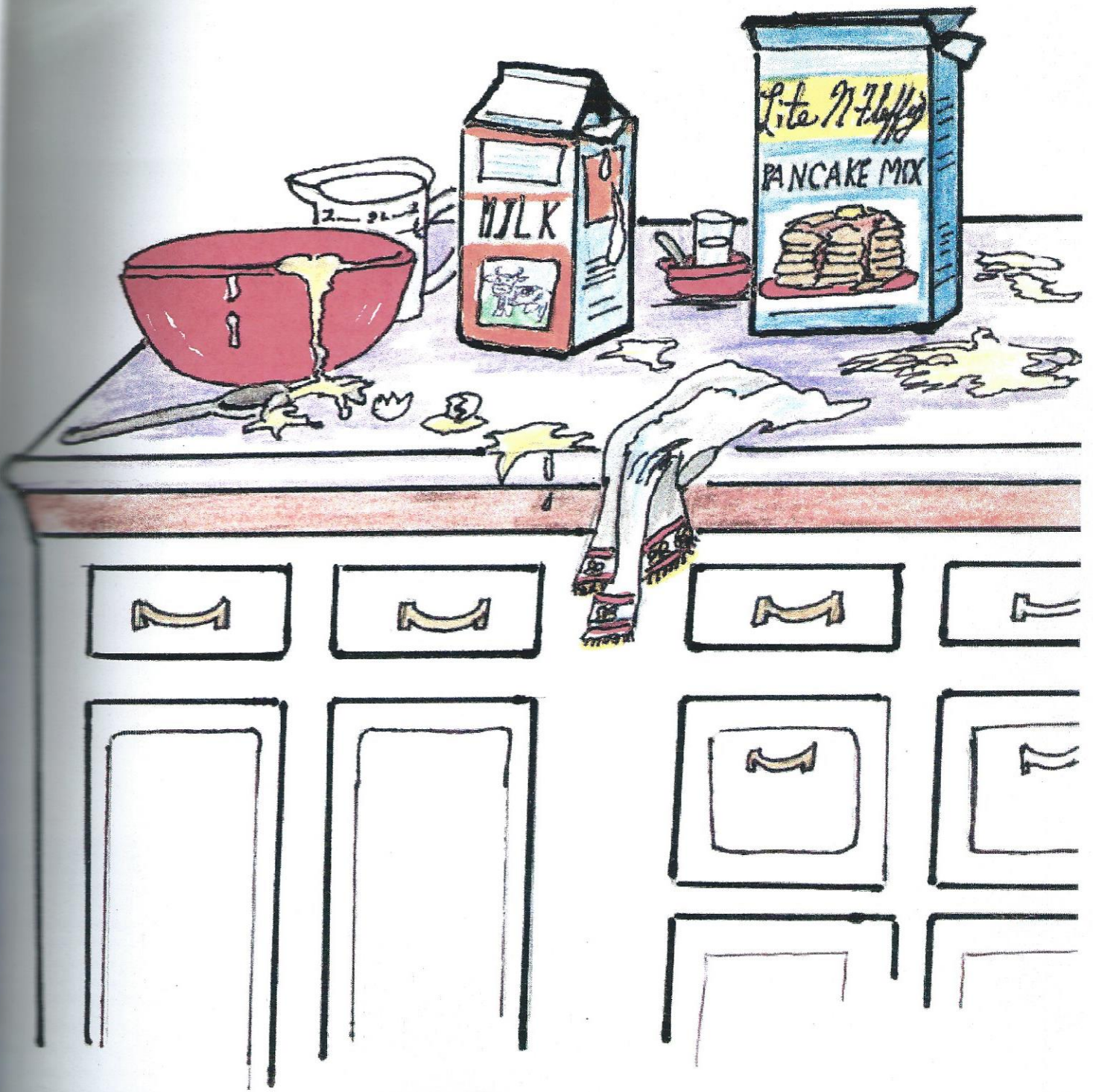






When Mommy came back to the kitchen, Zach, Toady, and Daddy had a delicious breakfast of pancakes waiting on the table.





"It was so sweet of you all to fix breakfast for me. Thank you very much! ...I think," said Mommy, looking at the messy kitchen.

"Daddy will help us clean up the kitchen after we eat," laughed Zach.

"Let's eat!!" smiled Toady.

