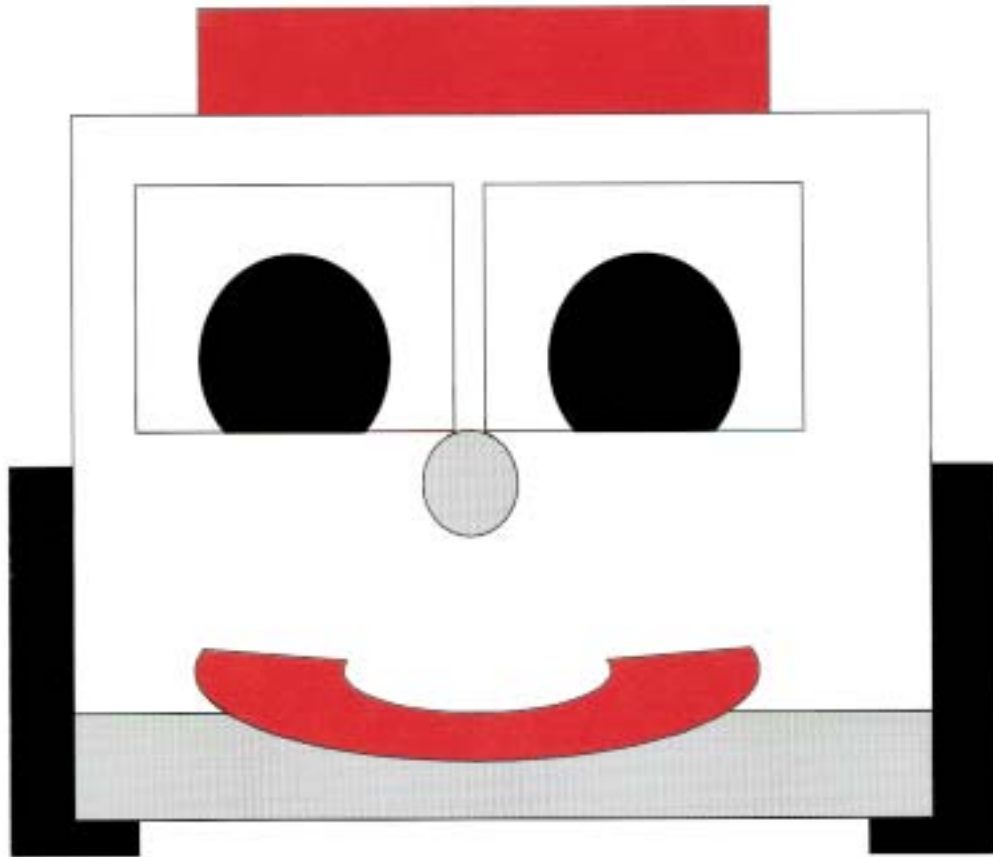


# Ready Freddy the Fire Engine and the False Alarm



Ready Freddy was a bright and shiny fire engine. He worked at the fire station on Fourth Avenue. His job was to take the firefighters to fires and other emergencies.

Ready Freddy knew that the sooner he could get to a fire, the sooner the firefighters would be able to put it out.

But Ready Freddy never went down the street too fast. He knew that going too fast could cause an accident and that people might get hurt. It made Ready Freddy very sad whenever people were hurt.

Instead, Ready Freddy was always ready. He knew that if he was ready to go, that he and the firefighters would be able to be on their way. They would be able to put out a fire before it got really big. They would be able to help people who were hurt sooner.

Ready Freddy parked in a special place at the fire station so that he could pull out quickly. He faced the street so that he could move straight ahead.

Even when Ready Freddy and the firefighters were finished putting out a fire or helping people who had been hurt, they got ready again right away, just in case somebody needed them right away.

