

Best Wishes for Eddie



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Chapter 1 Chapte

Jody Martin and Ben Stubbs were walking home from school. Since they lived on the same block, they usually walked home together. They turned the corner onto Third Street.

"Eddie's?" Jody asked.

Ben nodded. He always wanted to go to Eddie's. He began **skipping** the last few steps.





Eddie's Bodega was a little grocery store in their neighborhood in Quincy. It was owned by Eddie Rivera. Jody, Ben, and many of their friends went there almost every day after school.

Jody and Ben liked buying a **snack** at Eddie's. Most of all, they liked seeing Eddie.

Eddie knew all the children in the neighborhood. He was really nice. Sometimes Eddie gave the children an **extra** treat, "on the house." Sometimes he told them stories about the old days. He even knew Jody's parents when they were little!



Ben and Jody opened the door and walked into the store.

"Hi, Eddie!" they said. "What's up?"

"Buenas tardes, muchachos," said Eddie.

"Actually, something is up. Do you know what next month is?"

The children shook their heads.



"Next month is the thirtieth **anniversary** of Eddie's Bodega!" said Eddie.

"Cool!" said Ben.

"I'm going to make a **banner** for the front of the store," said Eddie. "Do you want to come by in a few days and help me with it?"





"Sure, Eddie!" said Jody. "We'll help!"
Ben and Jody each picked out a snack.
They took out money to pay.
"That's all right, muchachos," said Eddie.
"It's on the house!"

Ben's Idea

Ben and Jody walked to Ben's home. They were sitting on the front steps when Tina Perez and Brad Ming came by.

"Guess what?" Ben said. "Next month is Eddie's **anniversary**."

"I thought Eddie wasn't married," said Tina.

"Not that kind of anniversary," said Jody.
"It's the anniversary of Eddie's Bodega. It's been open thirty years."

"Wow!" said Brad. "That's a long time!"



Ben told Tina and Brad about the banner Eddie was making. "You should come and help, too," he said to Tina and Brad.

Then he said, "I wish we could do something for Eddie's anniversary."

"Yeah," said Jody. "Eddie's always doing things for everyone else."

"That's right!" said Brad. "He donates food from his store to help poor people."

"He finds homes for **stray** cats and dogs," said Tina.



"And he gives us free snacks!" added Ben, laughing.

"But what could we do?" asked Tina.

"I know!" said Ben, raising his hands. "We could give Eddie a party! An anniversary party!"

Jody put one hand on her **chin** as she always did when she was thinking. Then she smiled. "That's a great idea!" she said.





"I'll bet my mom and dad will help," Jody added.

"Mine, too," said Tina.

"My parents will want to be a part of this," Brad joined in.

Ben turned to go inside. "Why don't you guys come in? We've got a lot of work to do!"

Making Plans

Jody, Tina, and Brad sat down at the kitchen table. Ben got Jody a piece of paper and a pencil. At the top of the paper, she carefully wrote *Things we need*.





"OK," said Jody. "What do we need for a party?"

"I know!" said Ben. "Food!"

Jody wrote down Food. Then she asked,

"Where are we going to have the party?"
"Better write that down too," said Tine

"Better write that down, too," said Tina. She didn't want to forget anything.