

## Kermit Meets His New Wife, Katrina

*Katrina discusses marriage here, as she and her mother join her step-father in their new home in real life. This was probably quite a challenging change for her, and she did not want to discuss her feelings about it. The first three stories describe her meeting Kermit, falling in love, having a wedding and enjoying a honeymoon. She explores topics such as divorce, marriage, love, autism, and her own identity as a "human who likes Braille and frogs."*

Hi ho, Kermit the Frog here, I have been married over thirty-four years. My wife Miss Piggy and I had been married since 1984 in Muppets Take Manhattan. But somehow, our marriage ended in a divorce because we always fought with each other. I don't like Miss Piggy because she's dowdy, violent, and aggressive to me. I decided I don't want to marry Miss Piggy ever again. So when I moved out of Hollywood where the Muppets movies were made in 2015, I looked for a new wife. My new wife could be anywhere on Sesame Street.

First, I tried Abby Cadabby, the fairy in training. She showed me how to change things into pumpkins, and dance like a fairy. Maybe I can marry Abby Cadabby, but she's only four years old.

Next, I joined Zoe's ballet class and danced with Zoe. I did pirouettes, arabesques, and a sauté perfectly. Maybe Zoe can be my new wife, but I don't do ballet.

Third, I painted a picture with Julia. We painted pictures of our friends, the street I live on, and all the sunny days. Unfortunately, I can't marry Julia because she has autism and she doesn't talk a lot.

I kept searching and searching for my new wife but none of the Sesame Street Muppets is my true love. Suddenly, I hopped out of Sesame Street and into Washington. I searched the whole state of Washington but there was no sign of my wife anywhere. Just then, a huge charter bus drove in and accidentally picked me up. Luckily, there were visually impaired children reading Braille, and deaf children doing sign language. Braille is like reading for blind people and sign language is a language people use to communicate when they're deaf.

I asked politely: "Would you take me to a place where I can find my new wife?" The bus driver said: "Certainly Kermit, we're going to the Washington State School for the Blind." and the charter bus took me and the kids to a very special boarding school where kids read Braille. I hopped off the charter bus, it was a very big school with the Irwin Building, Old Main, the track, the playground, Kennedy Building, and the four cottages: Watson, Hall, Clark, and Chapman. Hall and Watson cottage are for girls, and Clark and Chapman are for boys.

Maybe my wife is in Hall Cottage where all the girls live. So I walked and walked to Hall Cottage until the day turned to night. It was getting dark, but I'm brave enough and found Hall Cottage. It was between Clark and Chapman, so I went inside. There were seven girls having fun with three cottage parents named Julie, Mathew, and Tina. I asked one of the cottage girls if any

of them is my new wife. I explained that Miss Piggy and I won't be married anymore because we fought with each other, and I turned her into a frog. The girls were very interested in my story and they led me to a little bedroom where they found an eighteen-year-old girl writing her story about me.

I came up to her and said: "Hi ho, I'm Kermit the Frog, what's your name?" "My name is Katrina Manalo, I'm a new student at WSSB." the girl explained.

"Well, it's nice to meet you Katrina." I took her by the hand.

Then I asked: "Miss Piggy and I have a divorce, which means we can't be married anymore. I was wondering, will you marry me as my new wife?"

"You know Kermit, you are so kind, loyal, nice, friendly, and full of empathy. Yes, I absolutely positively want to marry you."

Katrina began to smile. She gave me a big hug and a big kiss. She explained to me that she's been watching Sesame Street and the Muppets on her Youtube, and how she's studying about me as a hero over the years. Katrina certainly loves me immediately because she's good, she's kindhearted, and she's very honest in all her school work. Now I have a brand new wife that loves me and studies about me. I'm sure Katrina will absolutely marry me and be my best friend. Guess I won't have to marry a pig anymore, I only want to marry a human being who likes Braille, and frogs. Pretty soon, we'll do all the fun things together.

### **Katrina And Kermit's Wedding**

Now that I have found a new girl to be my wife, I'm going to marry her. We don't have much time for our first wedding.

So we have to get ready in the morning. The next day, Katrina and I woke up to get ready. Katrina got dressed in her best school clothes, and I wore my trench coat. Next, her cottage parent Tina gave us cereal for breakfast. Then, Katrina brushed her teeth, but I can't because I'm a frog and frogs don't have teeth. Finally, Katrina packed her backpack to get ready for school.

I had an idea, I could go back to Sesame Street, and prepare a wedding for me and Katrina. And after the wedding, Katrina can live with me in my apartment. So I hopped back to Sesame Street to prepare our wedding while Katrina went to school. Everybody helped with the wedding at 1-2-3 Sesame Street. Julia arranged the dining tables for all the people to watch and eat at the wedding. Cookie Monster cooked the wedding food, and Grover served it at each table. Abby Cadabby decorated the dining tables with magical decorations. Her fairy godmother made a dance floor for me and Katrina to dance as husband and wife.

Big Bird and Snuffy moved the chairs close to the dining tables. Zoe had the flowers for Katrina because she was the flower girl. And Elmo had the rings for me because he was the ring bearer. Chris built the banister, the altar, and the pastor for him to stand on like the minister. While

everybody got ready, I went home to my apartment and got dressed in my best tuxedo. Now I'm ready for our wedding. Oh wait, I almost forgot, I needed to pick up Katrina for our wedding. I hopped back to the Washington State School For the Blind, but Katrina was nowhere to be found. I searched the whole school and found a clue on the ground, a blue lace. Maybe Katrina was getting a formal dress from Abbey's Closet? I followed the lace in and out of WSSB. Just then, I found another clue, black leather, maybe Katrina was getting fancy shoes for our wedding? I picked up the leather and kept following the blue lace. When I got to Abbey's Closet, I found a shiny ring at the front door. Maybe I could give this ring to Katrina when we get married. I picked up the ring and went inside Abbey's Closet. There I found Katrina, she was getting a blue dress and black leather shoes!

I came up to her and said: "Katrina, there you are, I was looking for you everywhere. So, are you ready for our wedding?"

"I sure am Kermit, I got my dress and shoes, and I'm all prepared." said Katrina.

"Great, let's go." I took her by the hand and we went back to Sesame Street. We were just in time for our wedding and we got to the altar where Chris was waiting. The wedding had started and the orchestra played. Zoe went first carrying her flowers down the aisle. Elmo was next, he carried the rings, one for me, and one for Katrina.

"With this ring, I thee wed." we said to each other as we embraced each other and exchanged rings.

