



Leo's Big Pause: A Story of Cyber Etiquette

Trivikram A



Leo loved spending his afternoons playing games and sharing funny memes on his favorite online pixel world. He felt safe and powerful behind his bright computer screen, clicking away happily.



One day, his classmate Sam shared a drawing he worked hard on, but it looked a bit messy. Without thinking, Leo typed a mean comment, calling the artwork silly and embarrassing.



Leo giggled and hit send, thinking it was just a harmless joke that would make his other online friends laugh. He didn't think about the person on the other side of the screen.



The next morning at school, Leo noticed Sam sitting alone under the big oak tree, looking deeply upset and holding his head in his hands. Leo's heart sank as he realized his words had caused real tears.



During computer class, Leo stared at his glowing screen, feeling a heavy weight in his chest. The fun of his online world had completely vanished, replaced by regret.



Leo decided to fix his mistake by deleting the mean comment and typing a sincere, private apology to Sam. He learned that words on a screen carry the exact same weight as words spoken aloud.



He went up to Sam during recess, looked him in the eye, and apologized truly for his thoughtless behavior online. Sam smiled softly, appreciating the honesty, and accepted his apology.



They spent the rest of the afternoon sitting together, talking about their favorite games and realizing how much they actually had in common. A new, real-world friendship began to grow.



Leo promised himself to always pause, think, and breathe before typing anything on the internet again. He realized that the digital world becomes a much brighter place when we choose kindness over jokes.



Now, Leo uses his online presence to lift others up and protect his friends from digital negativity. He is no longer just a gamer, but a responsible digital citizen leading by example.