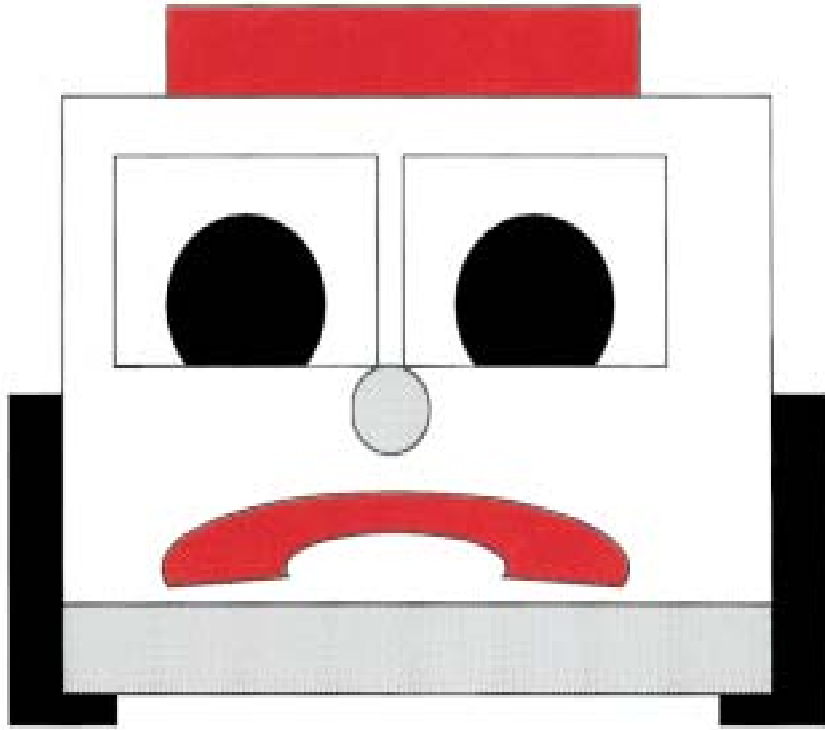
One day, the firefighters were washing and waxing Freddy. Ready Freddy liked to be very bright and shiny almost as much as he liked to be ready. All of a sudden, the alarm sounded. Ready Freddy and the firefighters knew that somebody needed them. The firefighters dropped their sponges and towels and took off with Freddy. The dispatcher told them that someone had pulled the fire alarm at Felicita School. "Oh, no," thought Ready Freddy. "A fire at Felicita School."

Ready Freddy had lots of friends at Felicita School. Ready Freddy was glad that he and the firefighters had been ready so that they could get there sooner. He was glad they were on their way so that they could put out the fire before the fire got too big. Ready Freddy didn't want any of his friends to get hurt.

Ready Freddy and the firefighters drove around the corner and saw the school. They were glad to be there so fast. They pulled up in front of the school. They were glad that all the boys and girls were outside, waiting safely in line. The firefighters jumped out. They didn't see smoke and they needed to find out where the fire was so that they could start putting it out. They looked everywhere. But they couldn't find a fire.

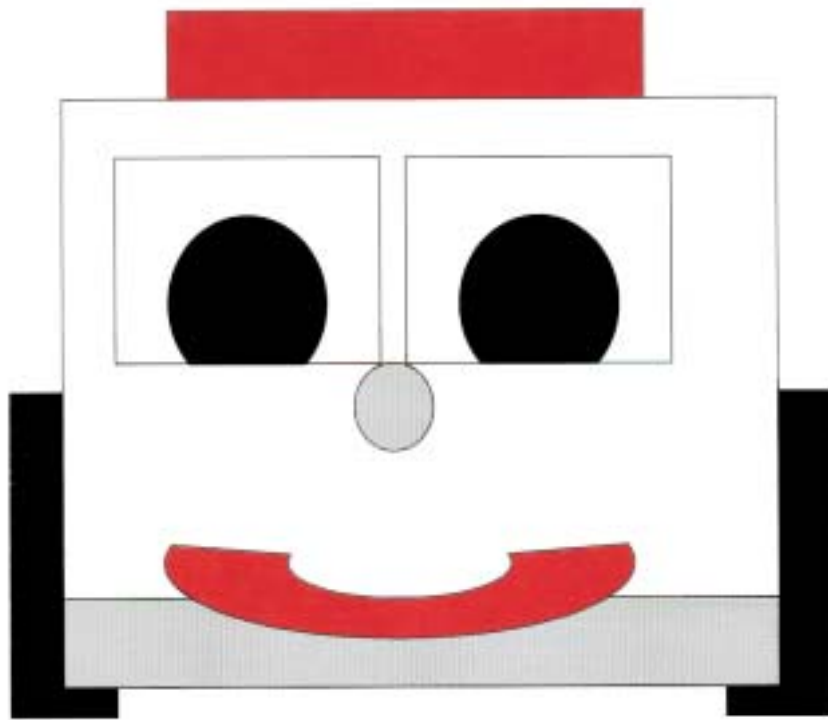
While the firefighters were looking for the fire, they heard a call. There was another fire. Somebody needed help, but Ready Freddy and the firefighters were still at the school. They weren't ready to go to the other fire. Another fire engine, from a fire station farther away, would have to go to the fire.