"And now I present to you Kermit the Frog and Katrina Manalo, you two may kiss." announced Chris, and we got married. I proposed to Katrina and gave her the ring. Then, we both danced around the dance floor and down the aisle to "I Was Made For Loving You." by Tori Kelly and Ed Sheeran. We had a big reception with a big dinner, a wedding cake, and drank a toast for good pleasure. After the ceremony, we danced home to my apartment, and I made Katrina live with me. Now I have a wife who is very nice, good, and respectful and loves me very much. Katrina and I make a perfect pair just like Mickey and Minnie Mouse. Unfortunately, our last names are not the same, but we still have a great relationship. This is Kermit the Frog and Katrina Manalo saying we love you all and we're returning you to your regularly schedule program.

## **Our Honeymoon**

After people got married, they go to their first honeymoon. A honeymoon is a holiday taken by a newly married couple. This weekend, my newly wife Katrina and I are going to our first honeymoon in New York. But first, we have to pack our things that we need for our trip. Katrina packed her toiletries, her iPhone, her panty shields, her neck pillow, and her water bottle in case she gets thirsty. I packed extra clothes, my camera, and some money for our honeymoon.

"All right Katrina, let's hop to it." Katrina and I got to the airport, checked our security, and got on the airplane. When the plane landed in New York, Katrina and I rode on a taxi to a hotel

where we can stay on the weekends. First, we check in for a room to stay in for our honeymoon. Next, we went up the elevator to find a room. And finally, we unloaded our stuff so we can explore New York City. We went to Central Park where we walked a lot. We walked across Brooklyn Bridge all the way to Coney Island. Coney Island is a fun park where there's lots of rides and games. Katrina and I rode on the Ferris wheel, the roller coaster, and the New York carousel. I took a picture of us riding the carousel horses. Next, we played a pin ball game at the ticket booth. You have to knock down ten pins and get some points. Katrina tried first, she got 1 2 3 4 5 pins down.

"Your turn Kermit, give it your best shot." she cheered for me, and I threw the ball at the pins. I scored 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 and 10 points all in a row. Then I won a Kewpie doll with rosy cheeks, curly hair, and a big smile. I gave it to my wife for helping me win.

"Congratulations Kermit, you are a good sport, and thanks for my new doll." Katrina hugged her doll, and then put it in her suitcase for a souvenir to take home. We explored Empire State Building, the Statue Of Liberty, Yankee Stadium, and so much more in New York City. We took lots of pictures of our first honeymoon together. That night, we had a big dinner back at our hotel. Afterward, we washed up and got ready for bed in our hotel room. The next day was Sunday, and our honeymoon was over. Katrina and I packed up our stuff and checked out of the hotel. Just like before, we got back to the airport, checked our security, and got on the plane.

"Kermit, thank you for making our honeymoon very special." Katrina turned to me.

"And thank you for spending lots of time with me Katrina." I put my flipper around her.

"You know Kermit, this has been the best honeymoon ever. We can't wait to tell all our friends back on Sesame Street about our adventure." Katrina sd.

"Me too Katrina, and I can't wait till our next honeymoon. Maybe we'll go to Manhattan, and I can tell you about how I got married to a pig before I married you." I giggled happily. Katrina and I kept laughing and talking as the plane flew us all the way home to Sesame Street.

## Reporter Katrina

*Katrina realizes that she and Kermit need to share some activities in order to keep their marriage strong. In this story she blends some segments she has "borrowed" from Sesame Street videos to create a job that she and Kermit can do together as they become co-reporters on Sesame Street News. I just love Dr. Nobel Prize who "invents rare things that no one every uses"!*

Hi ho, Kermit the Frog here at Sesame Street News, and I'm here standing by my new wife Katrina Manalo. And today, I'm teaching her how to be a co-reporter just like me. Step 1: Dress appropriately like a reporter. I always wear my trench coat and my fedora hat when I report. Katrina dressed in a green sweater and her bow headband. Step 2: Warm up your

microphone. I always turn on my microphone and test it before using it. Katrina doesn't have a microphone so I shared mine with her.

"Oh thank you Kermit, okay, what's the next step." Katrina asked. "Step 3: Say hi and introduce yourself." I explained and demonstrated.

"Hi ho, Kermit the Frog here at Sesame Street News, now you try Katrina." Katrina held up her microphone.

"Hi ho, Katrina Manalo here at Sesame Street News."

"Very good Katrina, now we can make some reports." I showed my wife all the places I've been for Sesame Street News. First, I showed her the music studio where Don Music writes his songs. Don is rewriting Baa Baa Black Sheep. But there was one problem, he can't think of a rhyme for wool. If I'm good at rhyming, so can Katrina. I came up to the piano and introduced my new wife to Don. I explained how I taught Katrina how to be a proper reporter and how she can help with Sesame Street News.

"Well, it's nice meeting you Katrina, I could really use some help. You see, I can't think of a word that rhymes with wool." Don shook his head at the piano.

"Perhaps I can help, rhyming is a literary device that I learned it in English class." Katrina helped, so did I.

"Full rhymes with wool." she predicted perfectly with a rhyme.

So Don tried it: "Baa baa black sheep, have you any wool, yes sir yes sir three bags full." but how can a man have three bags full?

"Maybe we'll change the verse to Let's Sheer The Sheep's black and white wool, make some clothing, four bags full. After all, people sheer sheep's wool to make nice clothing and blankets." I had a turn.

"You know, you're both right, sheering sheep's wool does make fine clothing, and it can fill up a whole bag. I think I got the song now, okay boys, take it away." Don Music conducted his famous band.

"Let's sheer the sheep's black and white wool, make some clothing, four bags full. Some for the ladies and some for the men, and some for the children who wore them again. Let's sheer the sheep's black and white wool, clothes are done and bags are full." now that was a great song.

"Thanks so much for helping me Kermit, and you too Katrina." Don Music bowed and thanked both of us.

Next, I introduced Katrina to Dr. Nobel Prize, the famous inventor. He invents very rare things no one ever uses. For example, the fedora: A kind of hat made of felt with a creased crown. I wear my fedora when I'm a reporter, it goes great with my trench coat.

"Amazing, hey, Dr. Nobel, can you make an invention that has something with bows?" Katrina showed Dr. Nobel her black headband with her bow. Dr. Nobel Prize got some colored ribbon, some lights, an old fan, some seeds, flowers, and some powered batteries.

Katrina was curious: "What could he be making, Kermit?" she wondered. Just then, Dr. Nobel Prize made very special bows that my wife can try. These bows are like the ones Minnie Mouse creates in her bow teak. There was a mood bow which changes colors to whatever Katrina's feeling like happy or sad. There was a grow bow which grows into flower bows like roses, sunflowers, daisies, even water lilies. There was a disco bow with lights that flash and glow. There was a glow bow that glows in the dark and at night. And there was a fan bow that blows automatically like a real fan.

"Thank you so much for these wonderful bows Dr. Nobel Prize." Katrina smiled at the inventor.

"My pleasure sweetheart, have fun reporting with your husband." Dr. Nobel Prize said goodbye as we left. Katrina did a lot of reports on all the news flashes I've been doing.

