Pella and the Pebble Scale

A story about finding a balance



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AGES 4-7



Pella found a little balance beside the pebble path. Two empty bowls hung from a wooden bar. When she touched one, it dipped down and the other rose.



"Let's make them level," said Nori. Pella hurried to find the biggest pebble on the shore. Surely something so large would make their new game wonderfully easy to win.



She placed the pebble in one bowl. Down it went. The other bowl lifted high, as empty as before. Pella stared. The biggest pebble had made the biggest tilt.



Nori chose smaller stones and put them in the empty bowl. It moved a little, but the bar still leaned. "We need more on this side," she said.



Pella fetched another large pebble. It was too heavy to carry comfortably. She left it safely on the ground. Perhaps their game did not need the largest stones after all.



They gathered pebbles small enough to hold easily. One went into Nori's bowl, then another. The bar began to rise on Pella's side, slowly coming closer to level.



"One more!" Pella said. She added a smooth grey pebble. Now Nori's bowl sank lower. They had gone past level. Both friends burst into surprised, bubbling laughter.



Pella took that pebble out. The bar leaned back. She tried a much smaller one instead. This time, the bowls hung nearly even, swaying gently in the sea breeze.



They waited until the bowls stopped moving. "Still a tiny tilt," Nori said. Pella found a little flat stone and added it carefully. The wooden bar settled almost straight.



They crouched down to look across the bar. One large pebble rested opposite several little ones. The two sides looked different, yet the bowls were hanging at nearly the same height.



"Small things can add up," said Pella. She counted the pebbles, then looked at their shapes. Every piece had helped, even the little flat stone that was almost hidden.



Before going home, they emptied both bowls and returned the pebbles beside the path. The balance rested level again. Tomorrow, Pella would begin with a small pebble and a question.



The end

Why did Pella try a smaller pebble?

How could you tell when the bowls were balanced?

Little adventures. A kinder tomorrow.

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