WISHING STARS AND BRAVE HEARTS
ARIA'S FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL



BY CHILDBOOK.AI

Aria woke up with butterflies in her tummy. Today was her first day of school! She looked at her new backpack and felt worried. Bonsai, her fluffy dog, wagged his tail and licked her hand. "I'm scared, Bonsai," Aria whispered. Bonsai barked softly as if saying everything would be okay. Aria hugged him tight. Maria called from downstairs, "Breakfast is ready, sweetie!" Aria took a deep breath and walked downstairs with Bonsai following close behind.



At breakfast, Aria pushed her cereal around with her spoon. Maria noticed and sat beside her. "What's wrong, mi amor?" she asked gently. "I don't know anyone at school," Aria said quietly. James smiled warmly. "Every adventure starts with something new, Aria. School is your next big adventure!" Maria squeezed her hand. "You're brave and kind. You'll make wonderful friends." Aria looked at Bonsai. "Can Bonsai come with me?" James nodded. "We'll bring him to walk you in."



The family climbed into the car with Bonsai sitting happily between Aria and her backpack. Aria watched the houses pass by her window. Her heart beat faster as they got closer to school. "Look, Aria! There's the playground!" Maria pointed excitedly. Aria saw swings and slides and children laughing. Maybe school wouldn't be so scary. Bonsai pressed his nose against the window, his tail wagging. "Bonsai likes it already," James said. Aria smiled just a little. They parked, and everyone got out together.



Aria held Maria's hand tightly as they walked toward the colorful school building. James held Bonsai's leash. Children ran past them, calling to friends and waving hello. Aria felt small among all the noise and movement. "There are so many kids," she whispered. Maria knelt down. "And each one was nervous on their first day too." James added, "You won't be alone for long, sweetheart." Bonsai wagged his tail and nuzzled Aria's leg. Aria took a deep breath. "Okay. I can do this."



As they walked through the playground, Aria spotted a little boy sitting by himself on a bench. He had short black hair and looked sad. He was watching other children play but didn't join them. "Mama, that boy looks lonely," Aria said. Maria looked at James, then smiled at Aria. "Maybe he needs a friend too." Aria felt her nervousness change into something else—she wanted to help! "Can I take Bonsai to meet him?" she asked. James nodded proudly. "That's very kind, Aria."



Aria walked over with Bonsai, her parents following close behind. "Hi," Aria said softly. The boy looked up, surprised. "I'm Aria. This is Bonsai." Bonsai wagged his fluffy tail and sniffed the boy's shoes. A small smile appeared on the boy's face. "I'm Oliver," he said quietly. "It's my first day." Aria's eyes widened. "Mine too! I was really scared." Oliver nodded. "Me too." Bonsai jumped up gently, making both children giggle. The ice was broken. They were smiling now.



Aria sat down next to Oliver. Bonsai sat between them, enjoying the attention from both children. "I like your dog," Oliver said, petting Bonsai's soft fur. "He has a funny brown spot on his ear!" Aria laughed. "And one by his eye too! He's very special." Oliver smiled bigger now. "Do you like drawing?" he asked. "I love drawing!" Aria said excitedly. "Maybe we can draw together!" Oliver nodded happily. Maria and James watched, their hearts warm. Their daughter had made her first friend already.


MARVEL

A loud bell rang across the playground. Children started lining up by their classroom doors. Aria felt nervous again, but then Oliver stood up. "Want to line up together?" he asked. Aria nodded quickly. "Yes!" James knelt down with Bonsai. "We have to say goodbye now, but we'll pick you up after school." Aria hugged Bonsai tight, then hugged both her parents. "I'll be brave," she whispered. Maria kissed her forehead. "We know you will, mi amor." Oliver waited patiently, smiling.



Aria and Oliver walked side by side into their classroom. It was bright and colorful, with books and toys everywhere. Their teacher, a kind woman with glasses, welcomed them warmly. "Hello! Find a seat anywhere you like!" Aria looked at Oliver. "Sit together?" Oliver grinned. "Yes!" They found two seats near the window. Other children chattered around them, but Aria didn't feel so alone anymore. She had Oliver, and Oliver had her. The teacher started reading a story. Aria smiled. School wasn't so scary after all.


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At the end of the day, Aria rushed out to the playground where Maria, James, and Bonsai waited. "Mama! Papa! I had the best day!" she shouted. Bonsai jumped and barked happily. "I made a friend! His name is Oliver!" Oliver appeared with his parents, waving. "See you tomorrow, Aria!" he called. "See you tomorrow!" Aria called back. James lifted her up. "We're so proud of you, brave girl." Maria hugged them both. Aria looked up at the sky, spotting the first evening star. She'd been brave, and it was wonderful.



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