First, we discovered how the sixth dollar man makes his robot. He has to measure, tighten the bolts, and demonstrate it. The sixth dollar man was very proud of his invention just like Dr. Nobel Prize.

Second, Katrina and I helped the teacher teach the class about the letter N.

"Tell the class to be quiet so they can listen to you." I suggested. So the teacher tried it, but the class was still talking at the same time.

"How about letting the students raise their hands. That way, they can answer you properly." Katrina added. So the teacher tried it, and the class answered properly. They thought of some N words like neat, nice, and naughty. And that was the first day of school in history. Last, we investigated the big bad wolf in two fairy tales: "The Three Little Pigs." and "Little Red Riding Hood." For instance, the wolf tricks Little Red Riding Hood by pretending to be her grandma.

"The woodsman comes and chases away the wolf to save Little Red and her grandma. Straw and sticks are light, and can be blown away. But bricks are heavy because they're strong and sturdy and the wolf can't blow it down." Katrina reported all those predictions.

"Good job Katrina, let's find out." we watched the big bad wolf do his tricks. He hid in grandma's bed and slipped on grandma's nightgown and nightcap. Little Red came in the house and saw that it was not really her grandma. Just then, the woodsman came and chased away the wolf with his ax. So now Little Red Riding Hood and her grandma were safe and enjoyed a basket of goodies. Next, we saw the wolf huffing and puffing and blowing the straw house and the stick house.

When he tried to blow the brick house down, the house wouldn't move because it was made of bricks.

I put my flipper around my wife: "Congratulations Katrina, you are now a co-reporter."

"Just like you Kermit." smiled Katrina. Then, I gave my wife her very own microphone bow for being so investigative.

"Thank you for teaching me how to report Kermit." Katrina gave me a big hug.

"Hey, can we report more news again?"

"We certainly can Katrina we certainly can." I kissed my wife with lots of love. Then we hopped all the way home to Sesame Street.

Here's our ending news report: "This is Kermit the Frog, and Katrina Manalo returning you to your regularly schedule program." Katrina and I said our report together as husband and wife.

## **Katrina And Autism**

*We began to work with Katrina on understanding her own autism, and a few days later, she produced the next two related stories. Her teacher and I had shared some of the information about Temple Grandin, an animal scientist who has autism, and the Sesame Street pieces that describe Julia, a Muppet with autism. They both appear here. Although some of the information is inaccurate, it is clear that she is trying to understand the range of communication abilities in people with autism. She was much more willing to discuss Julia's and Temple Grandin's autism than her own. I love the quote from the autistic man at the community center..."He impressed himself by expressing how he felt."*

Hi ho, Kermit the Frog here, and hey, where's my wife Katrina Manalo? I know she's around here somewhere, maybe my computer can give me the answer. I researched all my videos about my Sesame Street moments. When I got to the Sesame Street News Flash section, I saw 81 videos of myself on Sesame Street News. I saw Don Music, Dr. Nobel Prize, characters from social history, and characters from storybooks, but no Katrina.

"Perhaps she's on television working on some news flash." I thought. So I went over to the TV in the living room and turned it on. Sesame Street News was starting and look, there's my wife Katrina. I wonder what news flash she's reporting today? I sat down on our leather sofa and watched the news.

"We take you now to Katrina Manalo for another fast breaking news story." said the Sesame Street Newscaster's voice on TV.

"Hi ho, Katrina Manalo here at Sesame Street News. And I'm speaking to you from the community center where we interview people who had autism. People who had autism have trouble communicating with each other. Let's take a look at some people who communicate shall we?" Katrina's voice reported on the TV.

"Pardon me ma'm, Katrina Manalo from Sesame Street News here with a question for you. Why do you have autism?" she interview my friend Julia. Julia is nonverbal which means she doesn't talk a lot. She showed Katrina how to bounce around and tag at the same time, that's called boing tag. Katrina bounced around the community center and tagged Julia.

"You see that folks, Julia is nonverbal, but she communicates by using her body." Katrina reported as another person came in the community center.

"Excuse me sir, I'm Katrina Manalo from Sesame Street News, do you by any chance have autism?" she asked.

"Of course young lady, I have autism, but I'm verbal. That means I can communicate properly and talk a lot." said the man.

"Can you show us how you communicate with other people?" Katrina asked.

"Sure, when I express my feelings, I show empathy." said the man and showed my wife on TV. He told Katrina that he's nervous about his first day at the community center.

"Well, if you're nervous about something, just give it a try, I'm sure you'll like it here." Katrina told the man.

"You're right young lady, I'll give the community center a try." the man began to smile. He explored the whole community center from the fitness room, to the gym, to the rock climbing wall. He tried running on the treadmill, riding the exercise bike, and walking on the eliptical. He tried playing basketball, football, tennis, baseball, and soccer with Katrina and Julia. When he tried the rock climbing wall, he felt a little nervous at first. Katrina and Julia helped him by being brave and strong. When the man reached the top of the wall, he got a free ride down, and so did Katrina and Julia.

"You see that ladies and gentlemen, the man has faced his biggest fear at the community center. He impressed himself by expressing how he felt." Katrina reported. I gave an around of applause for my wife doing a great news flash.

"Thank you for showing us your autism sir, and you too Julia. This is Katrina Manalo from Sesame Street News, and I'm returning you to your studio." Katrina reported as the news ended, and the TV turned off.

"My wife did her first news report, yeah!!" I cheered and waved my arms in the air as if I were in the Muppet Show again. When Katrina got home from the community center, I greeted her and asked her how she did at her first news flash.



"Oh husband, this news flash has gone pretty well. I played boing tag with Julia, and I helped a man overcome his fear of the community center. We walked on the treadmill, played soccer, we even got a free ride down the rock climbing wall." Katrina explained everything.

"I'm very proud of you for doing your best report wife. You're my favorite co-reporter." I gave her a big hug. Next time, Katrina will take me to the community center and she'll teach me all the things people do there. Like maybe boing tag, or ride the exercise bike, or maybe climb the rock climbing wall. But for now, this is Kermit the Frog, Katrina's husband reporter returning to your studio too.

### **Temple Grandin News Flash**

Hi ho, Kermit the Frog here at Sesame Street News with my wife/best friend Katrina Manalo. Today, we're interviewing a very special girl who has autism, Temple Grandin. You know Temple Grandin, she doesn't talk a lot, but she can use a very special machine to squeeze animals. And as a matter fact, here comes Temple Grandin now.

"Excuse maAm, we're the co-reporters from Sesame Street News and do you mind if we ask you a few questions?" I asked Temple.

