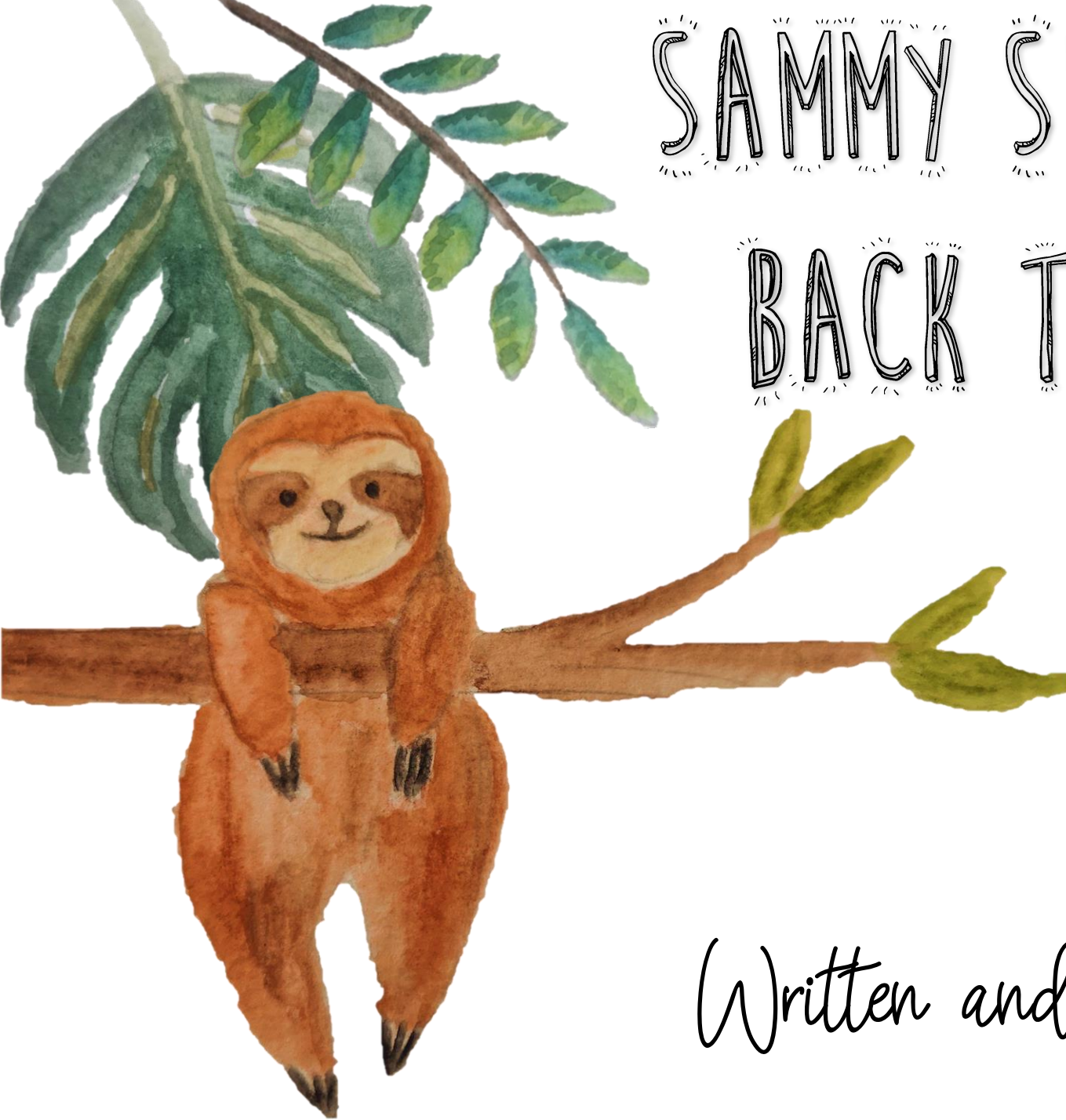


SAMMY SLOTH GOES BACK TO SCHOOL



Written and illustrated by Rachel Cook

Sammy is a sloth who lives at home in a tree,
He lives with his Mum and Dad a family of three!!!



Sammy had been at home for such a long time now,
Because of the Coronavirus they had been in
lockdown.



Mum and Dad had been the teachers, they
did spelling and sums at home,
Sammy really missed his friends, they only
spoke on the phone.

A B C

They hadn't left the tree for weeks, only to go
for a walk,

Then one day Mum said to Sammy, sit down we need
to talk.



Mum said the people who make the decisions
say it's safe to go outside . . .

Tomorrow we'll go back to school,
'NOOOOOOOOOO' Sammy cried.



Suddenly Sammy felt some aching in
his tummy,
Maybe it's the virus? I better stay
home with Mummy.

Dad explained to Sammy that the aching was
just nerves,
That it was just butterflies causing a big stir.



That night Sammy couldn't sleep as thoughts
filled his head,
Like what if my friends don't remember me,
what if the virus spreads?

What if I forget how to spell, or how to do a sum?

What if my teacher thinks that I am super dumb?

What if Mum and Dad forget me while I am at School?

What if I have no one to play with and I wont be very cool.



That next morning, Sammy was really slow,
He didn't want to get up, he didn't want to go.

The day was really beautiful, it was bright and sunny,
Dad made Sammy's favourite breakfast of ants and
sticky honey.

Mum had packed his lunch box and on it was his name,
She said, 'you know, your friends will be feeling just the same.
We know you're feeling worried and that is perfectly okay,
You will feel a bit better as you get through the day.



School may be a little different , we don't know exactly how it
will go,
But there will still be so many things that you already know.
Your teacher will be there to help you with anything you need,
And when the day is over you'll come home to Daddy and me.'

They walked to school together and reached the school gates,
Where Sammy's lovely teacher eagerly awaits,
With a great big smile she starts waving him in,
But Sammy gets scared and lowers his chin.



Mum kneels down and hugs him so tight,
She whispers softly 'it will be alright'.
He relaxed in her arms and felt less afraid,
and off down the path he walked and he waved.

The school day started when the bell rang,
Sammy spotted his best friend Stan,
Stan whispered, I have a tummy ache I don't know why?
Sammy said gently, 'its ok Stan, its just a butterfly'.



Stan had a huge smile and said ' OH I'VE MISSED YOU',
The school work was easy, there were no big issues.
Playtime came and Sammy's friends came to play,
all of a sudden those butterflies flew away.



As the day went by, Sammy had so much fun,
He almost forgot how much he missed his Mum.
Before he knew it the school day was at an end,
Now Sammy didn't want to say goodbye to his friends.



When he saw his Mum, he ran out to hug her,
Nestled his face in her soft cosy fur,
All the way home Sammy told her what he had done,
Mum was so happy that he had had so much fun.



That night Sammy laid his head on his leafy Pillow
And he thought to himself . . . I can't wait for tomorrow.

This story is written for all of the amazing children who have had their little worlds turned upside down in the last few months.

Children, just like adults may be worried or anxious about returning to school following the Coronavirus Pandemic, this short story about Sammy the Sloth facing his fears of returning to school is a sweet story to read with your child and opens up opportunities for discussion around how they may be feeling, it focuses on the familiar among all the transitions.



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