

Angel, The "Solar Bird"



Written and Illustrated
by: Madeleine G. Benner

Thank you to all all the scientists
and engineers, especially to all
my family that reminded me to
never give up on my dreams.

MGB



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Written and illustrated by:
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Meet the characters:

Ms. Willow



Luna



Angel



Amanda



Ginger

Sarah



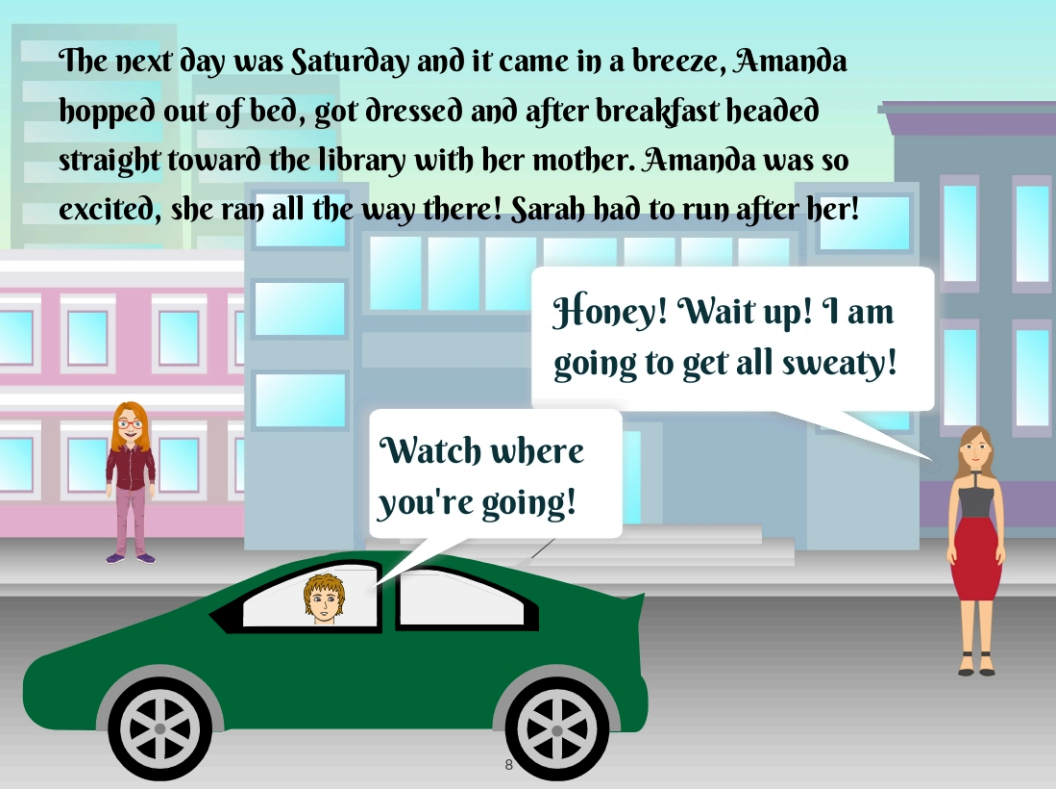
Inside a warm, snuggly house lived a five year old girl named Amanda who could not read. One day, after school, Amanda walked to the library with her mother, Sarah. When they entered, Amanda immediately spotted her top subject, parrot books! She picked out her favorite, "Parrot Paradise," and headed over to the bean bag reading corner then plopped down in a green one.



Suddenly, out of nowhere, Ms. Willow called out, “Amanda! I just got some new books in, my darling!” Amanda smiled with glee. However, Amanda looked at her watch and noticed it was past 4:00. The library was getting ready to close in twenty minutes. Amanda promised Ms. Willow, she would be back at the library bright and early the next day to enjoy the new books that had arrived.



The next day was Saturday and it came in a breeze, Amanda hopped out of bed, got dressed and after breakfast headed straight toward the library with her mother. Amanda was so excited, she ran all the way there! Sarah had to run after her!

