A Card for Dad

Story by Laura Burton Rice
Illustrations by Susan Detwiler
Practice reading these sentences.

Sad Sam sat.
It is Dad’s birthday.
Sad Sam was 😊 happy.
Matt ran out of his house to get on the school bus. Sad Sam ran after him. What do you think they did when Matt got on the bus?

Point to Matt. Where is Matt? [Matt is on the bus.]
What is Matt doing? [Matt is waving at Sad Sam.]
What did Sad Sam do? [Sad Sam sat.]
At school, Matt told his teacher that today was a special day.

Miss Tad. Miss Tad. It is Dad’s birthday.

Point to Miss Tad.

Why is it a special day? [It is a special day because it is Dad’s birthday.]
Miss Tad helped Matt make a card. What do you think was on the card?

It was Dad.

It was Sad Sam.

What are Miss Tad and Matt doing? [They are making a card for Dad.]

Make a Prediction: Will Dad like the card?

(T-P-S) Have the students support their predictions.
Matt wrote something inside the card. What do you think he wrote?

😊 Birthday, Dad.
Love,
Matt and Sad Sam
After school, Matt went home. Sad Sam was glad to see Matt. He jumped up and grabbed Dad’s birthday card to play with. Did Matt want to play?

Look at Matt.  
How did he feel?  [Matt was mad.]  
Why was Matt mad?  [He was mad because Sad Sam took the birthday card.]
Sad Sam gave back the card. He did not mess it up. Just then, Dad came home and Matt gave him the card. How do you think they felt?

Dad was happy.
Matt was happy.
Sad Sam was happy.

Dad loved the birthday card. Matt was glad that Sad Sam did not mess up the card. So was Sad Sam!

Point to Dad.
Why is Dad happy? [He likes his birthday card.]
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Use T-P-S to discuss these questions.

1. What does Matt tell his teacher when he gets to school?
   [He tells her that it is his dad’s birthday.]

2. What does Matt put on his dad’s birthday card?
   [The card has a picture of Dad and Sad Sam. It says, “Happy Birthday, Dad. Love, Matt and Sad Sam.”]

3. Does Dad like the birthday card?
   [Yes, Dad likes the birthday card.]
Reading Roots, Level 1

A Card for Dad

Reading Roots Shared Stories were developed under the direction of Robert E. Slavin and Nancy A. Madden, codirectors of the Success for All Foundation Family of Programs.

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Illustrations for this book were colored digitally by James Bravo.

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