

1

Robbie Doesn't Know How to Write

It was the very first day of school for Freddie the Frog, Leoni the Lion, Donnie the Dog, and Robbie the Rabbit. They didn't know each other, and they didn't know anybody there. Ms Winnie, their teacher, who always had a huge smile on her face, was really nice, but, still, Freddie, Leoni, Donnie, and Robbie all felt pretty lonely.

After morning assembly, it was break time. Freddie was standing in one corner of the playground. Donnie was in another. Leoni was in another. And Robbie was in another. They were all too shy to talk to anyone or each other.



Leoni looked especially sad at being all alone, so Freddie walked over and said, “Hi, I’m Freddie. Let’s be friends.”



Leoni lit up in happiness and introduced herself. “Thank you, Freddie,” she said. “Before, I was feeling lonely, but now I feel much better. My name is Leoni.”

Freddie said, “Why don’t we help the others, too?” Together they walked over to Donnie and then Robbie, and before long, all four of them were friends. The bell rang at the end of the break, and they wandered inside together.

“Wow! This is so great!” said Donnie. “At the beginning of break time, we were all alone, and now we’re friends!”

“Yes, exactly,” replied Freddie.

“I’ve a feeling we’re going to have some adventures together,” he said, laughing.





When class started, Ms Winnie announced that they were going to learn how to hold a pencil and to write their own names. The friends were very excited. They had never written anything before. Ms Winnie held up a huge pencil and showed the whole class how to hold a pencil.

Freddie, Donnie, and Leoni managed it with no problem, but every time Robbie tried, he dropped the pencil. He tried and tried and tried, but it was no good.

The tenth time he tried, the pencil fell on the floor and rolled around. Robbie was so sad that big tears started to roll down his face.

Ms Winnie was busy helping some others, and she didn't notice, but Freddie saw what was happening. He leaned over to Robbie and whispered, "Don't worry! We're your friends, and we will help you. May you be happy! May you be safe!"

Robbie stopped crying and whispered back, "Thank you!"



After school, the four new friends walked home together through the forest. Freddie lent Robbie his pencil, and he, Donnie, and Leoni took turns helping Robbie hold it. By the time they were nearly home, Robbie could easily hold the pencil exactly the way Ms Winnie had showed them. He was so happy that he turned three cart wheels, shouting, "I can do it! I can do it! I can do it!"

When he arrived home, Robbie said, "Mummy, there's something I need to do. Can you help me?"

"Of course," she said with a smile, and they sat down to work together before dinner time.

The next morning, as the friends arrived at school, Robbie stopped them and said, "I have something for you."

He gave them each a piece of paper with a beautiful picture of a heart. "Thank you so much for being my friends!" he said to them all. "I could draw this last night because you all helped me hold my pencil."

"May you be happy! May you be safe!" replied Freddie, as they all smiled at each other.

THE END



2

Who Will Win?

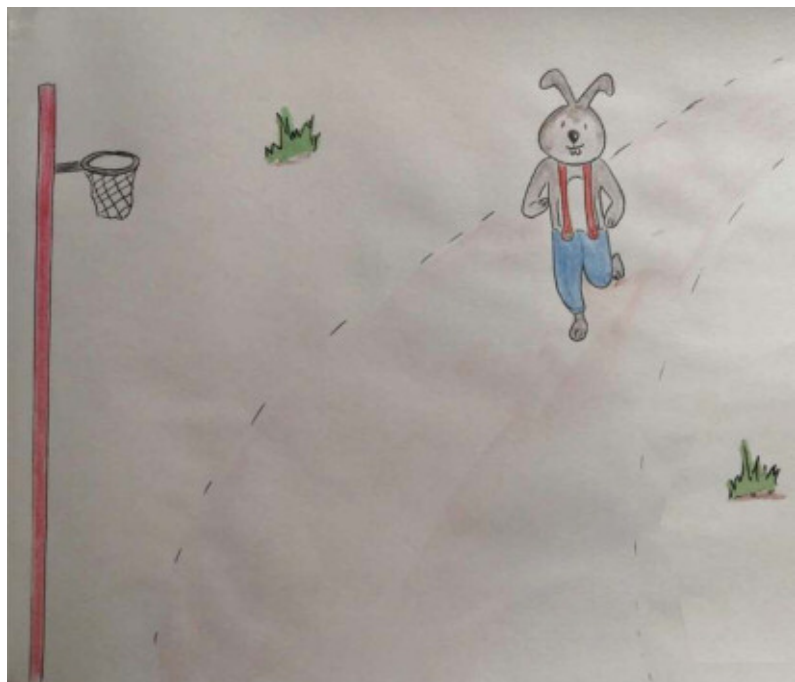
One day, Ms Winnie walked into the classroom while the children were excitedly discussing who could run the fastest. It was very noisy, because Robbie was yelling that he could beat everyone else, and some of the others were yelling back that they could beat him.

