THE ISLAND OF YET



BY WRITTEN BY TAMMY STAPLETON ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHILDBOOK.AI & AI

One sunny morning, Miss Tammy rolled a giant blue map across the classroom floor. “Okay, students—come sit on the carpet,” she said with a smile. “Today, we’re going somewhere special.”


service dog
LUCY

The Wonder Boat rocked gently as the children climbed aboard. Thomas grabbed the wheel, pretending to steer. Susie waved at seagulls. Lucy trotted along the deck, her vest flapping. "All aboard!" called Miss Tammy. The boat lifted off the water and sailed through sparkling clouds. Nicholas gripped the railing tightly. "What if I can't do anything there?" he whispered. Miss Tammy knelt beside him. "That's what Yet is for."


service

The boat landed softly on golden sand. Trees stretched tall, their branches heavy with glowing words. Melody gasped. "Look! The words are growing!" Cohen plucked one that said TRY. Susie found SHARE. Lucy sniffed at a low branch and barked happily. Nicholas stared at a branch holding the word CAN'T. Miss Tammy tilted her head. "Keep looking, Nicholas. There's more to that word than you think."


TRY
CAN'T
service dog
YET

Nicholas leaned closer. Tiny letters glimmered beneath CAN'T. "Y-E-T," he read slowly. "Can't... yet?" Miss Tammy nodded. "Exactly! It means you haven't learned it... yet." Thomas grinned. "I couldn't whistle... yet!" He puckered his lips and tried again. A squeaky whistle popped out, making everyone giggle. Lucy barked along. Nicholas smiled a little, but his branch still felt heavy in his hands.


CAN'T
Y-E-T
service

Across the clearing, Cohen balanced on a thin log bridge. His arms wobbled. Splash! He tumbled into a puddle. Melody rushed over. "Are you okay?" Cohen laughed, dripping. "I'll try again—differently this time!" He spread his arms wider and crossed slowly, step by step. "See?" Miss Tammy said to Nicholas. "Mistakes just show us a new way to try." Nicholas watched closely, thinking hard.



Deeper in the forest, Thomas found a wooden puzzle box stuck in the roots. "I can't open it," he groaned. Lucy sniffed the box, pawing gently at a hidden latch. Click! The box popped open, revealing a shiny map. "Good girl, Lucy!" Susie cheered. Thomas grinned. "Guess even dogs try new ways." Nicholas watched Lucy's calm patience and wondered if he could be patient too.


SERVICE
DOG

Susie noticed Nicholas standing alone by a tall rope swing. "Want to try it with me?" she asked. Nicholas shook his head. "I might fall." Susie smiled. "Maybe. But maybe you'll swing great!" She hopped on and swooshed through the air, laughing. Lucy barked encouragingly from below. Nicholas's hands trembled on the rope, but something inside him whispered, just try.


SERVICE
DOG

Nicholas gripped the rope and pushed off. Whoosh! His feet slipped, and he landed softly in the leaves. The other kids gasped, but nobody laughed. "Are you hurt?" asked Miss Tammy. Nicholas shook his head, cheeks pink. "I didn't do it right." Miss Tammy helped him up. "Not yet," she said warmly. "Want to try holding tighter this time?" Lucy nuzzled his hand.


service dog

Nicholas took a breath and grabbed the rope with both hands this time, feet planted firm. He pushed off slowly. Whoosh! The wind rushed past as he swung high and landed standing up. "I did it!" he shouted. Melody clapped. Cohen whooped. Lucy barked, tail wagging wildly. Nicholas laughed, surprised at how good trying again could feel.


service dog

Back at the word trees, Nicholas noticed his old branch glowing brighter. The letters shifted before his eyes: CAN'T YET had become JUST TRIED! He gasped. Miss Tammy smiled. "The island remembers your courage." Thomas, Susie, Melody, and Cohen gathered around, admiring the glowing words on their own branches too, each one telling a story of trying something new.


CAN'T YET TRIED
JUST YET JURIED

The Wonder Boat lifted off as the sun dipped low. Nicholas sat by the railing, holding a tiny leaf shaped like the word YET. Lucy rested her head on his lap. "Today wasn't so scary after all," he said. Miss Tammy ruffled his hair. "That's because you remembered the magic word." The children watched the island shrink below, full of new words waiting to grow.


YET
service
doog dog

The next morning, Miss Tammy held up a math worksheet. Nicholas stared at a tricky problem. His stomach fluttered, just like before. He smiled and whispered, "I don't know this one... yet." He picked up his pencil and tried. Lucy, curled by the window, thumped her tail. Nicholas realized the Island of Yet hadn't just been a place—it was a feeling he could carry always.


SERVICE DOG
LUCY

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