The Cloud with a Shopping List

A make-believe errand above the town.

A short story to enjoy together



Read slowly. Pause to enjoy the pictures and the words.

The Cloud with a Shopping List

READ TOGETHER

In Saffy's drawing, a cloud went shopping. It needed three things: a silver lining, a soft pillow and a good place to put its rain. Saffy drew a very long list.

At the pillow stall, the cloud tried one. "Too lumpy," it said. The stallholder looked at the cloud. "You are already made of excellent pillow shapes." The cloud puffed up with pride.

At the silver shop, every lining was too heavy. The cloud sagged towards the pavement. Saffy rubbed out the silver and drew sunlight along one edge instead. Much lighter.

For the rain, she drew a reservoir among green hills. Her teacher explained that real clouds do not choose where to rain. "This one can," Saffy said. "It is in my story."

The Cloud with a Shopping List

READ TOGETHER

She added a note outside the picture: Pretend Cloud Adventure. Then she drew the cloud floating over the reservoir. Its shopping bag held nothing, but its day had been surprisingly useful.

At the bottom, Saffy drew herself looking up from the market. The real sky outside the classroom was clear. Her imaginary cloud could have a whole journey on paper anyway.

When she finished, the cloud went home without buying a thing. It already had its softness, sunlight lent it a shining edge, and its pretend rain had somewhere sensible to land.

LET'S TALK

Which parts of Saffy's cloud adventure were make-believe?

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