



Lily's Brave New Words

Krystal Mendez



Lily sat at her school desk, a big, brightly colored English textbook looking like a giant monster in front of her. Her eyes were wide with worry, and a little cloud of 'uh-oh' floated over her head as other children excitedly pointed at pictures and chattered. She wished she could disappear!



During English class, Lily tried her best to become invisible, shrinking down behind her desk, hoping her teacher wouldn't call on her. She imagined herself as a tiny mouse, peeking out from behind a towering stack of books, wishing she could just squeak away.



Her kind teacher, Miss Daisy, noticed Lily's shyness and gently placed a fun picture dictionary on her desk, filled with funny animals and colorful objects. A friendly classmate, Tom, pointed to a giggling monkey, making Lily crack a tiny, nervous smile.



Later that day, Lily whispered her very first English word, 'apple,' to a plush toy bear, feeling a little tickle of bravery. The bear seemed to nod encouragingly, its button eyes sparkling as if it understood her tiny triumph.



At home, Lily practiced with her pet parrot, Polly, who mimicked her funny pronunciations, making them both giggle. She held up flashcards, pointing at 'cat' and 'dog,' as Polly squawked back, creating a chorus of silly sounds.



One afternoon, a particularly tricky sentence made Lily's brain feel like a tangled ball of yarn. She crumpled her practice paper into a tiny ball, a big, frustrated frown on her face, feeling like she'd never get it right.



Seeing her frustration, Tom sat beside her, drawing a silly monster that looked just like the confusing English words. He reminded her that making mistakes was part of learning and that they could practice together, turning her frown upside down.



The next day, with a deep breath and a fluttery heart, Lily bravely raised her hand and answered a question in English, clear as a bell! Her teacher clapped, and her classmates cheered, making her cheeks flush with pride and joy.



Soon, Lily was confidently ordering a big, swirly ice cream cone in English at the park, her voice clear and bright. She even helped a lost little bird find its way by cheerfully chirping 'Go home!' in English.



Now, Lily, with a big, confident grin, helped a new student understand English words, holding up picture cards and laughing together. She realized that learning new things could be a wonderful adventure, opening up a whole new world of friends and fun!