

# **Voice Like An Angel**

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## **Table of Contents**

[Chapter 1 The Smith Family](#)

[Chapter 2 Time for School](#)

[Chapter 3 First Words](#)

[Chapter 4 Open House](#)

[Chapter 5 "Bluebirds"](#)

# **Voice Like An Angel**

## **Chapter 1 The Smith Family**

Gwen and Bob Smith had been married for two years. Gwen worked in a grocery store. She was friendly and she liked helping the customers. Customers liked to talk with Gwen when they saw her in the store.

Bob worked as a carpenter. His father had worked with wood in his spare time. Bob learned a lot about woodworking from his father. He went to college so he could do carpenter work full time.

Gwen and Bob rented an apartment for two years. When they had enough money they moved into a small bouse. The bouse needed a lot of work. Bob and Gwen worked bard to make the house look nice. Bob said, "I'm glad I can do the carpenter work myself."

Soon after they moved into the house, Gwen bad a baby boy. They named him Mark after Bob's father. Mark was a fussy baby for the first three months. After that be settled down. He began to eat better and sleep longer. Bob laughed and said to Gwen, "Now you can sleep longer, too!"

Mark was a happy little three-year-old when his brother Danny was born. Danny was a happy baby. He loved to be held. Mark liked to hold his brother and play with him.

Both boys had started school when a surprise baby came along! Gwen and Bob hadn't planned to have a third child. The baby was born two months early. She was tiny but she was healthy.



The boys loved their little sister. They fed her and played with her. They helped with her bath. They held her if she was crying. The only thing the boys wouldn't do was change the dirty diapers!

Angela hardly ever cried. When she did cry, it was a very soft sound. Someone was always there to pick her up. She would smile right away.

When Angela was born, Gwen stopped working at the store. She said she wanted to stay home all the time with Angela. She wanted to have more time for Bob and the boys, too.

After awhile Gwen and Bob noticed that Angela didn't make many sounds. When she wanted something, she made a little sound. She pointed her finger at what she wanted. Mark and Danny ran to help her. They always knew what she wanted.

Gwen was worried. She took Angela to the doctor. The doctor told her not to worry. He said, "Some children start to talk a little later."

When Angela was three years old, she made some sounds. She didn't say any words. Gwen and Bob took Angela to their doctor again. The doctor gave Angela a longer checkup, and did more tests. He told Gwen and Bob that he couldn't find anything wrong with Angela.

"Just give her time," the doctor said. "She will talk when she is ready."

## **Chapter 2 Time for School**

When Angela was five, Gwen took her to the school for the pre-kindergarten meeting. The teacher took Angela to the sand table. Gwen told the teacher, Mrs. Watson, that Angela wasn't talking yet. Mrs. Watson said to Gwen, "Children do things when they are ready. Give me a call in a week or two. I'll let you know how Angela is doing. I'll take a few minutes now to do some things with Angela."

That night Gwen and Bob talked about the meeting. Gwen said, "I was hoping Angela would talk to the teacher. She didn't talk at all. I'm worried. What will we do if she doesn't talk soon?"

Bob said, "I hope going to school will help Angela. Maybe the other children will get her talking. We can't lose hope."

On the first day of school, Angela was happy to go with Mark and Danny! She waved to her mother and smiled. Mark and Danny took Angela by the hand, and away they went. Gwen said to herself, "Oh! I hope Angela will be okay. I hope she will talk soon."

Angela liked school very much. She ran out of the house every morning. She pulled Mark and Danny to make them go faster! Every morning she smiled at Mrs. Watson. She did all the things the children were asked to do. She never said a word.



Angela liked art and music the best. She liked to paint and color. She made beautiful bright pictures. At home she showed her pictures to Gwen and Bob. She smiled a lot and pointed to things in the pictures. She never said a word.

Sometimes Gwen and Bob talked to Angela's teacher. Mrs. Watson said, "The speech therapist is working with Angela. Angela likes the speech therapist. Angela is making more sounds, but she hasn't said any words yet. Try not to worry."

