

SARAH'S BIG ADVENTURE

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In a town not too far away, there lived a little girl named Sarah with her mother and sister Tala. As Sarah was getting ready for her very first day at her new school, her smile lit the room as she excitedly packed her backpack. Before class, she held onto her backpack tightly as she starting getting nervous looking around and timid to meet her new friends and teachers. However, as soon as she stepped into the classroom, she heard whispers and giggles all around. The other kids pointed and laughed, calling her names like “quiet mouse” because of how nervous and shy she was.

Sarah started to feel left-out and upset.

$$1 + 2 = 3$$



At home, Sarah flopped onto her bed with a heavy sigh, her face red with embarrassment. She didn't want to go back to school where the other kids would tease her. Just then, her older sister Tala bursts into the room, full of energy.



Just then, her older sister Tala bursts into the room, full of energy. But when she saw her little sister crying, the smile disappeared and she asked, “What’s wrong, Squishy?”.

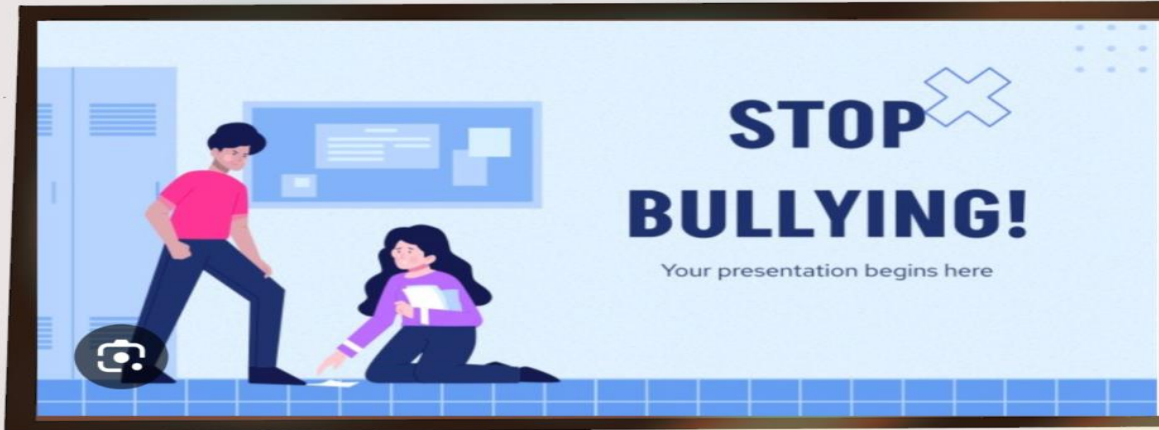
Sarah replied hesitantly: “the kids at my school are being mean and making fun of me because of how shy I was to talk in class.”

Tala felt a knot in her stomach. She remembered how she herself also wasn't kind to some kids her age, and now, when her little sister was going through the same things as those kids she bullied. She felt guilty and decided to make an effort to be nicer to the other kids, so that they don't pass through what Sarah is passing through. After that first step, she told Sarah "I will do my best to help you with this issue at school."

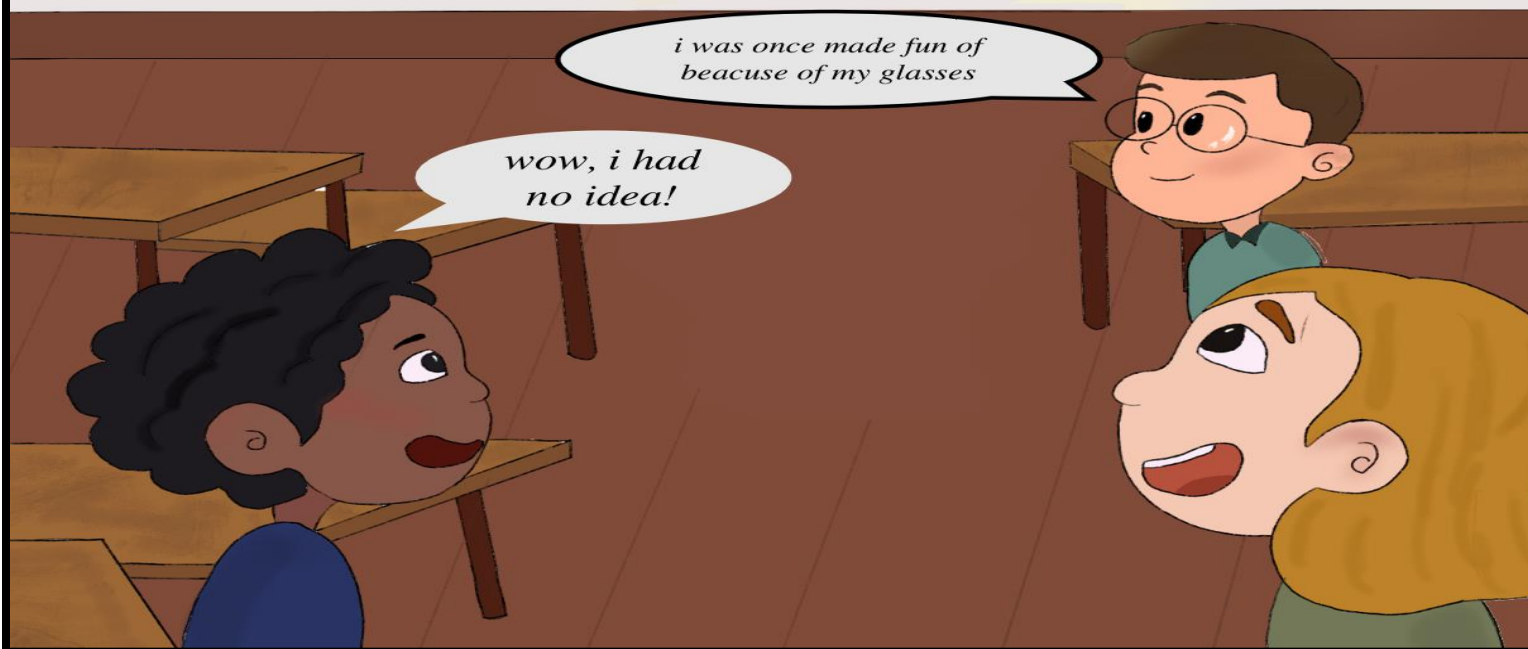


Then Tala had a brilliant idea. She went straight to her mother and shared Sarah's story with her. Tala's mom went to the school, and she discussed the situation with the teachers: “my daughter is being bullied as I’m sure many other kids are, so we should do a presentation about bullying, explaining how hurtful words and actions can be, instead of scolding them as they won’t understand.”

The teachers agreed and worked on this presentation where they started by asking the children to share some of their stories when someone made them feel weak or unwanted and surprisingly, a lot of the students were willing to share.



This in turn made them feel connected and take into consideration that each of them has passed through something similar.



*i was once made fun of
because of my glasses*

*wow, i had
no idea!*

After this special talk, the kids who teased Sarah understood that they hurt her feelings without thinking about how it made her feel. One by one, they gathered around Sarah, feeling shy and sorry. "We're really sorry, Sarah," they mumbled quietly, their faces turning red with embarrassment.

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*She looked at Tala with a big smile, “thank you so much for helping me”
Tala grinned back, feeling super proud that she could make things better for her sister,
“I’m always here for you and trying my best to help you face your problems” as she learned the importance of being nice and kind towards others.*



From that day on, Sarah's school days were filled with laughter as she was getting along with everyone.

The end.

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Educ 218

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