"How do you use a machine to squeeze animals?" Katrina asked. Temple showed us her latest invention: the animal squeezer. It has a massager, a lounge chair, and of course, the squeezer. Temple showed an example using a herd of cows. She put the cows on the lounge chair and gave them a squeeze with the massager. It didn't hurt the cows but it gave them a fine massage. Temple massaged the cows four legs, the back, the front, and the head. She also uses the squeezer for squeezing the udder, the udder is the underpart of the cow. She uses the udder to get milk from one of the cows and put it in a bucket.

"You see that friends, Temple is milking the cow using her squeezer." I reported.

"Amazing, hey can we try?" Katrina asked. She and I tried squeezing the udder with the squeezer. Soon every single drop of milk was in Temple's bucket. We took the milk to the milk factory where milk gets poured into cartons. The milk gets churned into this dairy machine, and then it makes other dairy products such as cheese, butter, ice cream, cream cheese, sour cream, whip cream, buttermilk, and yogurt. Then we loaded the products on a milk truck to deliver them to Sesame Street. When we return to Temple's place, Temple showed us some animals that she owns. Did you know Temple is an animal scientist, that's called a zoologist. She showed us the reptiles in terrariums like crocodiles, rattlesnakes, and lizards. She even showed us an Australian chameleon just like the one we have back at the apartment.

"Cool, hey maybe Camilla can be friends with your chameleon." thought Katrina. Temple showed us birds in birdcages like finches, sparrows, cardinals, larks, and parakeets. My favorite bird is the canary, it has yellowish-black plumage and it flies. Temple showed us some fish in

her fish tank like angelfish, goldfish, striped fish, even shellfish. Katrina helped feed the fish with some fish food. Temple even showed us amphibians in terrariums like salamanders, newts, toads, and frogs.

"Hey, I'm a frog, can I live in your terrarium Temple?" I tried to get in the terrarium with the toads, newts, and salamanders. But no matter how hard I tried to squeeze myself in, I couldn't fit in there.

"That's because you're too big Kermit, besides, you've outgrown your terrarium before. Now you live with me in our apartment." Katrina helped pull me out.

"Wow Temple, your animals are very optimistic." I said. Temple signed thank you even though she has autism. Katrina and I tried signing with our hands saying you're welcome. Sometimes people are too shy when they communicate with others. But one way to show their autism is inventions like the squeezer. Working is much more important than talking. Sometimes it takes a little practice to learn how to communicate. Temple Grandin is a great inventor and a great zoologist.

"Thanks for showing us how you take care of your cows. And for showing how to milk them and deliver them all over Sesame Street. And thanks for showing us your animal tanks and your animals. I'm sure glad I don't live in a terrarium like all amphibians." I shook Temple's hand.

"Yeah, it's been a busy day for us, say, can you invent a machine to help us relax?" asked Katrina. Temple thought about it, then she got a great idea. She got some machinery, a massager, and a squeezer, and built a squeeze box. A squeeze box is a machine that squeezes you and helps you relax. Katrina and I tried it out, the massager gently massage our backs, our heads, and our whole bodies. The squeezer squeezed us very very tight.

## The House Of Mirrors

*Like any other teenager, Katrina sometimes struggles with self-acceptance and body image, and has a hard time talking about it directly. I find her use of the House of Mirrors an interesting metaphor for self-evaluation. She is also working on nonliteral language as she plays with the figure of speech, "Little pitchers have big ears." I love the way she ends so many of her stories with a moral. Here it is, " With a little help from my advice and the House Of Mirrors, she learned that people come in different shapes and sizes. And no matter how you look different, you're always gonna love yourself just the way you are."*

Katrina Manalo and Abby Cadabby are best friends who love playing together. They played dress up, they do magic tricks with their wands, but most of all, they love playing with dolls. Abby showed Katrina all her favorite dolls that are fairy tale and nursery rhyme characters. Abby loves fairy tales and Mother Goose rhymes. She showed Katrina Little Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks, and her fairy tale princess dolls.

"And wait till you see this, Pixie Dust Tinkerbell doll." Abby showed Katrina a very special doll.

"Wow Abby, your dolls are amazing, don't you just wish you could be like Tinkerbell?" Katrina was investigative.

"Someday I will, I'll be right back." Abby flew to see her mommy Mrs. Cadabby.

"Mommy, remember when I got two Tinkerbell dolls, one from Snow White and one from Cinderella? I was wondering if I could give the extra Tinkerbell doll to my new friend Katrina for a surprise?" she asked.

Mrs. Cadabby whispered: "Shush Abby, some eighteen-year-olds have big ears."

"You mean, Katrina has big ears?" Abby asked.

"My ears are big?" Katrina gasped fearing the worst.

"No Abby, that's not what I meant, it's just an expression meaning Katrina might hear you, then your surprise wouldn't be a surprise." said Mrs. Cadabby.

"Then it's okay with you?" Abby asked ag.

"Certainly, Katrina's your best friend." said Mrs. Cadabby.

Katrina panicked: "I have to go!"

"Huh, but I've got a surprise for you." Abby said as Katrina left her house. Katrina ran very upset thinking about what Mrs. Cadabby had said. She ran so fast that she didn't see Elmo and his friends Grover and Cookie Monster.

"Hey Katrina, we've been talking about you, Chris was saying what a good job you did on your school work." Elmo said, but Katrina kept running. She ran past 1-2-3 Sesame Street, past Oscar's trash can, and finally, she ran straight into my apartment. She ran up the stairs and into our bedroom where she jumped in her bed and hid under her pink and purple comforter. Meanwhile in our office, I was looking at an advertisement on my computer. There's going to be a carnival on Sesame Street. There will be games, rides, delicious food, and entertainment. Plus, there's even the House Of Mirrors that you can go to, when you look at yourself in one of them, you are a different shape or size. I paid my money, and guess what? I got free tickets to go to the carnival. Just then my Sesame friends came over and heard about it. They asked me excitedly if I want to go to the Sesame Street carnival.

"Of course, as soon as I pay my money." I said.

"Hey Kermit, did you notice something strange about your wife Katrina?" Grover interrupted.

"She was running so fast and breathing very hard. Elmo thinks she had a fight with Abby Cadabby or something." said Elmo.

"Then we better go talk to her." suggested Cookie Monster.

"No guys I will, besides, Katrina's not only my wife, she's also my best friend too. It feels better when best friends help each other. Why don't you three go right ahead to the carnival, I'll help Katrina." I turned to my friends and went upstairs. I searched everywhere for Katrina, finally, I came to our bedroom and found Katrina lying in bed. I came close to her and knelt down beside her.

"Katrina!, there you are, why are you hiding in bed?, you look kinda worried." I asked.

"I have big ears!" Katrina explained what happened today.

"Oh my, you don't have big ears, where did you ever hear that saying?" I asked.

"At Abby Cadabby's house!" a thought bubble appeared in Katrina's mind. It had an image of Abby Cadabby and her mommy having a conversation: "Some eighteen-year-olds have big ears." "You mean, Katrina has big ears?" they said in the imagery, then the thought bubble popped and floated away.

