

# **HAYDEN**

**The Horse Who Says “Yay!”**

Hayden the Horse was a friendly horse who liked to play.  
But there was a problem.  
Whenever he asked someone to play they would say “Nay”.  
But that didn’t stop Hayden.  
Every day he wanted to play and so he went and played.  
He pranced in the fields. He danced with the butterflies.  
He was happy just being himself.

Farmers are always curious about their animals.  
And Farmer Reese was no different.  
Every day she visited the pigs, chickens, cows, and horses to see if they needed anything.  
She liked to make sure that her animals were content.

Every day Farmer Reese visited the horses and offered them hay, oats, carrots, or a chance to jump fences.  
But every day in reply she always heard “Nay”.  
Farmer Reese was happy that her horses were happy.

When Farmer Reese would come to the fence Hayden would usually be off somewhere in the field pondering in clover or wandering through wildflowers.  
But one day he was close to the fence.  
“Does anyone want to jump fences?” he heard Farmer Reese ask.  
Hayden was surprised. Hayden was excited. Hayden shouted “Yay!”  
But every other horse said “Nay.”  
Hayden was too far away from the fence, and the other horses were so many, that the farmer could not hear him.  
Hayden was about to be sad, but he realized he would be just as happy jumping over wildflowers so he started jumping.  
The farmer noticed him jumping, but then turned and tended to the pigs.

Hayden spent the day curious about Farmer Reese and wondering about tomorrow.  
While he was thinking an old horse named Giles came over.  
“I haven’t heard someone say ‘Yay’ in a very long time.” He stated.  
“But saying ‘Yay’ is so wonderful!” Hayden exclaimed.  
“I think I have forgotten what saying ‘Yay’ is like,” Giles added.  
Hayden frowned and said, “That sounds terribly sad.”  
“Well, it is what it is.” Giles said plainly.

But Hayden didn't accept it.

"Perhaps it could change." He thought to himself. "In fact I'm sure it's so!"

He bid the old horse farewell and went off to a patch of clover to think.

As he chewed the grasses a thought came to him.

He started to dance around and shouted, "Yay!"

The nearby horses looked at Hayden, and in unison blandly said, "Nay."

But Hayden was too busy being excited over his great idea to hear the naysayers.

The next morning Hayden put his plan into action.

Farmer Reese came to the fence and asked, "Does anyone want hay?"

She stood there fully expecting to receive the usual response, but instead she was surprised.

"Why I believe I heard a 'Yay' today!" She exclaimed.

"Yay! Yay! Yay!" Hayden shouted louder and louder as he galloped as fast as he could towards the fence.

He approached Farmer Reese and paused in front of her.

They were both smiling.

"Would you like hay Hayden?" she asked with a grin.

"Yay!" Hayden grinned back.

She grabbed hay from the bucket and Hayden happily took it.

He stood there chewing and enjoying the treat.

He felt very relieved that his plan had worked.

A few of the other horses looked up and wondered what the two were up to.

It had been so long since anyone went to the fence when Farmer Reese came that they weren't sure what was happening.

But Giles had a clue and so he trotted over to check in on things.

"What's going on?" Giles asked Hayden.

"I said 'Yay' and got hay!" Hayden shared.

"You got *hay*?" Giles asked in excitement. "How do I get some?"

Hayden pointed to Farmer Reese. "Just walk up to her and say 'Yay.'"

Giles, feeling a bit uncertain about it, walked over to the fence.

"Na-hay," He mumbled then cleared his throat and tried again. "Yay?"

Farmer Reese's eyes filled with happiness.

"Here you go, Giles!" she said as she gave him a large handful. "I hope you enjoy it!"

"Yay! Yay!" shouted Giles in excitement as he grabbed the hay and started munching.

Farmer Reese was happy that her horses were interested in the treats she had to share.

After Farmer Reese turned and went to check in on the chickens a large group of horses approached Hayden and Giles. They were very curious about what had happened.

"What was that ruckus all about?" inquired Christian.

"Tell us what you two are up to!" demanded Schrader.

A few more horses asked similar questions and made similar demands.

Hayden and Giles patiently listened to each of them.

Once the horses had quieted down Hayden spoke up.

"When Farmer Reese stopped to check on us today I decided to say 'Yay.'" Hayden started.

With that several of the horses gasped.

"You did *what?!'*" a surprised Christian squeaked.

"I said 'Yay.'" Hayden calmly replied.

"And so did I." Giles chimed in.

The horses all stared at them amazed that these two horses dared to do something so unusual, so unheard of, for this field of horses.

"And what's even better," added Hayden. "We got hay because we said 'Yay.'"

Now all of the horses gasped.

"You got *hay?*" they said in unison.

"She asked us if we wanted any, we said 'Yay!', and we got hay! It was as simple as that!" Hayden said.

"That's not fair! I didn't know she asked us questions like that!" said Schrader

"Farmer Reese asks us those types of questions every day!" Hayden said excitedly.

Hayden was glad that his plan had worked for him, but was even more excited that the other horses seemed interested in not always saying 'Nay' to everything.

News of the Great Hay 'Yay' Day spread across the field.