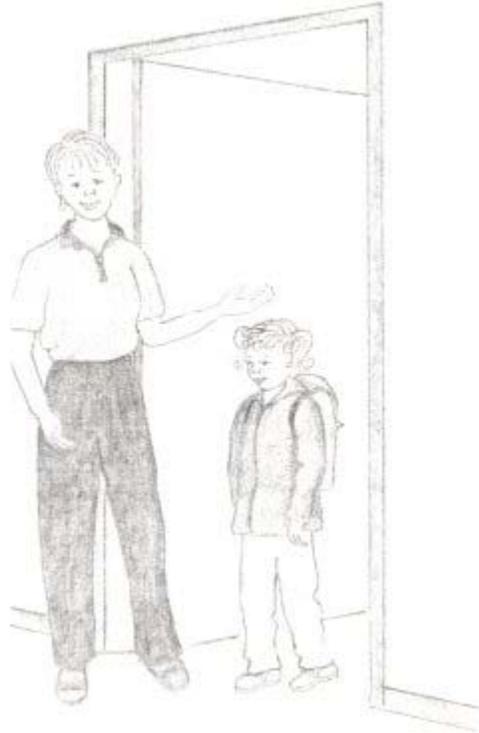
Christmas was coming. All the classes in the school put on a program for the parents. Angela wore a beautiful red dress and shiny black shoes. The kindergarten class went up to the front to sing their songs. The children were excited. It was hard for them to stand still to sing! Angela stood with the other children.

It was time to sing their song. The teacher stood in front of the class to help the children get started. Suddenly the teacher saw that Angela's lips were moving. Mrs. Watson turned her head a little to see if she could hear anything. She couldn't tell if there were any words. She told Gwen and Bob about it later. Bob said, "Maybe that's a start."

After Christmas, the children went back to school. Angela's teacher asked all the children to tell something about their Christmas. The children had a lot to say. Angela just smiled.

That afternoon Mrs. Watson took the children to the music room. The children started singing. Suddenly the teacher heard a beautiful sweet sound. She looked at Angela. Angela saw the teacher looking at her. She stopped moving her lips. She looked down at her feet.

## Chapter 3 First Words



Weeks went by. The kindergarten class was busy and happy. One morning Mrs. Watson was standing beside the door. The children came in. As they went by, many of them said hello to their teacher. When Angela walked by, she didn't stop or look at the teacher. In a soft voice she said, "Good morning."

Soon it was time for music class. The children walked to the music room. Mrs. Watson thought she heard a soft humming sound when Angela walked by. The teacher thought, "That sounds like the tune to 'Bluebirds'. We'll sing that one today!"

When the class was almost over, Mrs. Watson played the tune to "Bluebirds". It was one of the songs the children liked best. The children started to sing. The teacher looked at Angela. The little girl's lips were moving and smiling. The teacher was sure she heard a beautiful sweet sound. She didn't say anything to Angela, but she was very hopeful.

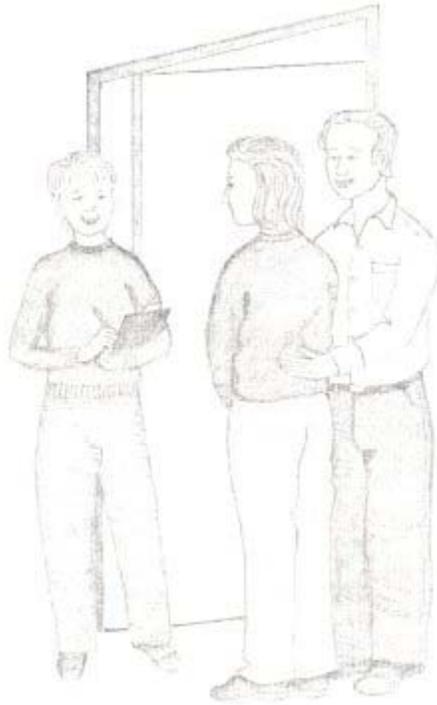
Two or three days later, Angela and another girl were playing at the sand table. The teacher walked around the room. She passed the sand table. She heard two soft little voices humming the tune to "Bluebirds". The teacher softly started to sing the words. The two little voices started to sing the words, too. The teacher was excited and hopeful, but she didn't say anything.

The teacher and the speech therapist worked hard every day with Angela. They had many ideas and they made many plans. Sometimes Angela would say, "Good morning". Sometimes she wouldn't. The speech therapist sang some of the kindergarten songs. Angela started to sing softly with her. Angela's voice was very beautiful.

## Chapter 4 Open house

A few weeks later, the school had "Open House". The parents could come into the room. They could see what the children were doing. The teacher made sure that Angela went to the sand table with one of her friends. She watched to see if the two little girls were singing. She said softly to Gwen and Bob, "Follow me please. Don't say anything."