An illustration of a street scene. In the foreground, a green sports car is parked on a grey road. A woman with blonde hair is visible through the driver's side window. To the left of the car, a woman with red hair and glasses, wearing a maroon jacket and purple pants, stands on a sidewalk. To the right, a woman with brown hair, wearing a black top and a red skirt, stands on the same sidewalk. In the background, there are stylized buildings with blue and pink walls and many windows. Two speech bubbles are present: one from the car saying 'Watch where you're going!' and another from the woman in the red skirt saying 'Honey! Wait up! I am going to get all sweaty!'.

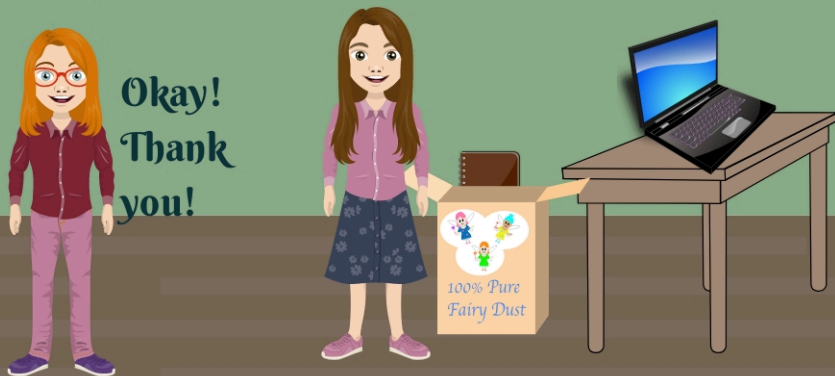
Honey! Wait up! I am going to get all sweaty!

Watch where you're going!

When she arrived, Ms. Willow said, “Amanda, would you like to see the new books now?” Amanda was so thrilled, she squealed, “Yay! Er... I mean yes, please!” Ms. Willow giggled, then walked behind her desk and pulled out a box labeled “Science Books to be shelved.”



Suddenly, as Ms. Willow was pulling out a book from the box, Amanda noticed the cover of a brown book and she saw a picture of a shiny, blue panel on a roof. She asked Ms. Willow, “What is this a picture of?” Ms. Willow kindly replied, “Oh, maybe you and your mother can check out some books to learn more.” So, Amanda checked out the solar panel books and they headed home.



Sarah stood up at the kitchen table to jot down a list of groceries. She said to Amanda, “Honey, you never showed me the books you checked out. But it is alright. I would be happy to see them now.” Amanda replied back as she took off her shoes, “Yeah, I was wondering if you could help explain to me what... solar panels are?” Sarah quickly said “Oh, I’m sorry but I have to go enter our grocery order in the office. I promise I will be ready in 20 minutes.” Amanda nodded and watched her mom head to the home office. Then, she came up with a fabulous idea; she could ask for help from her pet parrot, Ginger, and her pet cat, Luna!





First, she took Ginger out of her cage, woke Luna from her nap and let them play in the backyard. After they had explored, she said “Ginger, Luna? I really need your help. What exactly are solar panels?” Luna purred, “Solar panels are very important, Amanda. Ginger, why don’t you explain?”



Ginger puffed up her feathery chest and squawked, “Sure thing, Luna and Amanda! I notice these objects when I am high in the sky stretching my wings. Solar Panels are a type of technology that captures sunlight and converts it into electricity.”

“Right! I’ve seen those rectangles on some roofs when I was driving in the car with my mom!” Yelled Amanda. Out of nowhere, a bluebird flew onto the orange tree in Amanda’s back yard.



The bluebird said, “My name is Angel. Since I live in the wild making constant observations, I have seen and heard a little about solar panels. Would you like me to share a couple of facts?”