By sunset all of the horses had heard the tale.

They heard of the power of saying 'Yay' instead of 'Nay'.

The next morning Farmer Reese neared the fence.

She had been surprised yesterday, but now she was even more surprised.

Her appearance at the fence caused a stampede!

She stood on the fence with a bucket of oats.

She called out, "Does anyone want any oats?"

There were a few nays from far away in the field, but nobody heard them.

All that Farmer Reese heard was shouts of "Yay! Yay! Yay!"

“Yay!” shouted Christian as he received oats.

“Yay!” smiled Schrader as he grabbed some oats from the bucket.

“Yay!” echoed Giles as he got oats from the farmer’s hand.

And one by one each of the horses who had said ‘Yay’ received oats.

Hayden proudly stood at the back of the line and marveled at what he had accomplished.

He stood in awe at the power of daring to do something different.

When every other horse had received oats Hayden proudly trotted up for his turn.

“Did you do all this, Hayden?” Farmer Reese laughed. “You sure are a remarkable horse!”

She gave him a pat on his head. “Well done, Hayden. Well done.”

Feeling quite satisfied she then turned and went to check in on the cows.

The next morning Farmer Reese approached the fence.

The full field of horses stopped what they were doing and in unison exclaimed:

“Yay!” and “Thank you!”

“You’re welcome!” smiled Farmer Reese. “I am so glad that you are yaysayers instead of naysayers. It makes me so happy to see you all so happy!”

Hayden was proud of the changes he helped to make happen.

The other horses were grateful that Hayden helped to bring such happiness to the farm.

And that is why to this day if you visit the farm where Hayden lives you will encounter a field of horses who are happily chasing butterflies, jumping over wildflowers, playing tag-you’re-it, and always neighing ‘Yay’ when Farmer Reese comes to the fence.

**The End. Yay!**

**For Hayden Giles Schrader**

**May you always say ‘Yay’ to life’s adventures.**

**Hayden the Horse**

**loves chasing butterflies,**

**jumping over wildflowers,**

**and saying ‘Yay’.**

**Join Hayden as he shows the other horses the power of saying**

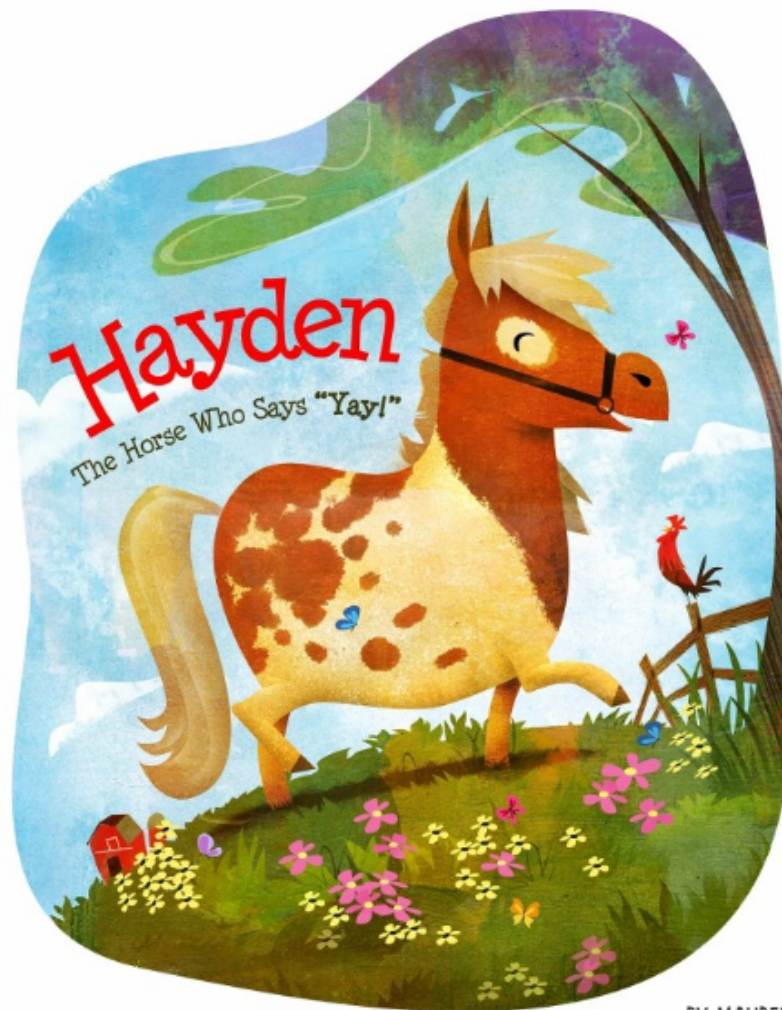
**‘Yay’ instead of ‘Nay’.**

**Hayden the Horse is a yaysayer in a field of naysayers.**

**Unlike the other horses on Farmer Reese's farm he likes chasing butterflies and jumping over wildflowers. And he especially loves saying 'Yay'.**

**Join Hayden as he shows other horses the power of saying 'Yay' instead of 'Nay'.**

Hayden: The Horse Who Says "Yay!"



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Front Cover

Go to page ▾

