

Smarty Britches: Nouns

by Cyndie Sebourn

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Hello, my friends! Put on your Smarty Britches and come learn **NOUNS** with me!

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It is a great morning in Arkansas, and I am excited! I know what I will do...I will dress smart!

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As I pick up my Smarty Britches, I hear them whispering, “A **NOUN** is a person, animal, place, thing, or idea.” The whispers make me think about all of the awesome **NOUNS** in my life.

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My mom is a **PEOPLE NOUN**. I love the way her voice sounds when she says, “Hey there, little boy, I sure do love you.” When people visit Arkansas from other places, they say that my mom has a southern accent. She’s my beautiful, southern **PEOPLE NOUN**.

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Dad is a southern musical person, so he’s a **PEOPLE NOUN**, too! He pretends he is the Man in Black or the King of Rock and Roll as he plays the guitar and sings. Mommy’s eyes sparkle when he sings to her. My dad is a muscled up, musical **PEOPLE NOUN**.

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My dog Charlie is a yellow lab, so he is an **ANIMAL NOUN**. When Dad and I are playing ball, Charlie sometimes steals the ball and runs away. I laugh as I chase my bow wow **ANIMAL NOUN**.

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A raccoon is an animal, and my Poppy has a lot of raccoons in the woods by his house. The mom and dad raccoons sometimes climb the stairs of the tall deck behind Poppy's house and bring all of their babies with them.

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Poppy catches them in cages, and he lets me go with him to take the raccoon family to a new home in the woods of Hot Springs Village. Then Poppy laughs and says, "I am pooped out tired!" That Poppy of mine is a funny mess! Raccoons are pesky animals, so raccoons are **ANIMAL NOUNS** that poop out Poppy.

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Arkansas is the state where we live, so it is a **PLACE NOUN**. Mom and Dad's favorite football team is the Razorbacks. A Razorback is another name for a hog. When a game begins, Mom and Dad yell, "Go Hogs Go!" and Dad will call me his Little Hog. Oink, **Oink!**

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When their team wins, Dad says he is in Hog Heaven. Hog Heaven is a make believe **PLACE NOUN** where Dad goes when his Hogs win.

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My room is a super special **PLACE NOUN** where I go on many adventures. I sail the Arkansas River, and I catch gigantic Catfish. I can be...whatever I want to be...whenever I want to be it.

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My clothes are things, so my britches are **THING NOUNS**. When I outgrow my pants, Mom laughs and says, “You are getting too big for your britches, Jackson!” I guess my Smarty Britches became Shorty Britches! We go shopping.

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I found a pair of britches that I wanted to buy, but Mom said, “No.” At first I was angry. I **really** wanted to buy those britches! Then I told Mom that I was sorry for being angry. My britches are southern pants, and pants are **THING NOUNS** that I quickly outgrow.

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Love is something inside of me that I cannot touch, and when you cannot touch it, it is an **IDEA NOUN**. Even though I cannot touch love, I can feel it deep inside of me. Love is a good feeling in the pit of my belly **IDEA NOUN**.

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Love is an **IDEA NOUN** that makes me think of all of my other **NOUNS** because...

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I love Mom and Dad and Poppy: **PEOPLE NOUNS**.

I love my dog Charlie, and sometimes I love those pesky raccoons: **ANIMAL NOUNS**.

I love my bedroom, and I love the state of Arkansas: **PLACE NOUNS**.

I **really really really** love my Smarty Britches: **THING NOUNS**.

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At the end of this exhausting day, my brain dances with the Noun Smarts! Before I crawl into bed, I kneel down and whisper...

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Now I lay me down to sleep,

But the **NOUNS** are in my head to keep;

I want my Smarty Britches to stay,

And teach me something new each day!