Ms Winnie calmed them all down and got everyone to sit back down. She said, “Right! I know what we’re going to do. We’ll have a race and see who really is the fastest, but we’ve got lots to do this week, so we’ll have it next week. Oh, and, by the way, the winner gets a whole packet of those biscuits you all like.”

There was a murmur of excitement throughout the class. At break time, Robbie started jumping up and down, shouting, “I’m going to win! I’m going to win, and I’m going to get a whole packet of biscuits!”

He started practising for the race, running up and down the playground as fast as he could. After a while, he was so tired that he could hardly stand up.

While he was doing that, Leoni and the other friends watched.





Leoni thought, “Wait a minute! I’m a fast runner, too. Maybe I could win the race. Why don’t I practise like Robbie? And then I might be able to beat him.”

So after school, she ran all the way home as fast as she could and arrived home so tired that she flopped down in front of the door and couldn’t move one step more.

Her mummy asked her what had happened, and Leoni said, “I’m practising

for a big race at school. If I beat Robbie and all the others, I’ll get a whole packet of biscuits.”

“Goodness!” said her mummy. “You’ll have to run very fast to beat Robbie. I saw him running the other day, and he was nearly as fast as a train.”

Leoni was pretty worried when she heard that because she really wanted those biscuits, and she knew that her mummy was right.

Meanwhile, Robbie had heard that Leoni was also practising for the race. He knew that Leoni could run fast, and he was getting worried. He really, really wanted those biscuits.

Back at school the next day, Freddie saw Robbie and Leoni when they arrived at school. He could see that they were not happy.

First, he went to Robbie. “Are you all right?” he asked Robbie.

“No,” whispered Robbie. “Leoni is practising for the race, and, if she beats me, I won’t get the packet of biscuits, and I really really want them because I feel hungry nearly every day.”

“Don’t worry!” said Freddie, giving him a hug. “May you be happy! May you be safe!”



Then Freddie went to see Leoni and asked her the same question. And she gave the same reply, that she was really worried that Robbie would beat her and that she wouldn’t get the packet of biscuits. Freddie gave her a hug, too, and said, “May you be happy! May you be safe!” to help her feel better.

By now, Freddie was getting worried, as well. He wanted his friends to be happy, but one of them was definitely going to be very sad and hungry on race day. Maybe one of the other children in the class would win, and then Robbie and Leoni would both be sad and hungry. Freddie said to himself, “I need to think, think, think, and come up with a plan.” But he couldn’t think of anything.



Finally, the big day arrived. When all the children had arrived at school, Ms Winnie said to the class, “Now we’re all going outside into the playground, and we’re going to have our race.” She picked up the packet of biscuits and held it up. “And this is the delicious prize that one of you will have.”

Robbie sat in his chair, sweating. He was feeling really worried now. On the other side of the classroom,

Leoni was sweating, too. She was also really worried.

As they walked outside, Robbie was so nervous that he felt his legs go weak like jelly. He thought, “I feel terrible. I definitely can’t win now.” Ms Winnie called everyone to the starting line and got them all to line up. Robbie was lined up right next to Leoni. He was so worried that he could feel his heart racing. Sweat was pouring down his face. He looked across at Leoni and could see that she felt the same.

Ms Winnie called out, “On your mark!”

Suddenly, Freddie had an idea!

“Get set!” Ms Winnie called out.

Then, before she could blow the whistle for “Go!” Freddie shouted to all the children in his loudest voice, “Everyone hold hands!”

Robbie grabbed Leoni’s hand, Leoni grabbed Donnie’s hand, and all the children up and down the line did the same. The next moment, the whistle blew. The children started running as fast as they could while holding hands.

The finishing line got closer and closer, and they all crossed at the same time.

“Wow! We all won!” panted Robbie and Leoni together.

Ms Winnie had a smile as big as a house. “I’m so proud of you all!” she said. “You took care of each other so beautifully! As a special reward, I have an extra pack of biscuits here. Because you all won, we’re all going to share them, so that everybody has something, and no one is hungry.”

Leoni and Robbie turned to Freddie. “Thank you, Freddie,” they said, “for that fantastic idea for us all to hold hands. Now everyone is happy, and no one is sad. You are such a great friend!”

THE END