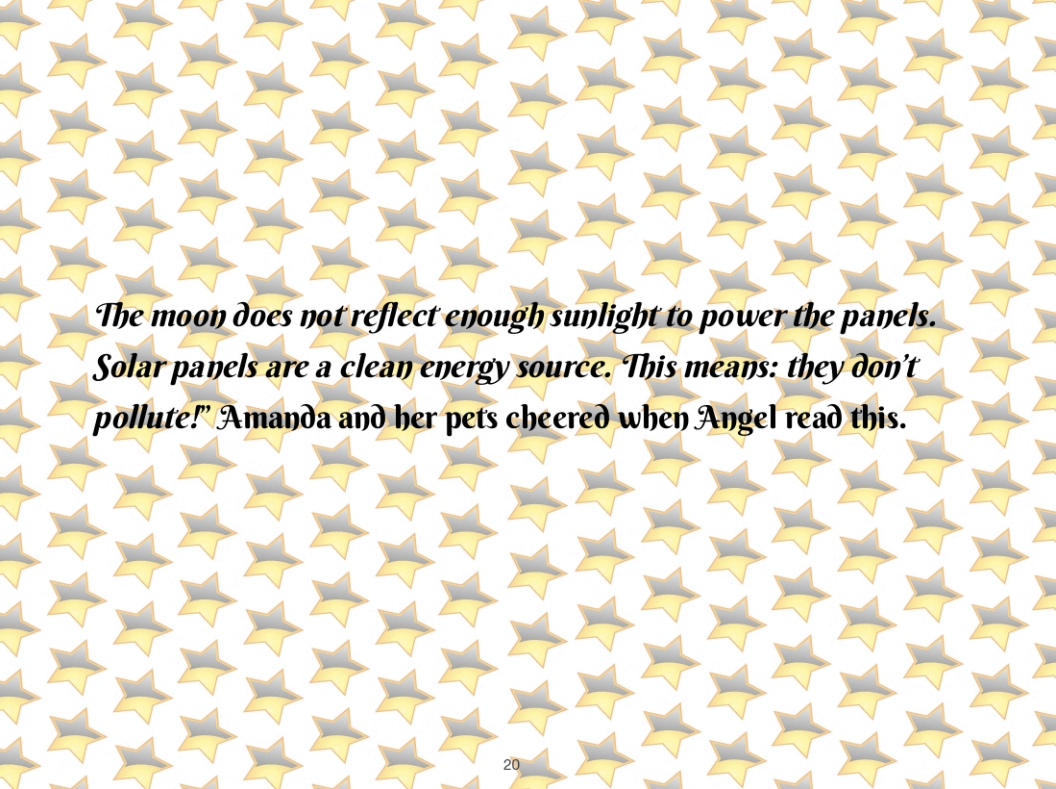
“Sure! Perhaps, can you also read one of my solar panel books from the library so we can learn more?” Amanda asked. Angel replied and tweeted with glee, “Sure, anything for a kind girl like you! Okay, where do we start?” Amanda walked inside and grabbed Ms. Willow’s solar panel book from the library and went back outside.

Amanda held out the book, “Here you go, Angel. I don’t know how to read, yet. I’m so happy you are able to help me.” Angel blushed and then chirped, “Thank you!”

Then Angel started reading to Luna, Ginger and Amanda:

“Do you know what a solar panel is? It includes mirrors to get energy from the sun! That is how solar panels got their name! Solar panels can not make power at night time because it is dark...”

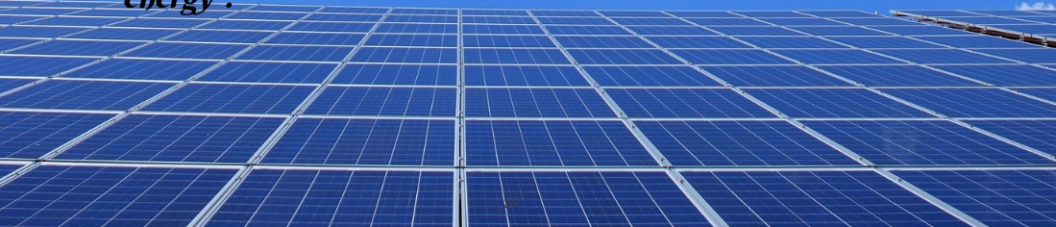
Then Amanda, Luna and Ginger yelled at the same time “What about the moon?!” Angel replied, “I am not done reading the book and I will answer that in a little bit, Okay? As I was saying, *solar panels don't work when it's night time or dark outside because the sun is not out.*



The moon does not reflect enough sunlight to power the panels. Solar panels are a clean energy source. This means: they don't pollute!" Amanda and her pets cheered when Angel read this.

