The Class Photo Wiggle



A little movement helps a room of smiles.

A short story to enjoy together

The Class Photo Wiggle

It was class photograph day. Ms Rosa placed the camera on its stand and helped everyone find a comfortable spot.

Arlo sat on a cushion at the front. He tried to make his best smile. It felt stiff, like a shirt with a scratchy label.

"Look this way," Ms Rosa said.

Someone's sock slipped. Someone sneezed. Arlo forgot his smile and looked at the ceiling.

Ms Rosa lowered the camera.

"Shall we take a wiggle photograph first?"

"What is that?" asked Arlo.

"A picture where your shoulders can wiggle and your face can choose something silly. Stay safely in your places."

Six pairs of shoulders began to move. Hands became antlers. Cheeks puffed out. One child made a very serious face that was somehow the funniest face of all.

Arlo lifted his eyebrows as high as they would go.

Click!

The Class Photo Wiggle

Ms Rosa showed them the picture on the camera screen. Everyone leaned forward to look. Arlo found himself laughing at his enormous surprised eyes.

"Now," said Ms Rosa, "let's take one while we are comfortable. You can smile in your own way."

Arlo settled back on his cushion. His shoulders felt loose. The funny picture was still in his mind.

Click!

This time his smile came without being called.

Later, Ms Rosa put both photographs on the classroom board.

Arlo liked the calm one. He liked the wiggly one too.

When Dad came to collect him, Arlo pointed to both.

"That is what we look like," he said. "And that is what we feel like when we laugh."

THE END

LET'S TALK

What helped Arlo relax? How can you help yourself feel comfortable before doing something new?

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