

# Champ



Champ is a pony with a long mane and forelock. He has spots on his rump and a white blaze on his nose.

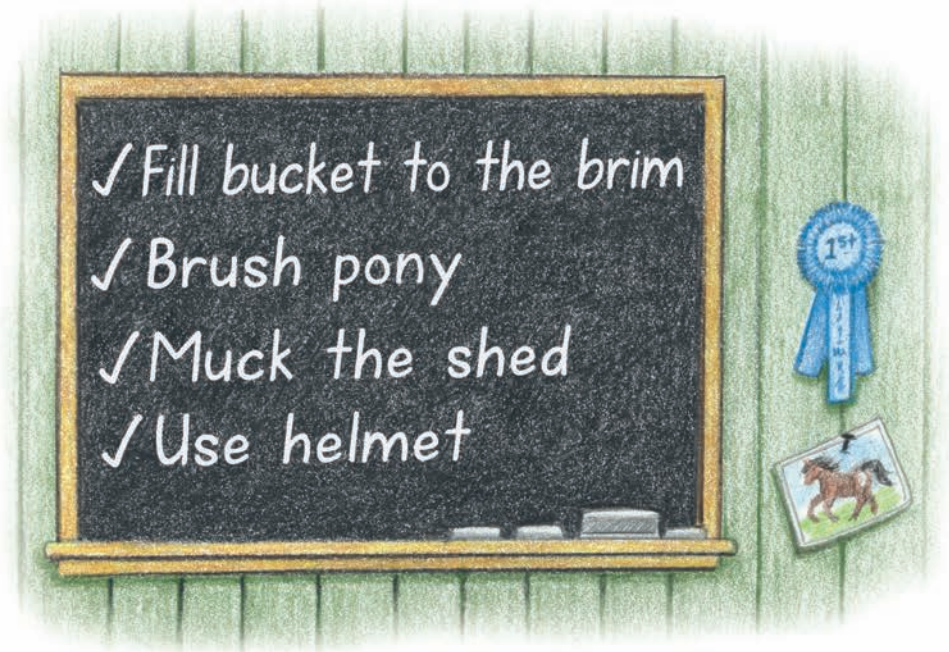


Champ's brushes sit on a shelf. His ropes hang on a peg and his blankets rest on a trunk.

Clare takes care of Champ.



Her list of chores hangs in the shed.



When Clare checks off the last item, she and Champ can go for a ride.

Clare stands on a bench to get on Champ's back. He stands still while she gets on.

Clare rides Champ for miles.



Clare and Champ stop to rest by a lake. The pony dips his nose in the lake and takes a drink.



Clare wades in the lake. She spots a pile of sticks by the shore. Clare thinks that the hill is a den made by a muskrat.



Yes! It *is* home to a muskrat! Swish!  
The muskrat dives in.

Time for lunch. Clare sits in the grass with a sandwich and grapes.

A chipmunk comes close. Clare tempts him with a grape. He sniffs it.

Then, quick as a flash, the chipmunk grabs the grape and dashes off with it.



Clare is glad to spend time with Champ. She trusts Champ and Champ trusts her.

The pony munches on the grass. The grass has a fresh smell that Clare likes.

Insects buzz and frogs chime in. A robin adds his song.



Then it is silent.



Crash!

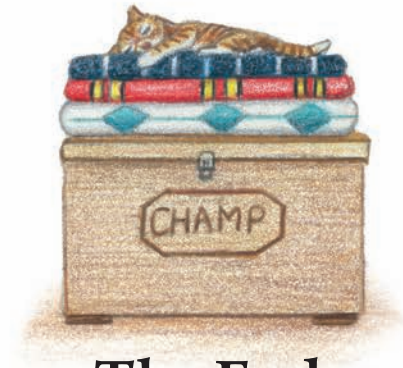
“Run like the wind, Champ!”

Clare pretends that Champ is a fast mustang as he runs back to the ranch. Drops begin to splash them. Clare hangs on to Champ’s neck and smiles into the wet wind.



Champ is brave and gets them home safe. Clare hugs her pony.

“Thank you, Champ!”



**The End**





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