"It's true Kermit, I do have big ears, big as an elephant's!" Katrina was still upset.

"Oh Katrina, you don't have big ears, besides, your ears are just the right size for listening and hearing. You know, people come in all different shapes and sizes depending on their skin, or hair, or body parts." I told my best friend. Katrina pulled the comforter over her head still worried.

"Oh if only there's another way I could make it up to you." I lay down beside her bed sobbing. Katrina doesn't understand, how am I going to show her what shapes and sizes are? Just then, an idea came to my head, I showed Katrina the carnival tickets.

"Look wife, there's going to be a carnival on Sesame Street today. Plus, there's even the House Of Mirrors. I'll bet we can go there and take a look at ourselves and find out about our insides and outsides. How about it Katrina?"

"Sure, I guess." Katrina pulled off her comforter and began to smile a little bit.

"Great, let's go." I went downstairs at the front door where my best friend will meet me. When we got to the Sesame Street carnival, we paid for our tickets at the ticket booth. When we got to the House Of Mirrors, I showed Katrina my funny reflection. I was narrow on the outside and thin on the inside. Katrina tried another mirror: she was plump on the outside and thick on the inside. We both tried the third mirror: in this reflection, we look like cute kitty cats. We tried the fourth mirror: Katrina was super tall and I'm super short. Katrina and I tried lots of mirrors in the

House Of Mirrors. Our reflections were curly, swirly, thin, fat, stout, upside down, and totally silly.

After that, I turned to my best friend: "You see Katrina, everybody comes in different shapes and sizes. All you have to do is love yourself from your outside to your inside."

"You're right Kermit, I do love myself from my inside to my outside. And even though I don't have big ears, I still love myself just the way I am." smiled Katrina. I'm very proud of her for showing her differences and for being just herself. We continued our journey throughout Sesame Street carnival. We went on rides, we played games, and now, we're sharing a fresh julep. A julep is a nonalcoholic drink with sugar and crushed ice. As we were going to finish the last sip, Abby Cadabby and her mommy dropped in.

"Hi Abby, boy, I'm so glad you and your mom came to the carnival. Abby, I heard your mom said that I have big ears." Katrina said.

"No she didn't, she said that you might hear me then my surprise wouldn't be a surprise. And it just so happens that I have a surprise for you right now." Abby gave Katrina her extra Tinkerbell doll.

"It's Pixie Dust Tinkerbell, it's from Cinderella."

"Oh thank you Abby, I love it. You know Abby, people say that you talk a lot, so if you don't mind, I wouldn't hear you say silly stuff again because I know you have a bigmouth." laughed Katrina. With a little help from my advice and the House Of Mirrors, she learned that people come in different shapes and sizes. And no matter how you look different, you're always gonna love yourself just the way you are.

## Slumber Party

*This story was written the day before a stressful event--the school "lock in" activity, in which all of the students can spend the night together in the school gym. Katrina had lots of ambivalence about attending the event, concerned about the noise and change in routine. After writing this story about a fictional slumber party, she was able to attend the event successfully.*

Hi ho, Kermit the Frog here, sometimes when there's someone calling, I answer the telephone. Telephones are very important because when you hear a ring, you'll pick it up and find out who's calling. Sometimes when I answer the telephone, I get a call from one of my friends from Sesame Street. Sometimes they say something about homework, or helping around Hooper's Store, or even about Sesame Street News Flash. When the call is for my best friend Katrina, it is always her best friend Abby Cadabby. Katrina loves Abby Cadabby, she always has some big ideas. Like a stuffed animal tea party, dressing up in people's old clothes, or organizing a Mother Goose Club in Mother Goose's nursery school. But today, Abby Cadabby called with her biggest idea yet.

"A slumber party, tonight at your house? Sure, I'd like to come." answered Katrina talking on the phone.

"Just be sure to bring your heart wand, we need it for our magic show." Abby answered, and hung up on the phone.

"I don't know about that Katrina, you never slept away from home before have you?" I asked curiously.

"Oh but I have Kermit, at my Aunt Rose's house back in Edmunds District, one time for a whole week." protested Katrina.

"But your Aunt Rose lives in the United States. And the United States is faraway from Sesame Street." I explained.

"Nonsense, Abby Cadabby's house is not faraway from your apartment. Oh please, Kermit, I'm taking my heart wand and we're going to do a magic show." Katrina asked again.

"All right Katrina, you can go, but sleeping over at a friend's house is a kind of privilege. And something that goes with privilege is responsibility. Do you know what I'm talking about?" I asked.

Yes, privilege means something regarded as a special honor. And responsibility means being accountable or to blame for something." Katrina replied.

"That's right, now I'll help you pack you stuff, and remember what I told you." I replied as I got Katrina's luggage ready. We packed Katrina's bedroll, her toothbrush and toothpaste, her Minnie Mouse pajamas, and don't forget, her sparkly heart wand. As Katrina set off on the street, I reminded her about privilege and responsibility.

"I'll remember Kermit." Katrina promised heading straight for Abby Cadabby's house. Another thing about telephones is that they send messages very quickly. Soon, girls from all over Sesame Street heard about the slumber party and wanted to come too.

Abby answered: "Sure you can come, just bring some popcorn and some juice in case we want a snack. Okay, see you at the slumber party." she hung up. That night, I called Abby's parents Mr. and Mrs. Cadabby to make sure if a slumber party is okay. There's just one problem, Mr. and Mrs. Cadabby weren't home. When Katrina arrived at Abby's house, Mr. and Mrs. Cadabby left Abby in the care of a teenage babysitter. The slumber party had started and all the girls were unloading their stuff. Soon it was time for Abby's magic show. Katrina remembered her privilege, so she asked if she's allowed to do the magic as a volunteer. Abby agreed, and Katrina helped her. First, she and Abby used their wands to change things into pupkins.

Katrina tried her heart wand: "Stumpkin frumpkin diddly dumpkin, change everything into a pumpkin!" just then, the magic was going crazy all over the place. The sofa turned into a pumpkin, the lamp was turned into a pumpkin, all the furniture was turned into pumpkins.

"At least our magic show is over, let's have a snack." Abby suggested and all the girls had popcorn and juice. Suddenly, Julia threw some popcorn on the ground and spilled her juice cup. Katrina was responsible for cleaning up the juice spills and the popcorn kernels. After a snack, Zoe taught the girls how to twirl and pirouette. Then, Julia taught them how to play boing tag. Then, Rosita showed the girls how to dance a Mexican salsa. Things were getting out of control at the slumber party. All that pirouetting, bouncing, tagging, and salsa dancing were getting crowded. The only thing that wasn't happening at a slumber party is slumber, sleep. Abby's babysitter couldn't hear herself over the noise. She tried to keep things under control but the party was still going. Neighbors from Sesame Street didn't know about the commotion either, they called the police. The chief Mr. Rogers came to investigate. He reached Abby's house the same time Mr. and Mrs. Cadabby were returning home. Soon everything calmed down after all that agitation. The party was canceled, parents were called, Abby was sent to bed. And I came to pick up Katrina and take her home to unpack her stuff.