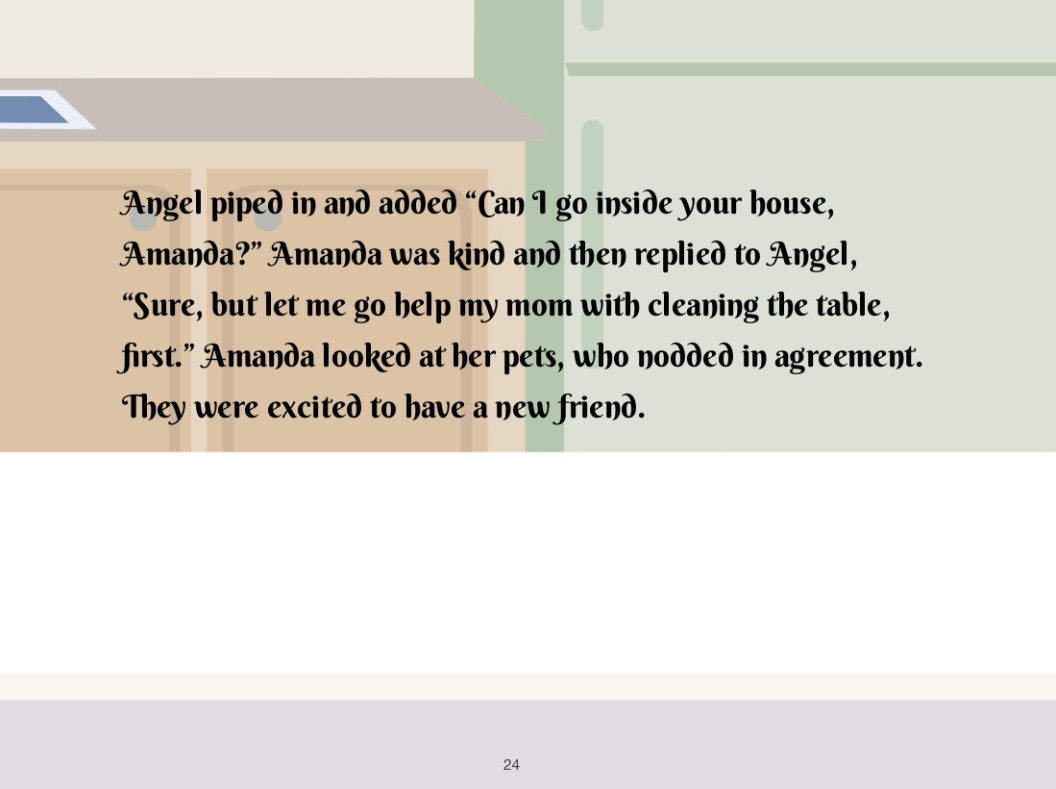
“Both companies and individual houses can purchase solar panels for their needs, but they are expensive. Someday, solar panels may provide a large part of our daily needs when it is less expensive to purchase these panels. How do panels provide the companies and houses with energy?”

