Juniper Chooses a Goodbye

There is more than one warm way to part.



AGES 4-7 | AN ORIGINAL MIMOMANGO STORY



Juniper's cousins were leaving after a long visit. The hallway filled with coats, bags and everyone talking at once. Aunt Mara opened her arms for a goodbye hug.



Juniper stepped back. She liked Aunt Mara, but she did not want a hug just then. Her coat felt hot, and the busy hallway seemed full of elbows.



"No hug today, please," she said softly. Aunt Mara lowered her arms. "Of course. Would you like a wave?" Juniper nodded, relieved that the answer could be simple.



They waved with one paw, then with both. Aunt Mara made a tiny wave using only one finger. Juniper laughed and sent a tiny wave back.



Her cousin offered a high five. Juniper thought for a moment. "Yes to that," she said. Their paws met gently. She could choose differently with different people and moments.



When Grandpa reached for his scarf, Juniper asked for a hug. He put down his bag and gave her one. Choosing a hug now did not make her earlier no wrong.



Outside, Aunt Mara turned at the gate. Juniper pressed her paws to the window and waved again. The goodbye travelled easily through the glass without anybody touching.



Later, Mum asked whether the visit had been fun. Juniper described the game they had played and the soup they had made. One unwanted hug had not become the whole day.



She drew a goodbye card with four pictures: a wave, a high five, a spoken goodbye and a hug. Mum helped write "Ask first" above them.



At the next visit, Juniper remembered the card when her little cousin looked tired. "Wave or goodbye words?" she asked. He chose words. She accepted them happily.



Aunt Mara saw and smiled. "Thank you for asking him." Juniper tucked the card beside the door. It was a reminder, not a rule that everyone had to choose the same thing.



When it was time to leave, the hallway filled with many kinds of goodbye. Every one of them could be affectionate. Every one could leave room for a choice.

The End

A little story. A moment to share.

How did Aunt Mara respond to Juniper's no?

Can someone's choice be different on another day?

Choose a favourite moment and draw what happened next.

Original story and illustrations created with AI assistance for MimoMango, 2026.