Aunt Fox

Shall we swap problems?



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Synopsis

On a rainy day, Joãozinho arrives feeling upset, convinced his problems are the worst. His teacher proposes an activity: swapping problems. This lesson will change his perspective forever.



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AGE	CATEGORY	READING TIME
4-9 years	Exclusive	4 min

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The sky was dark, and the rain was pouring down hard. Joãozinho walked into the room soaking wet, stomping his feet and grumbling. He was fed up with life and felt like he was the only one with problems at school.





The teacher noticed his distress and gathered the class in a circle in a cozy little room. She said, "We all have problems. How about we play a game called 'Swapping Problems' to see if we can live happier lives?"



Each of the four children received a piece of paper. In silence, they secretly wrote down their biggest worries of the moment, carefully folded the papers, and placed them inside a jar.



The teacher asked Joãozinho to go first and pick three papers to see which problem he might want to swap for his own. He pulled out the first one and read it to himself: "My dad hasn't visited me in a year—not even on my birthday..."



Joãozinho felt a tightness in his chest; he swallowed hard and slowly shook his head. He put the note back in the jar and whispered to the teacher, "Wow, not that one... I'd rather stick with my own."



He reached into the jar again and pulled out the second note. Upon opening it, he read silently: "I'm really hungry; I haven't eaten anything today..." Startled, he said, "No, no, I'd better try the next one..."



Trembling, he picked up the third and final paper. The message simply read: "I've never made any friends at school..." Joãozinho looked at his classmates around the circle, realizing the pain each of them was hiding.



The boy lowered his head, and tears rolled down his cheeks. He hugged the teacher and said through his sobs, "Teacher, I get it now. I'll never complain about my problems again; I'm very lucky."



THE END

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