Solar thermal power plants take the power collected from the panels and converts* it into electricity. Maybe the biggest advantage of solar power is that it's clean. A Lot of large cities have trouble with energy on hot, summery days. That is when solar power comes most in handy! Solar power is a *renewable* resource. Solar panels have monocrystalline cells in them. Solar panels are an example of solar thermal energy*.”*

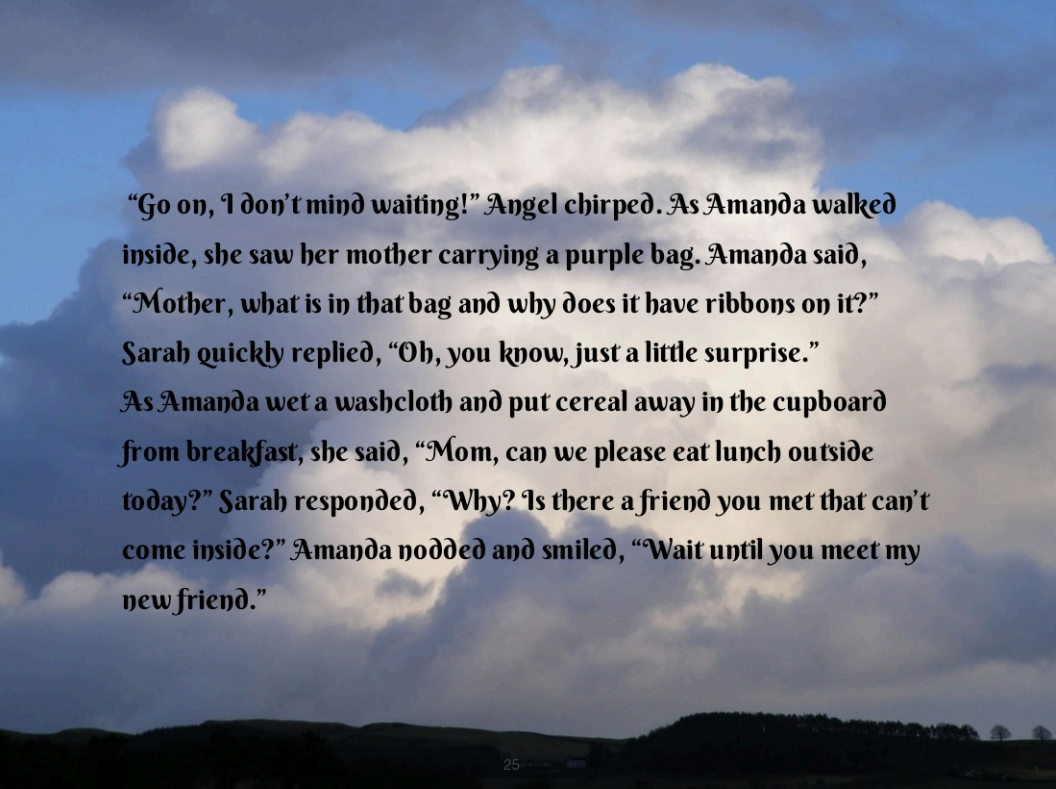


Then Amanda heard the sliding door open. Her mom was done with her grocery order! Amanda quickly said to Angel, “I will ask my mom if we can have lunch outside and introduce you and her to each other!”



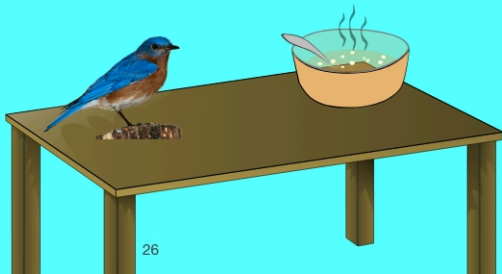


Angel piped in and added “Can I go inside your house, Amanda?” Amanda was kind and then replied to Angel, “Sure, but let me go help my mom with cleaning the table, first.” Amanda looked at her pets, who nodded in agreement. They were excited to have a new friend.



“Go on, I don’t mind waiting!” Angel chirped. As Amanda walked inside, she saw her mother carrying a purple bag. Amanda said, “Mother, what is in that bag and why does it have ribbons on it?” Sarah quickly replied, “Oh, you know, just a little surprise.” As Amanda wet a washcloth and put cereal away in the cupboard from breakfast, she said, “Mom, can we please eat lunch outside today?” Sarah responded, “Why? Is there a friend you met that can’t come inside?” Amanda nodded and smiled, “Wait until you meet my new friend.”

