

## Ted's Terrific Test Part One



Edward, who was known as 'Ted' to his friends, had just celebrated his ninth birthday. This golden friendly bear made a promise that day: to make his last year before he was ten years old extra special.

For, Edward had a secret ambition. Every night, after school, he would pass the Teddington Town sign, showcasing the members of the Academic society. Wistfully, Ted stared. His greatest wish was for himself to appear alongside these knowledgeable special bears-known as 'The Elders'- the experts in all subjects. No bear cub had ever joined the society but this should change! He wished that he could become the youngest ever bear to be accepted and often imagined appearing in the world records book!

His mind was set. This would be his year.



Initially, Ted decided to visit his friends for advice.

Beyond the rolling emerald hills of Teddington, there was a mysterious, strange pool (named Blackwater) that was home to Ted's four friends: Moby Duck, Tilly Blue, Robin Red and Ozzy the owl. Unusually, Ozzy had a unique quality of being able to carry a plant on his wide back that brightened the waters of Blackwater.

His four feathery friends listened to Ted's tale and hopes, suggesting he should borrow books from Teddington library and use the internet to keep studying for the society's entrance exam.

However, Ted noticed something was wrong.

"Why is Ozzy so sad?" asked Ted, greatly concerned.

"It's Ozzy's plant- it's gone missing!" chirped Moby Duck.

"Unless we find another replacement, then the water will remain black and colourless and no one will visit us!" added Tilly Blue, sadly. Upon hearing this worrying information, Ted was struck with an idea...



Yet, first, it was time for the 'bare necessities.' Arming himself with double the amount of honey, which was necessary for the challenge (and many hours of working) ahead, Ted worked hard to absorb lots of different knowledge, like a sponge. He had a lot of work to do but he was determined!

Many days and nights passed until it was time for the exam. Ted tried his very best and aimed high, almost to the clouds! Yet, despite passing the test with 'an outstanding merit,' Ted received a letter telling him that he was unsuccessful in his application to join the Academic Society. Ted was upset.



Upset but determined as ever, Ted decided to still help with Ozzy's problem. He'd seen the most beautiful delicate green plant, that would be perfect for Ozzy, at a local house that he'd visited.

However, first he had to discover a way past the sleeping guard dog. His similar, toffee coloured fur suggested to Ted that he could be a fellow teddy and friend. However, Ted had a great fear of guard dogs as he knew they could become too excited when meeting new teddies and therefore, he would be risking his life. He needed to find a way to get past this lovely but playful puppy without being seen...