Instead of getting angry and yelling at home, I calmly said: "So Katrina, how was the slumber party, was it fun?"

"Some of it was fun Kermit, but then, the party got canceled because I made such a magical mess. I tried to keep my promise to all the girls, but I couldn't. I'm really sorry Kermit, I didn't realize that privilege and responsibility is meant at a slumber party. I didn't mean any harm." Katrina said sadly as we went upstairs. As I unpacked her luggage, Katrina took a warm shower in our bathroom. Then she brushed her teeth and put on her Minnie Mouse pajamas.

"Kermit, are you mad at me because I didn't behave properly?" asked Katrina sadly.

"No Katrina, I'm not mad at you, I'm only concerned that what you did was wrong. Maybe it was one those situations where one thing led to another and things got out of control. You know Katrina, not only girls have privilege and responsibility, but also frogs. Frogs participate socially and share common experiences with others. I'll bet I share my feelings with you about my participation. Frogs are responsible to take as a share in an enterprise. That means I achieve my goals in doing what's right for myself and for you too." I said as I tucked Katrina into bed.

"If only there's a way I can make it up to Abby and the girls about my privilege and responsibility, but how?" Katrina yawned and fell fast asleep. I went to bed wondering the same question too. The next morning, Abby invited her friends to help cleanup her house after last night. I came to Abby's to help cleanup the mess too.

"I know what, everyone's doing such a good job, we should make this a cleaning up party." Abby suggested full of ideas as ever.

Katrina nodded: "Probably not Abby, if you don't mind, I rather not hear the word party again for along time."

"That's my girl." I was very proud of my best friend. And that's how Katrina learned about privilege and responsibility. She also learned how good it felt to speak up and admit for her mistakes even when staying over at her friends for something special.

## Larry The Freeloader

*This story was written after two events--first a ceramic frog was given to Katrina as a gift from a staff member at the school. She immediately rejected it, because it was "not Kermit." During the same time period, she started to protest when I would bring other students into our speech therapy sessions together. I introduced the concepts of jealousy and "freeloading" to her, and she took off on her own, looking up the terms on her Braille note dictionary, and writing this interesting story that helped her to process her own jealousy. After she wrote it, she was able to discuss with me her own feelings of jealousy when asked to work with other students.*

Hi ho, Kermit the Frog here, every day, my best friend Katrina Manalo and I always do our normal routine. Every morning in our apartment, we wake up, go to the bathroom, go downstairs for breakfast, wash up and brush, and get dress. Then we go out on Sesame Street to play with our friends. Sometimes Katrina and I take care of young children and teach them lectures about letters, numbers, and lots of other stuff. Sometimes Katrina and I go to Grover's house for a playdate with Grover. Sometimes Katrina and I cool off in the pond when it's a hot day. Sometimes Katrina and I report Sesame Street News as co-reporters. Sometimes I teach Katrina a Sesame song or two. When it's noontime, Katrina and I have lunch either at Hooper's Store, at a friend's house, or at home in our apartment. Then we do our lectures, our news flashes, and playdates all afternoon. When it nighttime, we go home to our apartment, have dinner, take showers, wash up, and go to bed. Not only Katrina and I are great husband and wife, we're also very best friends and we like working together. But one Sunday, something different was happening at our apartment. Katrina was listening to her iPhone when she heard me calling from downstairs.

Katrina went downstairs: "Hi ho Kermit, and hi ho, 'huh, who are you?"

"Katrina, I'd like you to meet my cousin, Larry The Frog. Larry, this is my best friend, Katrina Manalo." I introduced my new cousin to Katrina.

"Hi ho, Larry The Frog here, it's nice to meet you Katrina." Larry shook Katrina's hand. Larry looks much different from me, he wears a jacket, he looks much shorter than me, and he's a freeloader which means someone who takes advantage of the generosity of others.

"Don't worry Katrina, Larry wouldn't stay here in our apartment forever, he's just staying for one week on our spring break." I explained. But this week on spring break, Katrina didn't feel comfortable with Larry. On Monday, we went to the library for storytime. The librarian read us a



fable about the dog and his reflection. Larry liked the part when the dog dove in the pond to get more bones, he realized it was just his own reflection, and he end up losing his bone.

"The moral of this fable is, never be greedy of what you want. Because you might end up having nothing, the end." the librarian said as we cheered quietly in the library.

"Uh Kermit, I thought we're gonna teach the children our lectures today." Katrina was feeling green with jealousy.

"Sorry Katrina, better luck next time." I whispered and continued our spring break with Larry. On Tuesday, we went to Grover's house to have a playdate with Grover.

"Grover, I'd like you to meet my cousin, Larry The Frog. Larry, this is my best Muppet friend Grover." I introduced Larry to Grover.

"Oh, hello Larry, welcome to my house, come inside and I'll show you around." Grover gave a tour of his house. Larry liked Grover's toys, the furniture, and Grover's Super Grover costume.

"Cool stuff Grover, boy, I wish I had a superhero costume, then I can fly and save the day." Larry slipped on Grover's cape and helmet and pretended to be Frogman. We all played pretend rescue, but Katrina didn't because she was feeling left out. I pretended to be the lost frog who wanted to get home. Frogman helped me get home safely to my pond where my father frog was waiting. Grover pretended to be my father, at least he gets to croak.

"Oh thank you Frogman, you saved my son, you're my hero." he would say, and gave Frogman a hug.

Later, Katrina asked: "Kermit, can I play pretend too?"

"Sorry Katrina, this game only has three players, but maybe next time we'll include you." I said as we cleaned up Grover's toys.

On Wednesday, we headed to Sesame Park to cool off in the pond. Larry and I dove in and swam around looking at the dragonflies, the fish, and the lily pads.

"Hey Kermit, can I join in too?" Katrina dipped her feet into the water.

"Sorry Katrina, Larry and I can swim by ourselves. But you can sit here and watch us swim, okay?" I insisted and splashed back into the pond with Larry. Katrina sat near the pond and watched us swim, climb trees, and camouflage in the tall green grass.

"I wish I could get Kermit to love me again, then we can do all the things together." she felt more green with jealousy.

On Thursday, we went to Mother Goose's nursery school for Sesame Street News.

"Hi ho, this is Kermit the Frog on Sesame Street News. And I'm speaking to you from Mother Goose's nursery school where the author Mother Goose writes classic nursery rhymes. And today, we're going to look at some of Mother Goose's nursery rhymes with the help of my co-reporter, Larry The Frog." I reported in my reporter outfit as Larry came with his reporter outfit.

