



Leo's Big Presentation

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Leo sits at his wooden desk, staring at the colorful poster he made about the solar system. His heart beats a little faster as he hears his teacher announce that today is the day for class presentations.



The classroom is filled with bright morning sunlight, but Leo feels a cold shiver of nerves. He watches his friends talk and laugh, wondering how they can look so calm while his own hands feel a bit shaky.



His teacher, Ms. Maple, smiles warmly and calls Leo's name to the front of the room. Leo stands up slowly, clutching his poster tightly against his chest like a shield.



As he walks to the front, the floor feels soft and unsteady beneath his feet. Every pair of eyes in the class seems to turn toward him at once, making the room feel much larger than it did before.



Leo stands behind the wooden podium and looks out at a sea of expectant faces. He tries to say the first word, but his voice feels stuck in his throat, like a tiny bird afraid to fly.



He remembers his mother's gentle advice and takes a long, deep breath, imagining he is filling his lungs with calm, golden light. He looks down at his poster and sees the bright yellow sun he painted with such care.



Leo finds his best friend, Sam, sitting in the second row, who gives him a small, encouraging nod. Seeing a friendly face helps the butterflies in Leo's stomach finally start to fly in formation.



He begins to speak about the distant planets, his voice growing stronger and steadier with every sentence. He points to the sparkling glitter on Saturn's rings and hears the class whisper in quiet wonder.



Before he knows it, Leo is finishing his very last sentence with a proud, genuine smile. The heavy weight on his chest has completely vanished, replaced by a warm glow of personal achievement.



The classroom erupts into cheerful applause as Leo walks back to his seat with a skip in his step. He realizes that while being brave is hard, the feeling of finishing is the best reward of all.