

MAYA'S TEARS OF JOY



Grayson's Big Lesson in Listening

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Grayson sits at the small wooden table, his tongue poking out in concentration as he colors a magnificent green dragon. His drawings are the most detailed in the whole classroom, filled with shimmering scales and bright orange flames. He is a very smart boy who loves to create beautiful things for everyone to see.



Across the room, Leo and Maya are building a tall tower out of colorful wooden blocks. Grayson loves to be a helper, so he rushes over with a handful of triangles, eager to add them to the very top. He wants to join the fun, but he doesn't ask if they need any help first.



Maya looks up and says she wants to finish the tower by herself for a little while. Grayson doesn't stop, trying to place his blocks anyway because he thinks his idea will make the tower even better. He is so focused on helping that he forgets to listen to Maya's words.



When the other children move to the reading corner for some quiet time, Grayson follows them very closely, sitting right next to Maya. Even when she whispers that she needs some space to look at her book, Grayson stays right there, leaning in to see the pictures. He wants to be close, but he is standing inside her personal bubble.

A New Friend?



Feeling crowded, the other children stand up and move to a different rug, leaving Grayson all by himself. Big tears well up in Grayson's eyes and roll down his cheeks because he just wants to play and doesn't understand why they left. He feels very lonely when his friends go away to play without him.



Ms. Lee kneels beside Grayson and explains that everyone has an invisible bubble around them that makes them feel safe and happy. She tells him that being a great helper also means listening with his ears and his heart when friends say they need a little bit of room. Grayson listens carefully, realizing that his friends weren't being mean, they just needed space.



Grayson takes a deep breath and uses his smart brain to think about the personal bubble lesson. He decides to use his helping hands to organize the messy art shelf, waiting patiently for someone to ask for his assistance instead of jumping in. He feels proud of himself for staying calm and giving others room to move.



He notices Leo searching through a bin of crayons with a frustrated look on his face. Instead of rushing over and grabbing a crayon, Grayson stays back and asks in a soft voice if Leo would like some help finding the sparkly silver one. He waits for Leo to answer before moving any closer.



Leo smiles and nods, inviting Grayson to sit a comfortable distance away so they can draw a space scene together. Grayson listens carefully as Leo describes the planets, making sure to give his friend plenty of room to move his arms. They work together perfectly, and Grayson feels a warm glow of happiness.



By the end of the day, Grayson is playing happily with a group of friends, feeling proud of his new skills. He has learned that by listening to others and respecting their space, his heart and his circle of friends can grow bigger than ever. He is still a great artist and a great helper, but now he is a great listener too.