



at **Stories for My Little Sister**
www.storiesformylittlesister.com
Free Online Books for 21st Century Kids

Post No. 7

TAKING CARE OF MY TEETH

One day last week, Samantha said to me that she was going to the dentist. I asked her if she had toothache, but she said she felt perfectly fine. I was surprised by this, so I asked her, "Then why are you going to the dentist?"

Samantha explained to me that it is important to go to the dentist regularly, to make sure that your teeth are clean and healthy, even if you don't have toothache. It was then that she asked me, "Harrison, when did you last go to the dentist?"

I said, "I don't really remember, but my teeth are perfectly fine. I used them just this morning to chew my breakfast. Then I brushed them, so they are nice and clean."

Samantha looked at me suspiciously and said, "Harrison, you are coming with me to see the dentist. It sounds like you are overdue for a check-up."

I did not want to go and see the dentist. I had a blog post to type up, and I was quite busy with that. Also, I have to admit that I am just the teeniest bit afraid of going to the dentist. I do not like sitting in that big chair with my mouth wide open, unable to speak. I do not like looking up at the ceiling wearing those big sunglasses that the dentist makes you wear. I do not like the smell of disinfectant in the dentist's office.

This is a picture of how I imagined a visit to the dentist would be.



For all of these very good reasons, I said, "Thank you very much for that kind offer, Samantha, but I am really far too busy to go to the dentist today."

Samantha said, "Nonsense, Harrison. It is very important to go to the dentist regularly. I am sure he will manage to squeeze you in. You only have a little mouth, after all. It won't take him long to examine your teeth!"

That is how I ended up in the dentist's big chair, with my mouth wide open, staring at the ceiling, wearing those big sunglasses that the dentist makes you wear, and smelling the smell of disinfectant. As you can see from the picture below, my visit to the dentist was turning out just as I imagined it would.



"Hmmm," said the dentist, whilst he examined my teeth.

Of course, I was unable to speak. I really wanted to speak, because I was rather worried. 'Hmmm' is one of those expressions that makes me worry. It usually means that the person who says it is thinking about something, and that the thing they are thinking about is not good. What if the dentist thought I was going to get a toothache? I have never had a toothache, so I don't know for sure, but I have heard

that toothaches really hurt. I really didn't want to have a toothache.

After a long time, the dentist finally spoke. He said, "Harrison, you are a very lucky hamster. You have a fine set of healthy teeth."

I smiled happily, because I didn't have a toothache after all, but the dentist had not finished. He said, "You do need to take better care of your teeth. I think it is time for you to learn how to use floss."

The dentist then gave me a little plastic box with a little hole in the top, and some string poking out. "This string," he said, "is floss, and you can use it to clean between your teeth, which will help you to avoid getting cavities."



Then he cut off a piece of floss and showed me how to slide it between my teeth. Then I cut off my own piece of floss, and practised flossing my teeth.

"Well done, Harrison!" said the dentist, and I promised him that I would continue to use my floss at home.

Of course, I had to keep my promise to the dentist to keep using my floss at home. I have made a list of all the ways I have been using my floss, so that I can give it to the dentist when I next see him, because I think the dentist has a lot to learn about floss.

1. I used my floss twice every day to clean between my teeth. I thought it was important to include this point even though the dentist already knows how to use floss to clean between teeth, so that he will know that I have not forgotten.
2. I used my floss to take Jelly Bean for a walk. Floss is very strong. I used it to tie Jelly Bean's bowl to a skateboard, and we went for a walk in the park. Actually, I pulled Jelly Bean's bowl along on the skateboard using my floss and Jelly Bean swam around in her bowl, so I went for a walk and Jelly Bean went for a swim.



3. I used my floss as a skipping rope.
4. I used my floss to tie up a bunch of flowers that I gave to Kimster.



at [Stories for My Little Sister](http://www.storiesformylittlesister.com)
www.storiesformylittlesister.com
Free Online Books for 21st Century Kids

I can think of a lot more things to do with my floss, but I haven't tried them yet, so I will add them to the list once I have made sure that they are all good ways to use my floss at home.

The moral of this blog post is that sometimes you really don't want to do something (such as go to the dentist), but then you do that very thing, and something great happens (for example, the dentist gives you some floss), and you end up having lots of fun.

I can't wait to see the dentist again!

Bye for now!

Harrison Hamster I

10th September 2011