



Larah and the Magic of Pieces

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Larah sat at her wooden desk, staring at the upcoming calendar date circled in bright red: The Fractions Test. A heavy cloud of worry hovered over her head, making her feel small and certain that math just was not her thing.



That evening, Larah expressed her fears to her mother while helping bake a fresh apple pie. Her mother smiled gently, holding up a gleaming, whole pie and explaining that math is not just symbols on a page, but a way of sharing what we have.



With a smooth slice of the knife, her mother divided the pie cleanly into two equal halves, showing Larah that one whole can easily become two matching parts. Larah watched closely as the concept of one-half suddenly made perfect, delicious sense.



Next, they cut the halves again to create four equal slices, perfect for sharing with the entire family. Larah held one quarter of the pie in her hands, realizing that a fraction was simply a smaller piece of a grander story.



The next day at school, Larah looked at her math textbook with a new perspective, imagining the numbers as colorful, interlocking puzzle pieces. She sketched little pies and shaded rectangles in the margins of her notebook, feeling her anxiety begin to melt away.



When her teacher passed out a practice quiz, Larah felt a brief flutter of nervousness in her chest. She took a deep breath, closed her eyes, and remembered the warmth of the kitchen and the perfectly divided quarters of the pie.



With a confident smile, Larah began to solve the fractions problems one by one, her pencil moving smoothly across the paper. She realized that she understood how the numbers worked together, and the old self-doubt completely vanished.



On the morning of the big Mathematics test, Larah walked into the classroom with her head held high and an eager spirit. The red circle on the calendar no longer looked like a warning, but like an invitation to show what she had learned.



As she finished the final question on the test, Larah felt a deep wave of pride wash over her. She knew she had done her absolute best, proving to herself that she was fully capable of mastering difficult things.



A few days later, Larah received her test back with a bright, shining star at the top of the page. She proudly showed it to her mother, knowing that she was not just good at math, but an official master of pieces.