"Wait Kermit, we're suppose to do the report together. Besides, I'm your real co-reporter, not Larry." Katrina begged as she entered the school.

"Sorry Katrina, this news flash only requires two reporters. And three's a crowd, but, you can just sit here and watch us, okay?" I sat my best friend down on the school bench. Then I went to Larry to report on Mother Goose. Mother Goose has written Humpty Dumpty, Little Miss Muffet, Mary Had A Little Lamb, Little Bo Peep, Hickory Dickory Dock, Peter Piper, Hey Diddle Diddle, Jack and Jill, Jack Be Nimble, the old woman in the shoe, Old King Cole, Old Mother Hubbard, and other nursery rhymes in lots of countries.

"You see that ladies and gentlemen, Mother Goose wrote these poems to help her nursery rhyme friends have fun." Larry reported.

"Well there you have it folks, this has been Mother Goose's nursery school. This is Kermit and Larry The Frog returning to your regularly scheduled program." we exit out of the nursery school to get Katrina.

On Friday, I taught Larry all my favorite Sesame Street songs. First, I taught him why it's great to be your own color in Being Green. Next, I taught him my Do Wop Hop song and dance. I hopped and flipped Larry upon my back. Third, I taught Larry the African Alphabet and the Bayou Alphabet. Fourth, I taught Larry how to dance the Disco Frog. Fifth, I played the mandolin and Larry dressed up like different people in If I Were. Sixth, I played my banjo and sang Rainbow Connection to Larry. However, Katrina was just watching us sing, dance, and have lots of fun.

"Kermit loves Larry better than me. And he has all the fun with Larry and never pays attention to me. If only we could get back together again, then Kermit and I can do all the things we always do." she felt even more green with jealousy. The next day was Saturday, and Larry asked us if we can go to Sesame Park to play.

"Why yes Larry, I'd love to come, Katrina, are you coming too?" I asked my best friend.

"Um, sure, I think so." Katrina said, and we all went to Sesame Park. At the park, Larry and I are going to ride our bicycles. We put on our helmets, our protective pads, and got on our bikes.

"Hey Katrina, would you like to ride with us?" asked Larry.

"No thanks Larry, you and Kermit go right ahead, I'm just going to pick wildflowers, by myself of course." Katrina walked away feeling even more green with jealousy. She picked daisies, sunflowers, poppies, and water lilies at a wide field. Afterward, Katrina looked into the pond that we swam in the other day. When Katrina saw her reflection in the water, there was another girl

carrying wildflowers. So when Katrina dove to get more flowers, she realized it was just her reflection. And furthermore, she end up losing her wildflowers just like in the fable of the dog and his bone.

"Oh no, I can't swim, if only there was someone who can get me out. Wait, there is, Kermit!, help me!, help me!" Katrina called from the pond. The sound of her yelling reached me and Larry.

"Larry, my best friend Katrina's in trouble, we have to save her, come on." we got off our bikes, and took a raft on the pond.

"Katrina, hang on to this lifesaver and we'll pull you out." I threw a lifesaver around Katrina. Larry and I tugged and pulled until Katrina was finally safe.

"Oh thank you for rescuing me Kermit, and thank you Larry." Katrina smiled.

"Our pleasure Katrina, now let's get you home for your shower." We sailed back to shore and rode our bikes home to my apartment. While Katrina took her shower upstairs, Larry helped me cook dinner in the kitchen downstairs. That evening, Katrina wasn't hungry at dinner.

"Katrina, what's the matter, do you want to talk about it?" I asked.

"Why don't we just talk alone after dinner Kermit, just you and me." Katrina excused herself and went back upstairs.

"Larry, may I please be excused?" I said politely and followed my best friend. I sat on my bed beside Katrina in our bedroom.

"What's wrong Katrina, don't you like my cousin Larry?" I asked.

"No Kermit, it's just that you love Larry better than me. You and Larry have all the fun listening to stories, playing with Grover, swimming, reporting, and singing together. And I didn't get a chance to spend time with you. I'm really sorry Kermit, this means you're not going to love me anymore?" Katrina hugged me.

"Katrina, I wouldn't say that to the ones I love. Besides, you can love more than one person." I put my flipper on Katrina.

"Does that mean you still love me?" Katrina asked.

"Of course Katrina, just because I love Larry, doesn't mean I'll ever stop loving you. You know why?, Because you're still my best friend a frog can ever have. And I still love you very much Katrina." I hugged my best friend.

"Thanks Kermit, I only wish Larry could stay for one more night." thought Katrina.

"There is a way, follow me downstairs." I led the way down to the living room. I'm going to let Larry sleep on my leather sofa tonight.

"Good night Larry." I whispered as I turned off the living room lights and head back upstairs. I used the bathroom, washed up, and went to bed with my best friend Katrina. The next day was Sunday again, it was time for Larry to go home.

"Thank you for spending time with me on your spring break Kermit and Katrina. But where can I live that's on Sesame Street?" Larry wondered out the door.

"We know just the place, follow us." We led our friend to my old swamp in Sesame Park. This is where I was born before I moved to my apartment. Katrina found an otter for Larry to have for company.

"I now present to you Larry The Frog and Olive The Otter, you two may kiss and rejoice." she announced. So Larry kissed Olive and fell in love with her. Now Larry has a wife/best friend just like me. So now Larry and Olive live in my swamp in Sesame Park so we can visit them whenever we like.

"Thanks for helping me find a new home for me and Olive to live in. Well, I better be hopping, I'm really gonna miss you two." Larry splashed into the swamp with Olive.

"We're going to miss you too Larry, but don't worry, we'll come back and visit you and Olive anytime at Sesame Park." I blessed my cousin.

"Yeah, and next time, you can include me and Olive too?" Katrina added.

"You got it, well goodbye." Larry and Olive swam into the swamp together.

"Goodbye." Katrina and I both waved as we returned to our own home.

When we got home, Katrina said: "Kermit, I love spending my spring break with your cousin Larry. But I love spending time with you much more, you're my best friend, I love you." she hugged and kissed.

"I love you too Katrina, you're my best friend in the whole world ever." I hugged and kissed back. So now that our spring break is over, we can go back to to our normal routine. Once again, Katrina and I teach kids our lectures, play with Grover, cool off in the pond, report Sesame Street News, and sing Sesame songs together. Katrina and I are great best friends and we'll always still be close to each other.

## I'll Do It Myself

*Katrina is very independent, and she often resists group activities or assistance from others. I introduced the concept of "interdependence" to her in the hope of helping her understand that sometimes we really are better together than alone. This is the story that she wrote that evening.*

Good morning, Kermit the Frog here, and today, my best friend Katrina wants to do everything independently. That means she wants to do everything by herself so she doesn't have to rely on me for help. This morning after we used the bathroom, I asked Katrina what she wants to eat for breakfast.

