THE SHEEP TRICK

STORY AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY SAMANTHA SNYDER
The Sheep Trick
When I was young, around the age of 6,
I couldn't sleep so my dad taught me a trick.
He said while lying in bed, try counting sheep
and by the time I reach 10, I'd be fast asleep.
The first night I tried it and it worked just great.
Each sheep took its turn jumping over the gate.
But the sheep starting doing funny things as they came,
and for me counting sheep was never the same.
Sheep 1 jumps over with one giant leap,
just like they're supposed to when you start counting sheep.
Sheep 2 leaps over and then in mid-air, poses for a camera that’s not even there.
Sheep 3 goes over the fence with incredible speed, swinging like Tarzan, from the top of a tree.
Sheep 4 gets a boost from sheep 8 & 9 while the first 3 sheep hold up a "Perfect 10" sign.
Sheep 5 seems kind of nervous and scratches his head. He carefully crawls under the gate and climbs back in bed.
Sheep 6 does a back flip to start his routine, twists in the air and ends with a double handspring.
Sheep 7 gets air flying down a big ramp on his board, while fighting invisible monsters with his plastic toy sword.
Sheep 8 leaps over while juggling 4 apple pies. One falls on Sheep 5 who looks up in surprise.
Sheep 9, dressed in a tux, pauses and takes a bow, then proceeds to leap the fence while riding a cow.
And then at sheep 10 things become sort of funny.
    I get a weird feeling in the pit of my tummy.
    I drift off to dream in my warm cozy bed.
    And find myself alongside the sheep in my head.
While some are playing volleyball, 2 others are playing chess.
One sheep is eating all the pies and making quite a mess.
They all laugh and smile and invite me to join their fun.
The games go on for some time until every team has won.
When I wake up I feel great, complete with a good night's sleep. I'm so glad my dad taught me the trick of counting sheep.