



Can Humpty Dumpty Be Saved?

By Lois Lewis

NARRATOR 1:

It's a busy evening in the newsroom of WKDM, Great Kingdom's television station. Anchorperson Suzy Speaks begins the broadcast.

SUZY SPEAKS:

Good evening. Our top story tonight – a surprising announcement from the palace. Reporter Bob Blab has the details.

BOB BLAB:

Suzy, in an exclusive interview this afternoon, King Prosperous made an extraordinary offer to the people of our kingdom.

KING PROSPEROUS:

I hereby proclaim that I will award one million dollars to anyone who can help doctors at the Great Kingdom Hospital find a way to save our Kingdom's beloved egghead, Humpty Dumpty.

BOB BLAB:

Humpty Dumpty was injured yesterday morning in a fall from his perch on the Great Kingdom Wall. His physician, Dr. Menditwell, says Mr. Dumpty's condition is critical, and hope for his recovery is fading.

DR. MENDITWELL:

Humpty Dumpty has cracked bones in his arms and legs, as well as severe yolk displacement. Our biggest concern, though, is his outer shell; it's so shattered, we don't even know how to repair the damage.

BOB BLAB:

That's our report from the palace, Suzy. I'll keep you posted on the latest developments in this ongoing drama.

NARRATOR 2:

In a home across the kingdom, twins Carol and Christopher Megabyte are watching the news with their parents.

MRS. MEGABYTE:

Poor Mr. Dumpty! I can't imagine the kingdom without him.

MR. MEGABYTE:

One million dollars! Maybe the reward will encourage someone to find a way to help Humpty.

NARRATOR 1:

After the news broadcast, Carol and Christopher sit down at their computers to begin their homework. While researching online, Carol finds an article about Humpty Dumpty's accident.

CAROL:

Hey Chris, check this out.

CHRIS:

Wow! Look at that picture! Humpty cracked into so-o-o many pieces when he fell, he kind of looks like a jigsaw puzzle.

CAROL:

Hmm . . . Jigsaw puzzles can be solved . . . Chris, I think we can find a way to put Humpty Dumpty back together again!

NARRATOR 2:

By the next morning, Carol and Chris (the top tech students in the kingdom, according to their teacher) have created a computer program that isolates and numbers each broken piece of Humpty Dumpty's shell. The program also shows how to put those pieces back together again -- just the way they were before Humpty's fall.

CHRIS:

We did it! We figured out how to put Humpty Dumpty back together again!
At least, we figured out how to get the computer to do it.

CAROL:

We've got to show our program to Dr. Menditwell at the hospital!

CAROL and CHRIS (together):

Mom! Dad!

NARRATOR 1:

Mr. and Mrs. Megabyte rush into the hallway.

MR. MEGABYTE: (looking at the clock)

It's five a.m. Why are you two up already?

CHRIS:

We're not up *already*. We've been up all night!

CAROL:

We figured out how to fix Humpty Dumpty!

MRS. MEGABYTE: (surprised)

You did . . . what?

NARRATOR 2:

Carol and Chris proudly show the computer program to their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Megabyte hug the twins with just as much pride.

CHRIS:

We need to show Dr. Menditwell. We have to go to the hospital right away!

NARRATOR 1:

The family quickly gets dressed. They arrive at the hospital at seven a.m., just as Dr. Menditwell is holding a press conference about Humpty's recovery.

DR. MENDITWELL: (at a podium)

Good morning. I'm sad to report that Mr. Dumpty's condition is unchanged. And unless we find a way to repair his shattered shell soon, he can only get worse.

NARRATOR 2:

At that moment, the Megabyte family pushes through the crowd.

CHRIS: (yelling)

Dr. Menditwell! Stop! We need to speak with you!

DR. MENDITWELL: (puzzled)

Who are you?

CAROL:

I'm Carol Megabyte.

Chris:

And I'm Chris Megabyte.

Carol and Chris (together):

And we've created a computer program that will help put Humpty Dumpty back together again!

NARRATOR 1:

Dr. Menditwell is skeptical, but he and a few other doctors gather around Carol's laptop to view the twins' program. Soon, everyone is amazed.

DR. MENDITWELL:

This is astounding! If we can make it work, we can save Humpty!

NARRATOR 2:

Dr. Menditwell immediately assembles a medical team to operate on Humpty Dumpty. Ten hours later, the doctor comes out of the operating room. The Megabyte family -- and a nervous crowd of reporters and spectators -- are waiting to hear the news. Bob Blab asks the questions everyone wants answered.

BOB BLAB:

Dr. Menditwell, how's Humpty?

DR. MENDITWELL:

Well, we repaired his internal injuries and broken bones. And, thanks to a computer program created by these two whiz kids, we were able to put Humpty's shell back together again too. We even added a clear, shatterproof shield we think will keep him safe in the future.

BOB BLAB:

You're saying that Humpty will make it?

DR. MENDITWELL:

Yes. With a few months of intensive physical therapy, we expect Humpty to make a full recovery.

NARRATOR 1:

The crowd cheers. Carol and Chris high-five each other.

NARRATOR 2:

Four months later, Humpty Dumpty leaves the hospital, fully recovered. The kingdom celebrates his return to health with a festival in his honor. During the event, King Prosperous presents a check for one million dollars to Carol and Chris Megabyte. Bob Blab reports.

BOB BLAB:

Today, Humpty Dumpty is back on the Great Kingdom Wall. Surrounded by a shatterproof shield, cushioned with special padded foam, he seems well protected from the risks of another fall. At least, we hope so. This is Bob Blab reporting from outside the Kingdome Center.

SUZY SPEAKS:

Thank you, Bob. And thank you too Chris and Carol Megabyte. Everyone in this kingdom loves a happy ending -- and *you* made it happen.

