The Pencil's Day Off

A picture finds another way onto paper.

A short story to enjoy together



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

The Pencil's Day Off

READ TOGETHER

"My pencil is having a day off," said Nella. She laid it on a folded tissue like a tiny bed. Her brother looked at the blank page. "Then how will you make a picture?"

Nella opened the scrap-paper box. She tore a blue strip and placed it across the bottom of the page. Water. A green piece became land. A yellow circle became the sun.

Her brother offered a brown rectangle. Nella turned it upright. "A tree trunk." He added green pieces for leaves. Their hands made the shapes the pencil usually outlined.

The tree leaned slightly. Nella moved it before gluing. The sun was too close to the water, so she lifted it higher. Paper pictures could be rearranged while they were still loose.

The Pencil's Day Off

READ TOGETHER

When they liked the scene, they used child-safe glue to fix the pieces. Nella's brother wrote their names on a separate label. He used his own pencil, which was not on holiday.

At the end, Nella woke her pencil. "Would you like to add anything?" she asked in a tiny voice. She drew one bird flying over the finished landscape.

The pencil had missed most of the work, but it arrived for the last little detail. Nella thought that was a very pleasant way to return from a day off.

LET'S TALK

What could the children change before they glued the paper down?

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