

Adapted from the story that appeared In *Angels on Earth* magazine, Mar/Apr 2003

## An Amazing Event Grade 4

Marie was 10, and visiting her family in Minnesota for Easter. On this visit, an amazing event changed her life.

Marie's aunt and uncle's farm was on the bank of the Mississippi River. Marie often played there with her young friends. The friends were two sisters who lived next door. Elaine was nine, and Maryann was eight.

This day, the three girls first played tag. Then they decided to go out on the frozen river. The giant Mississippi looked like a huge skating rink. When the three friends had gone out about a hundred feet from shore, they heard a loud crack through the cold air.

The ice was breaking up!  
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Maryann asked, "What are we going to do?"  
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Marie, just as frightened, felt the  
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responsibility of being the oldest.  
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"Hold my hand, Maryann," she said. "It's okay."  
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Another crack shot through the air. Marie looked  
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Elaine trembled. "I'm scared," she said. Maryann  
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Marie thought.  
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"Don't look back," Marie said to comfort the girls.  
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Marie wished she had someone to comfort her.  
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When she was younger and got scared she used to  
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ask God to send her an angel. Had she outgrown  
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them?

Suddenly her feet felt wet and she looked down.

Her ankles had sunk into the ice and were covered with slush.

“I need an angel!” she thought. “Let’s pray as we go,” she said. The three bowed their heads as Marie tried to imagine an angel moving with them, protecting them. Marie prayed intensely, “God, please get us safely to shore.”

Elaine yelped as they sank knee-deep in water and slush. “The ice is still holding,” she encouraged. Marie felt confident they would be all right; had God heard her prayers?

Finally the girls reached the shore. They looked back at the river – and saw only black, swift, open water.

“Are you okay?” Marie asked her friends. Elaine  
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nodded, but Maryann looked out at the river, and  
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frowned.

“What happened to the lady?” she asked.  
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“What lady?”  
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“The lady who was with us on the ice, Maryann  
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answered. “ She was beautiful; I felt better when I saw  
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