Finally, somebody told a teacher that he saw somebody else pull the alarm. It was Andy, he said. Andy thought that pulling the alarm was a fun thing to do. If he pulled the alarm, he knew that all the students would have to stop what they were doing and line up outside. He knew that a fire engine would drive up. Andy thought it was all very exciting.



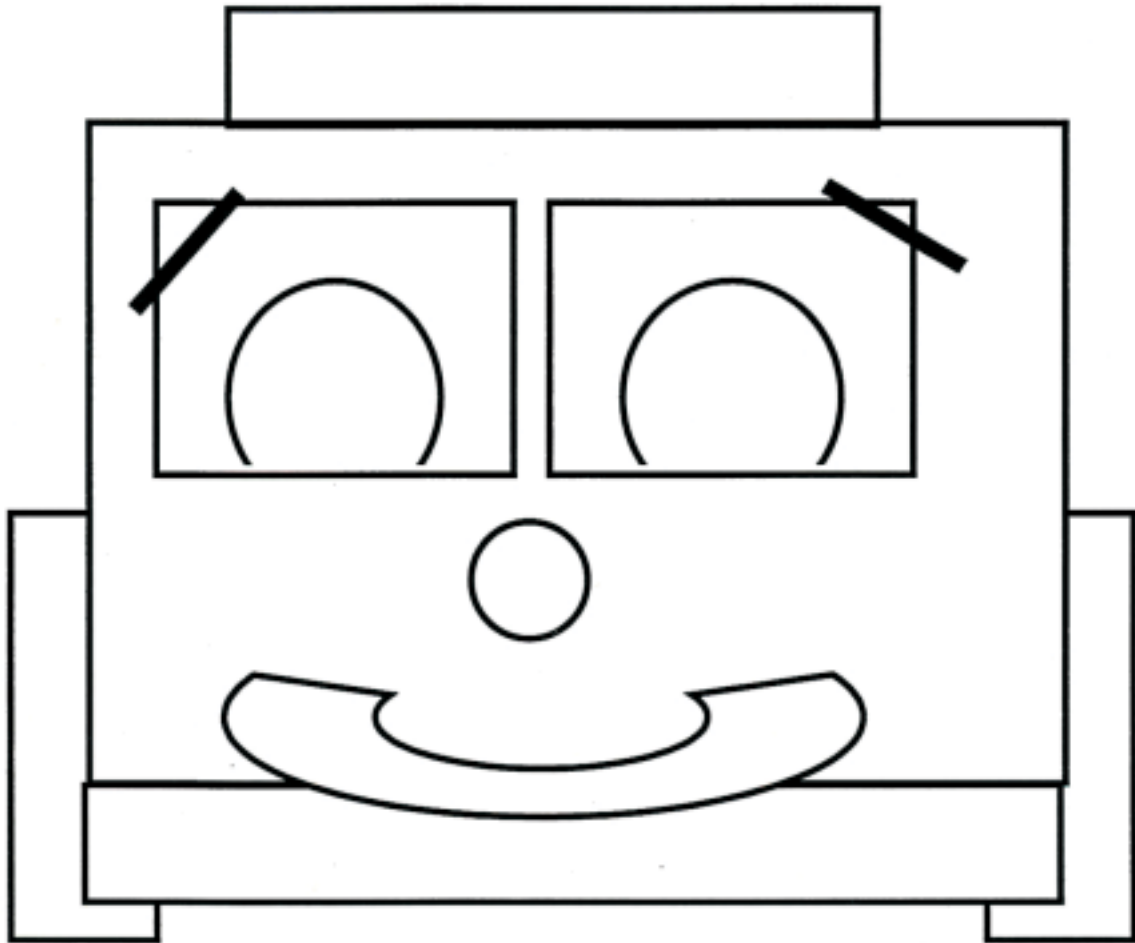
Ready Freddy was very sad. So were the firefighters. They all liked being ready to help people who really need help. Freddy wished Andy hadn't pulled the alarm for fun. The firefighters wished Andy hadn't pulled the alarm for fun. Everyone was very sad.

When Ready Freddy and the firefighters got back to the fire station, they decided to think of a way to teach children not to pull the fire alarm unless there was a real fire. They thought and they thought. Finally, Freddy said he had an idea. He said that they should write a story about what had happened. The firefighters liked Ready Freddy's idea. So they wrote this story.



THE END.

**Ready Freddy  
The Fire Engine Says:**



**Fire alarms are for  
real fires, only!**