"I usually eat yogurt back home on Camano Island." Katrina said opening the refrigerator. She got her vitamins from the pantry, and fruit from the bowl.

"Do you want me to fill up a glass of water for you?" I asked.

"No thanks Kermit, I'll do it myself." Katrina said and reached for the glass in the kitchen cupboard. Then she fill her cup with ice cubes and cold water.

"See Kermit, I'm so independent of getting my own breakfast." Katrina said, finishing her yogurt and fruit. Afterward, we went upstairs to get dressed. Katrina put on her socks, pants, bra, and shirt all by herself.

"See Kermit, I'm so independent of dressing myself." Katrina said getting her green coat and black bow headband. Then we went to Grover's house for a playdate. I told Grover about how Katrina was so independent and how she had done everything by herself without my help.

"Wow, Katrina's such a big girl now, I'll bet she can do everything on her own." Grover said.

"That's right Grover, I can do anything, I'm Ms. Independent." Katrina said in a positive way.

"Wonderful, then let's go play." Grover led us inside his house. We went into his play area where Grover is building a puppet theater. He showed us how to make it with the instructions. We put all the parts together and assembled the theater.

"Hey Katrina, you would like some help putting up the curtains?" Grover asked.

"No thanks Grover, I'll do it myself." Katrina put up the curtains on the curtain rod.

"See Grover, I'm so independent of putting up the curtains myself." she told Grover.

"Very well, now let's make our puppets for the puppet show." Grover gave us some art supplies and we made our own puppets. Grover made a dragon, I made a green knight, and Katrina made a pretty pink princess.

"Do you need help making your puppet?" I asked.

"No thanks Kermit, I'll do it myself." Katrina made the body, the head, and the curly hair. She added the silver tiara, the glittery pink cape, and a beautiful pink rose gown.

"See guys, I'm so independent of creating my own puppet." she tested out and made it move.

"Now we have to make the scenery for the puppet show." Grover got out a poster and a paint set. We started painting the scenery to go with our story.

"Katrina, do you want some help painting the palace?" I asked.

"No thanks Kermit, I'll do it myself." Katrina painted the palace pink, purple, and peach.

"See Kermit, I'm so independent of creating my own art." Katrina put her princess puppet on the theater. I put my knight in the castle and Grover put his dragon in the cave. At twelve o'clock, we went to the restaurant called Charlie's for lunch. Grover's the waiter, I'm the bus boy, and Katrina is the chef.

"Hey Katrina, want some help cooking the food?" I asked.

"No thanks Kermit, I'll do it myself." Katrina cooked cucumber and eggplant soup. She also made some chili radish carrot muffins.

"See Kermit, I'm so independent of cooking my own food, order up!" She gave the food to Grover and Grover served all the food to the customers. Then it was our lunchtime, Katrina, Grover, and I ate angel hair pasta with fresh vegetables. After lunch, I helped clean up all the tables because I'm the bus boy. While our puppets dried, Grover, Katrina, and I went to Sesame Park to play. We played boing tag, hide-and-seek, and duck duck goose. Afterward, we went to the playground on the other side to of Sesame Park to play with our friends. We played on the slide with Elmo and Abby Cadabby. We played on the seesaw with Big Bird. We even played on the swings with Ernie and Bert.

"Hey Katrina, need a push?" asked Bert.

"No thanks Bert, I'll do it myself." Katrina put her feet on the ground, pumped her legs and held on to the chains.

"See Bert, I'm so independent of swinging on a swing." Katrina said swinging on the swing. Afterward, we flew our kites with Julia and Rosita. Julia's kite is in the shape of a bunny rabbit. Rosita's kite is in the shape of a paparo, a bird. Our kite is in the shape of a green fairy.

"Hey Katrina, do you need help with your kite?" asked Rosita.

"No gracias, I'll do it myself." Katrina held the string and flew our kite. But suddenly, a big strong wind blew the kite into the sky carrying Katrina up into the air. We chased after the kite until it finally landed in the tree. Katrina landed in the tree too and got stuck.

"Hello down there guys, I seem to be stuck! Can you help me, I can't climb down the tree by myself!" she called from up the tree.

"Don't worry Katrina, we'll save you." Rosita called. She and Julia tried using a ladder to climb up but Katrina can't climb down it from the tree. Big Bird tried reaching for Katrina but he got our kite instead. So Grover put on his Super Grover costume and tipped the tree over.

"No Grover, if you tip the tree, Katrina could fall and get hurt, and we don't want that do we?" Rosita warned him.

"You're right, I didn't think of that. Who else can get Katrina down from the tree?" wondered Super Grover.

"Hey, I can climb up the tree and rescue Katrina." I thought.

"Great idea Kermit, do you need any help getting up there?" asked Rosita.

"No thanks guys, I'll do it myself, Katrina's my best friend." I climbed up the tree independently. Even though I'm not a tree frog, I still saved my best friend. Katrina and I grabbed a vine and swung down the tree.

"Hooray for Katrina Manalo and Kermit The Frog!" everybody cheered.

"Thanks everyone, now let's go back to Grover's house and start our puppet show." the wind carried me and Katrina back to Grover's house and everyone followed us. At Grover's house, Grover, Katrina and I put on our puppet show. In this story, a princess was trying to be independent of fighting the fire breathing dragon. Somehow she got captured by the dragon and the dragon put her in a tall tower. But then, a brave knight came to rescue her and fight the dragon. The princess learned how to be independent, but she also learned that she can rely on someone and ask for help; that's called interdependence.

"And they all lived happily ever after, the end." Grover, Katrina, and I bowed as everyone did an ovation. Later, the sky was getting dark and it's time for everybody to go home. We thanked Grover for helping make our puppet show exciting. Then we said goodbye to our friends and headed home to our apartment. That night, Katrina and I had tomato stew for supper. Next, we went upstairs and showered together, brushed our teeth together, and put on our pajamas tgr.

"Kermit, I'm not so independent of flying kites. But I'm so independent of getting ready for bed. Hmm, maybe I have to admit I do need to rely on you and ask for help." Katrina told me.

"Well Katrina, the important thing is that you're okay. I know you want to be independent and do everything on your own. But in the future, you really got to rely on someone and ask for help, that's called interdependence." I told my best friend.

"I promise I will Kermit, I'll always rely on you because you always take good care of me and you're my best friend." Katrina hugged me.

"Ah Katrina, you're my best friend too and I'll always take good care of you." I hugged her back. Katrina and I will always be close best friends forever and help each other a lot. And as long as I have Katrina, she can rely on me to help her and take care of her. Now it's time for us to go to bed so this is Kermit The Frog and Katrina Manalo saying good night and sweet dreams.