



Leo's Big Heart

ATA khan



Leo was a whirlwind of fun, zooming his brightest red race car across the living room floor. Toys were scattered like colorful confetti all around him, a testament to his boundless energy. His mom's gentle call from the kitchen was just a distant hum in his exciting world of play.



Mom appeared, holding a heavy grocery bag, her shoulders looking a little droopy. She asked Leo for a hand, but he just pointed dramatically at his half-built block tower, declaring it needed his full, immediate attention. His face was comically earnest.



Later, Dad asked for help tidying up a pile of clothes. Quick as a flash, Leo ducked behind a giant, colorful storybook, pretending to be deeply engrossed in its pages. Only one mischievous eye peeked out, hoping Dad wouldn't notice.



His parents exchanged a tired glance, a little sigh escaping Mom's lips. They didn't scold Leo, but continued their chores, their movements a little slower than usual. Leo, still playing, paused for a moment, a tiny, unfamiliar thought bubbling in his mind.



Leo watched his mom struggle with a big, overflowing laundry basket, her back bending in a funny, exaggerated way. A little frown creased his forehead, replacing his usual playful grin. He felt a tiny, squishy pang in his chest.



Suddenly, a whimsical thought bubble popped above Leo's head, showing a tiny, super-strong squirrel cheerfully helping an older, slightly grumpy squirrel carry a huge pile of nuts. Leo's eyes widened with a flash of understanding. He knew what he had to do!



With a newfound determination, Leo bounced up and started gathering his colorful toys. He neatly stacked his blocks and parked his race cars in their garage, all without being asked. His focused expression was a funny mix of concentration and excitement.



Beaming with pride, Leo carefully placed a brightly patterned plate on the dinner table, just as Mom walked in with a dishcloth. Her eyes widened in surprise, then crinkled with a joyful smile. Leo felt a warm glow spread through him.



Later, Leo grabbed the biggest, most cartoonish watering can he could find and offered to help Dad water the garden. They made it a hilarious game, splashing and giggling as the plants got their drink. Dad's laughter was loud and hearty.



Mom and Dad scooped Leo into a giant, happy hug, their faces beaming with love and pride. Leo snuggled in, feeling a warmth that was even better than playing with his favorite toys. He realized that being kind made everyone's heart feel big and happy.