

Terrence wanted to be the first eleven-year-old pilot to circle the world by helicopter. Many young boys and girls had flown a plane around the world with the help of an adult, but Terrence wanted to do it solo or, in other words, alone. The only problem with this idea was that Terrence had never ridden in a helicopter, much less flown one.

"I wish I could fly a helicopter around the world and be famous. I bet I would be friends with big stars if I were famous," said Terrence.

"When can I take lessons to learn how to fly a helicopter, Mom?" asked Terrence. "Well, Terrence, I don't know. Maybe for your big Christmas present your father and I will give you a helicopter ride. I know we cannot afford flying lessons because your father called the airfield and they told him it would cost over five hundred dollars for three months of flying lessons. You know that's just too expensive for us. You could save your allowance and get a part-time job to pay for it yourself, if you wanted to," said Mom.

Terrence agreed with his mother but he was still disappointed. He felt as though his dream would never come true because it would take so long for him to save up the money for lessons. His mother and father both worked very hard to pay the rent for their small apartment and Terrence knew it would be cruel to make them feel guilty for not being able to afford frivolous flying lessons.

One afternoon, Dad came home with good news. He had bought Terrence a ticket for a ride in a helicopter. "Thank you so much," said Terrence. "Well, son, I just got a raise at work. I thought I would buy you a ride in a helicopter. I know that you have always wanted one," said his father.

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On Saturday, Dad took Terrence to the airfield and watched him 329  
board the helicopter. "Put on your helmet, please, Terrence," said the 340  
flight instructor. Terrence put it on and soon they were in the air! 353  
Terrence looked down and saw his father on the ground. He looked 365  
like a tiny little ant. He waved at his father, then looked toward the 379  
magnificent sky, knowing that some day he would be a professional 390  
pilot. 391