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Nate the Great and the Tardy Tortoise

by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat and Craig Sharmat
illustrated by Marc Simont

World's Greatest Detective!
Adapted from the original text, *Nate the Great and the Tardy Tortoise*, written by Marjorie and Craig Sharmat, illustrated by Marc Simont.
Nate looked out the window.

A tortoise was eating flowers in the garden.
Adapted from the original text, *Nate the Great and the Tardy Tortoise*, written by Marjorie and Craig Sharmat, illustrated by Marc Simont.
The tortoise must know where he lives.

The tortoise is lost.

The tortoise needs help.
Nate will help the tortoise find his home.

Nate tells his mom he is leaving.

Nate puts the tortoise in a box.
Nate wonders where the tortoise lives.

The tortoise is slow. Maybe he was not far from his home.

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Nate and Sludge walked to Rosamond’s house.

There was a trail of crumbs.

Rosamond opened the door.

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Rosamond's four cats were eating the crumbs.

The tortoise is not Rosamond's.

Rosamond thinks the tortoise maybe belongs to Claude.
Claude is always missing something.

Claude is not missing a tortoise.

Claude is missing a sock.
Adapted from the original text, *Nate the Great and the Tardy Tortoise*, written by Marjorie and Craig Sharmat, illustrated by Marc Simont.

Claude wants Nate to find his sock.

Nate has bigger problems to solve.

Nate and Sludge go home to eat breakfast.

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Nate takes the tortoise out of the box.

The tortoise crawls around the kitchen.

Nate needs a clue.

Nate wonders what he knows about the tortoise.
Did the tortoise have a family?

What does the tortoise like to do?

Nate knows the tortoise is slow and likes flowers.

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Nate knows that the tortoise is just a pet.

Nate has an idea!

Nate puts the tortoise in the box.
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Nate and Sludge hurry to the vet.

There may be a record of where the tortoise lives.

The waiting room is full of dogs, cats and people.
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Many reptiles at the vet have sharp fangs.

Nate does not want to see any more bites today.

Bite! Maybe that was a clue.
The case started with the tortoise biting Nate's flowers.

Next was the trail of crumbs.

Did the trail mean something?
Nate and Sludge are looking for a trail of bite marks on the flowers!

Nate and Sludge rushed home.

Nate and Sludge went into the yard.

Adapted from the original text, *Nate the Great and the Tardy Tortoise*, written by Marjorie and Craig Sharmat, illustrated by Marc Simont.
There are bite marks shaped like U.

The tortoise ate his way to the yard.

Nate and Sludge will follow the trail of flower bites.

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The trail lead to another yard.

Nate thought this was easy.

The bites led them to another yard.

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Nate and Sludge are in another yard.

This yard was full of rocks.

There was something bright on the ground.
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Claude's sock! Claude's sock is full of holes.

Nate puts Claude's sock in his pocket.

Nate will not give up!
This yard was a mess.

There were bite marks everywhere.

There was a warning: Beware of the Tortoise.
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Nate opened the box.

Nate took the tortoise out of the box.

A lady opened the fence.
Adapted from the original text, *Nate the Great and the Tardy Tortoise*, written by Marjorie and Craig Sharmat, illustrated by Marc Simont.

The tortoise escaped under the fence and was late for lunch.

Nate and Sludge will miss the tortoise. Nate and Sludge will be back to visit the tortoise.
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Nate took out Claude's sock. Nate tied the sock to the fence so the tortoise will remember where he lives.

Nate and Sludge walked home with the empty box.
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