The teacher led Gwen and Bob to the sand table. They walked slowly by. Gwen and Bob heard Angela's soft sweet voice singing with her friend. Gwen and Bob walked by. They kept walking until they were out in the hallway.



Gwen and Bob both started to talk at once! "Has she done this before? Does she speak to you? Does she talk to the other children? When did you first hear her?" The teacher laughed. "Just a minute," she said, "one question at a time!"

The teacher said, "The first school day after Christmas, I thought I heard Angela singing. I wasn't sure. Some time after that Angela said, 'Good morning!' to me."

Bob and Gwen were excited and hopeful. Bob said to the teacher, "Thank you for your work with Angela! Now we know that she can sing and say words. It's hard for us to wait for her to talk. She still doesn't say any words at home."

## Chapter 5 "Bluebirds"

The school year would soon be over. Angela's class was getting ready for the last day of school. The parents would come. The children would have a program for their parents. Some would speak and some would sing. The teacher and the speech therapist worked hard with Angela. The teacher sang songs with Angela and her friend at the sand table. The therapist sang songs with Angela. Angela sang softly while she looked down at her shoes. She said, "Good morning!" to Mrs. Watson. Sometimes she said a few words to one of the other children.

The morning of the program, all the Smith children were excited. Mark and Danny were glad school would soon be over. Angela could hardly wait to go to school. On the way out the door, Angela stopped. She turned around and looked at her Mom and Dad. She said softly, "Today is my big day!"

Then she ran off to school with the boys.

Gwen and Bob were happy and excited! Gwen wanted to run after Angela. She wanted to hear Angela say more words. Bob said, "Let her go. She'll do things when she's ready. We have to wait."

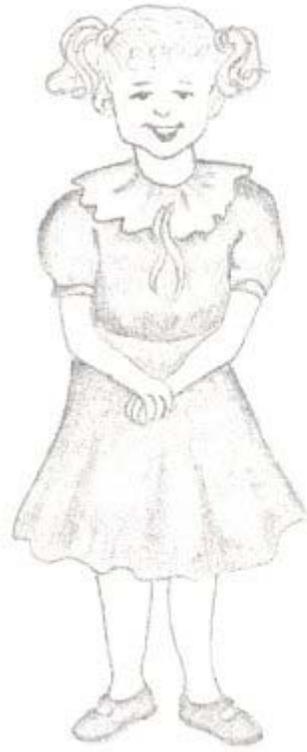
Gwen and Bob were excited about the program. They went to Angela's classroom. Gwen tried to sit still. Bob held Gwen's hand. He said, "Take it easy! It will be okay! Remember she told us it is her big day!"

The children put on their program. It was time for the last song. It was the song Angela liked best. She had been singing it over and over with the speech therapist. The children started to sing. Angela's lips moved. Gwen and Bob couldn't hear her voice. The song was over. Mrs. Watson looked at Angela and nodded her head. Mrs. Watson started to play the tune to the song again. The other children stood quietly.

Suddenly Angela started to sing. The words came, softly and sweetly.  
The sound was as clear as tiny bells.

Bluebirds, spread your wings and fly  
Way up high in the clear blue sky.  
When you sing, we sing along,  
Bluebirds sing your sweetest song.

Sing those notes so wild and sweet;  
One day soon again we'll meet.  
Bluebirds, spread your wings and fly  
Way up high in the clear blue sky.



Angela stopped singing. The room was quiet. Then everyone started to smile and clap! Bob put his arms around Gwen. They hugged each other and smiled.

The program was over. The children ran to their parents. Angela ran to Gwen and Bob. She put her hands on their arms. She looked up into their smiling faces. "See," she said, "I told you this is my big day!"

Parents and children started to go. They walked past Gwen, Bob and Angela. Some of them gave Gwen a hug. Some of them shook Bob's hand. They all spoke to Angela. They said they liked her beautiful singing. One of the parents said, "Angela, you have a voice like an angel!"

Angela just smiled and said, "It's my big day."

It was the start of summer holidays. Angela started to say a few words to her family. By the time summer was half over, she was talking almost as much as other six-year-olds. She sang the songs she had learned in kindergarten. She talked more and more. One day she talked a lot. Mark said, "Oh, wow! I think it was better when she didn't talk so much!"

Everyone laughed, even Angela!

Dedicated to my parents  
Mary and Joseph Carson  
for their care and encouragement

This book is not based on the lives  
of specific people.