

SPEAKING THE TRUTH



BY [CHILDBOOK.AI](https://childbook.ai)

Ava Lopez and Asher Miller stayed after class to finish their science volcano. Ava bumped the table, and the model crashed to the floor! "Oh no," she gasped. Asher's eyes went wide. "Ms. Dixon will be upset," he whispered. Ava's stomach flipped. She thought about hiding the pieces before anyone noticed. Asher looked at her. "What are we going to do?" he asked softly, waiting for her answer.



Ava swept the broken pieces into her backpack. "We'll say the shelf fell," she whispered. Asher frowned. "That's not true," he said. Ava bit her lip, unsure. That night, she barely slept, worrying about Ms. Dixon's kind face turning disappointed. In the morning, Asher met her outside class. "Telling the truth is scary," he said, "but it feels worse to lie." Ava took a deep breath and nodded slowly.



Ava walked straight to Ms. Dixon's desk, hands shaking. "I broke the volcano yesterday," she said. "I'm really sorry." Ms. Dixon looked surprised, then smiled gently. "Thank you for telling me, Ava." Asher stood beside her, proud. "That took courage," Ms. Dixon added. Ava felt relief wash over her, lighter than she'd felt all night. She realized the truth wasn't so scary after all, just brave.



Ms. Dixon clapped her hands. "Let's rebuild it together, better than before!" Ava and Asher grinned, grabbing clay and paint. Their new volcano even bubbled with fizzy lava, brighter than the first. Ms. Dixon praised Ava's honesty to the whole class, and classmates cheered softly. Ava beamed, proud she'd told the truth. Asher bumped her shoulder. "See? Good things happen when you're honest," he said, and Ava agreed completely.



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