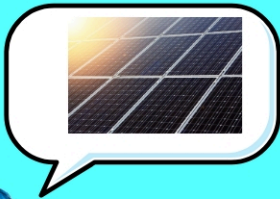
“Of course we can have lunch outside, Amanda, my girl!” Amanda probably jumped three feet in the air and screamed, “Thank you, Mom! Can I go outside with you now?!” Sarah, startled, whispered in Amanda’s ear, “Let’s eat soup for lunch.” Amanda got the bowls out and the soup container then went outside and held the door open for Sarah. Sarah walked outside, saw the bluebird and said, “I remember you from Cherry Park!” Angel replied, “Same here!”



**“Now who is hungry for some soup?!” Whistled Angel.
Amanda poured Sarah, Angel, Luna and Ginger some soup,
and then herself. Before Amanda could eat, she asked Angel,
“So, can you finish reading the solar panel book?”**



Angel squealed, “Sure thing!” As she picked up the book off the table, Sarah blurted out, “I knitted everyone something when Amanda was washing the table and putting cereal away from this morning's breakfast! For all of us, let me get it! Oh, first, Amanda? I knew Angel was telling you about solar panels!”



Amanda was paying attention and responded, “How? Why? And when?!” Sarah replied, “Oh, yeah, heh heh! When I was placing the grocery order on my computer, I opened the window and Angel flew in. I told Angel about you. Then, Angel told you about solar panels. Now let me go get the gifts, Amanda, my sweet pea!” As she walked inside to get the gifts and then back outside with the surprise gifts, everyone was delighted. Everyone wore their gifts with pride.



Amanda had so much fun on Saturday, that she forgot Monday was Career Day at school! She told her mom she was so busy the past two days she forgot about the special day at school. And even worse, she had not decided what to wear! Sarah kindly responded, a “Oh, sweetie! I know what you can be! You can be a “solar power installation lady!”

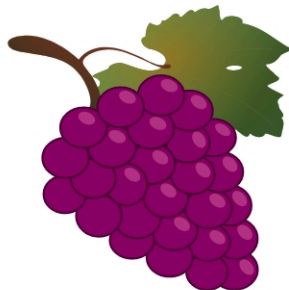
Amanda loved the suggestion and asked, “Mom, can we make the costume now? We can use the shirt you knitted for me!”

“Great idea, cherry blossom!” Amanda, now thrilled, said, “Can we start right now? Please?” Sarah made up her mind and responded, “Sure, I will get Angel to help!” “Great idea!”

Amanda whistled in the backyard and Angel came swooping in and landed on her favorite orange tree branch. “Would you like to come inside and help Luna, Ginger, and me make Amanda’s costume for Monday?”

