

*Grassy Meadows and the Mystery of the Puppy Park*  
by Mia Waterworth, age 8

It all started on a sunny Summer day. It was a warm afternoon and there was a smell of freshly cut grass in the air. However, this was no ordinary day. Grassy Meadows puppy playground is usually bustling with dogs and lots of activity but today it was deserted. It was eerily quiet, and no sound could be heard not even the birds tweeting. That was except, the panting of Hiccup the fluffy clumsy sheep dog. Why was Hiccup there alone? Where was everyone else?

On the other side town, Holly and Boz were wagging their tails as they were heading towards their favourite park to see their friend Hiccup. Nothing could spoil their happiness as Grassy Meadows is the ultimate theme park for dogs. They were always to excited play there.

Holly and Boz were best friends who have known each other since they were puppies. Boz was a mature yet boisterous and energetic mutt who was the leader of the pack. As with dogs his age he was very wise. His chocolate wiry fur and loveable eyes always attracted the attention of children wherever he went. You can hear the sound of “Ah Adorable” when the children walked by and petted him.

Holly adored him. She was an intelligent and loyal watch dog who carefully protected her owners and friends. She was always aware of her surroundings and on the lookout for any danger. Even Holly felt uneasy about how still the Grassy Meadows was today. Her honey coat of soft fur stood on end.

What was going on?

Holly and Boz arrived at the park. In the distance was a faint outline of Hiccup. The clumsy sheepdog looked up and ran towards them. She fell, then ran, then fell again, you get the idea until she heard ...

“HICCUP!!!” Holly and Boz chorused together.

After they sniffed hello, they talked about the rumour of a new pet shop opening in town.

Suddenly, they heard a rumbling and felt the ground shake below their feet. Boz nervously gazed up.

‘Look at the trees’ he barked.

They all looked up at the shaking trees. Holly the watch dog growled and howled as a warning to others to run.

What was happening?

Darkness fell across the park and they felt sudden a chill in the air. They knew it was time to go home. Their hearts were beating fast as they ran back. Then Boz broke their nervous silence.

“Shall we go back tonight at quarter to Midnight?” Boz barked

Little did he know what they would find...

As quarter to midnight drew nearer Boz was regretting what he had said to the others. Holly lifted her sleepy head from the bed and looked at the clock. She whispered.

“It’s time.”

They made sure their owners were tucked up asleep in bed, then crept out of the backdoor and through the creaky loose panel in the fence. They joined their neighbour Hiccup on the other side.

Nervously, Holly and Boz ran to the park with Hiccup who stumbled as usual to keep up with them every once in a while.

They all stopped dead in their tracks.

They were unable to move any further. Something had blocked their path.

“OH NO!!!” said Boz.

“AHW AHW!” yelped Hiccup.

“Woof!!!” Holly barked angrily.

They were faced with a huge digger towering over them like a monster. The park had heavy metal chains around the fence imprisoning their grassy meadows and all that lived in there. That’s why the park was deserted this morning. Everyone knew they would be trapped in there and not able to escape.

They had to get help and soon!

They ran back home worried. They had faced their worst nightmare that the playground would be demolished.

The following morning, they informed every dog in the village about what was happening to the puppy park. They agreed to meet back at the park that afternoon to discuss what they could do about this.

Later that day, the dogs arrived at Grass Meadows and to their astonishment, they found...

An extended Puppy Park with a fabulous dog zipline and the newly built Petshop that sold treats.

“THE NEW AND IMPROVED PUPPY PARK!!!” Holly, Boz and Hiccup barked together in relief.

