



Minh's Golden Choice

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Minh ran out to the vibrant school courtyard during recess, enjoying the warm sunshine. The yellow walls of his primary school were bright, and red flags fluttered gently in the breeze as children played all around.



Near the shade of an old flamboyant tree, Minh spotted something colorful half-hidden beneath a wooden bench. Curious, he walked over and picked up a beautiful blue pencil case adorned with sparkling silver stars.



He gently unzipped the case and gasped when he saw a rare, limited-edition superhero pen inside along with some lunch money. This was the exact pen Minh had been dreaming of having for months, but his family could not afford it.



Minh looked around anxiously, his heart beating fast against his chest. No one was watching him, and a small voice inside his head whispered that he could just keep the wonderful pen for himself.



Just as he was about to slide the pencil case into his own backpack, he noticed his classmate Lan crying near the classroom door. She was frantically turning her school bag upside down, looking completely devastated.



Minh remembered how hard Lan had studied to earn that special superhero pen as a reward from her parents. Seeing her tears made a sharp pang of guilt twist in his stomach, and his excitement instantly vanished.



Standing alone in the shaded corridor, Minh looked down at the glittering pencilcase in his hands. He realized that wearing a stolen smile would never bring him true happiness, and keeping it would be wrong.



Taking a deep, brave breath, Minh walked straight over to Lan and held out the blue pencil case. I found this by the flamboyant tree, Lan, is this what you are looking for, he asked with a gentle smile.



Lan looked up, her teary eyes instantly lighting up with immense joy and relief as she took the case. Oh thank you so much Minh, you are the most honest and kindest friend in the whole world, she exclaimed happily.



As the class bell rang, the teacher stepped forward and praised Minh in front of everyone for making the right choice. Minh walked to his desk with a light, proud heart, knowing that his honesty was worth far more than any prize.