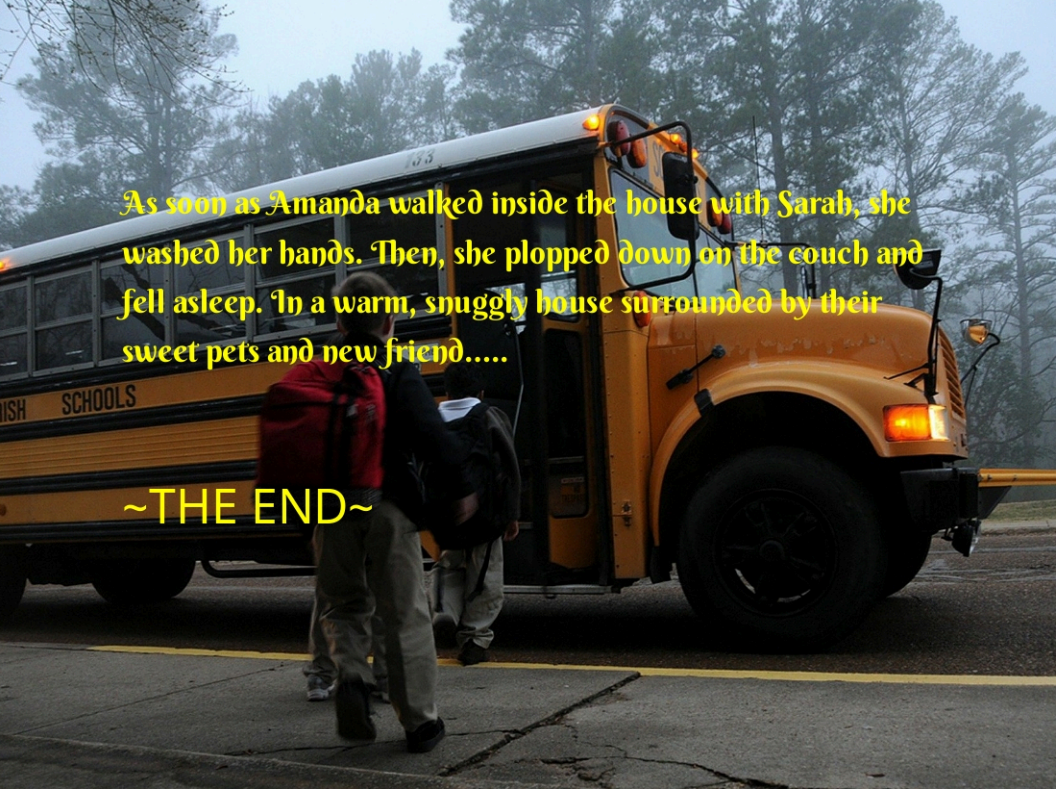
Angel tweeted, “Sure!” Then they all went inside, grabbed scissors and fabric and snipped. They all ate Sunday dinner to relax after their project. Angel stayed the night with her new friends. They went to bed then woke up on Monday morning. Amanda woke up her mom, Luna, Ginger and Angel, “Time for breakfast!” So, Sarah heated up some oatmeal, which Amanda plowed down in her excitement to get to school.

The pets enjoyed some oatmeal and berries, too! Some of the oatmeal got stuck on Luna's whiskers. Amanda gently helped Luna clean up before she said goodbye for school. Sarah slipped on her shoes, then walked outside with Amanda who was wearing her costume. The school bus came and picked her up then drove to school.



Now that the bus had gone, Sarah walked back inside, turned on the tv and... fell asleep.

She slept through lunch and woke up as she heard the bus honk. She got off the couch and raced outside. She was excited for Amanda because she saw that Amanda had won the “Career Day Costume Competition!”



As soon as Amanda walked inside the house with Sarah, she washed her hands. Then, she plopped down on the couch and fell asleep. In a warm, snuggly house surrounded by their sweet pets and new friend.....

~THE END~

GLOSSARY

Converts: Changes its form or use

Solar thermal powerplants: Solar thermal energy gets **converted** into electricity

Renewable: An object you can reuse, such as a water bottle

Solar thermal energy: A form of energy and a technology for harnessing solar energy to generate thermal energy

*Each word in this story that has a *star* next to it, is a word that is in the glossary.*



All About The Author

Madeleine is the author of, "Angel, the "Solar Bird." She lives in Fort Mill, SC and adores animals. She has two pet gerbils, one black and one white named Snowball & Licorice. Madeleine's birthday is December 7. She plays the ukulele and her first recital was on November 14, 2020. She wants to work at a restaurant when she is older and also be an artist. Her enjoyable hobbies are reading, writing, drawing, and shopping. Madeleine's favorite sport is soccer. She likes learning new things. Writing a book for kids throughout the world made her really, happy!





**I hope you liked the story! If
you did, be sure to share it with
your friends & family.**

MGB

If you liked learning about solar power and solar PANELS; then be sure to visit your local library today to check out some books.
Happy learning!_MGB



**If you have ever wondered what
solar panels are and why everyone
is talking about them, open the book...**



***- A good story that brings
laughter & joy to the whole
family***



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