



Name: _____

The New Student

It was a bright Monday morning when Mrs. Sutton announced to her class, "Class, we have a new student joining us today. Please welcome Toby!" A boy with curly hair and a shy smile stood at the front of the room. He looked around nervously, shifting his backpack on his shoulder.

Lena, sitting in the front row, noticed that Toby didn't seem very confident. She remembered how hard it had been when she was the new kid last year. She decided right then that she would be friendly to him.

During recess, Lena saw Toby sitting alone at a bench near the playground. Most of the other kids were playing tag or swinging, but Toby had his hands in his pockets and was watching from the side.

Lena grabbed her soccer ball and walked over. "Hi, Toby!" she said cheerfully. "Do you want to play soccer with me?"

Toby hesitated, looking unsure. "I'm not really good at soccer," he mumbled.

"That's okay!" Lena replied with a smile. "I'm not the best either, but it's fun to play. Come on, I'll show you how to kick the ball."

Toby slowly stood up, and they headed over to the grass. Lena gently passed the soccer ball to him. "Just kick it back to me," she said, encouraging him. Toby gave the ball a small kick, and it rolled toward Lena. "See? You're doing great!" she cheered.

As they played, a few other kids came over and joined in. Soon, there was a small group kicking the ball around. Toby seemed to loosen up, and he even started smiling.

After recess, Toby sat near Lena in class. "Thanks for playing with me," he whispered.

"No problem," Lena said, happy to see Toby looking more comfortable. "That's what friends are for!"

Throughout the week, Lena continued to include Toby in games and activities. At lunchtime, she invited him to sit with her and her friends. She asked him questions about his favorite things, and soon, they found out they both liked reading mystery books.

One afternoon, Lena noticed that her friend Maya hadn't been as kind to Toby. Maya often played with Lena and seemed a little jealous of how much time Lena was spending with





Name: _____

Toby. During art class, Maya said, "Why do you keep hanging out with the new kid? He's not even that fun."

Lena frowned. "That's not true. Toby's really nice, and he's just trying to fit in. Remember how nervous I was when I was new last year?"

Maya looked thoughtful for a moment and then nodded. "Yeah, I guess it's hard to be new."

Lena smiled. "It's important to be a good friend to everyone, especially when someone feels left out. You should give him a chance."

The next day, Lena was happy to see Maya joining her and Toby during recess. They played soccer together, and soon Maya realized that Toby was actually pretty fun to hang out with.

By the end of the week, Toby was no longer the shy new kid. He had made friends, and he smiled more often. Lena felt proud, knowing that being a good friend had made a big difference for him.

From then on, Lena and Toby became close friends, and they continued to welcome others into their group. They learned that being kind and including everyone made their days much better and helped others feel happy too. Being a good friend wasn't just about playing games—it was about making sure no one felt alone.

1. What is the theme of this story? _____

2. Why did Lena decide to be friendly to Toby? _____

3. How did Toby change in the story? _____

