# SPEAKING THE TRUTH



BY CHILDBOOK.AI

Lizzie giggled, tossing a red ball for Charlie inside the living room. "Catch it, boy!" she called. Charlie bounded forward, tail wagging, and knocked right into Grandma's favorite vase. Crash! It shattered into tiny pieces. Lizzie froze, heart pounding. "Uh oh," she whispered, staring at the mess. Charlie tilted his head, big brown eyes watching her nervously, as footsteps approached from the kitchen.



Mom rushed in. "What happened?" she asked, eyes wide. Lizzie's mouth went dry. She almost said, "Charlie did it," but stopped herself. Charlie nudged her hand gently, as if asking her to be brave. Lizzie remembered Grandma always said truth matters more than being perfect. She took a deep breath, feeling her cheeks grow warm, and looked up at her mother's worried face.



"It was me, Mom," Lizzie said softly. "I was playing ball inside, and Charlie knocked into the vase by accident. I should have played outside." Her voice shook, but she kept going. "I'm really sorry." Mom knelt down and hugged her tightly. "Thank you for telling me the truth, mija. That took courage." Charlie barked happily, licking Lizzie's cheek.



Together, they swept up the pieces, laughing as Charlie tried to help with his nose. Mom smiled. "Since you were honest, let's glue it back together instead of being upset." They worked all afternoon, turning the vase into a sparkly mosaic. Lizzie realized telling the truth felt better than hiding it. Charlie wagged his tail proudly beside his best friend.



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