The Sleepy Question Mark

A sentence waits for its ending.

A short story to enjoy together



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

The Sleepy Question Mark

READ TOGETHER

In Alma's notebook, the question mark was tired. It had spent all morning asking where, when, why and how. By lunchtime, it curled up beside the margin and closed its eyes.

Alma tried writing, "Where is my hat." The full stop sat at the end, looking perfectly calm. But Alma was asking something, and the sentence did not look quite right.

She drew a little bed for the question mark. "You can rest after this line," she told it. In her make-believe story, the mark stretched its curly back and stepped into place.

"Where is my hat?" Now the sentence showed the question. Alma looked around her real room. Her hat was on the chair, exactly where she had left it.

The Sleepy Question Mark

READ TOGETHER

She wrote another sentence: "My hat is on the chair." This time, the full stop was the right helper. The question mark could finally lie down in its paper bed.

Alma drew a tiny blanket over it. Her teacher smiled at the picture, then asked which mark belonged with a question. Alma pointed to the curled shape under the blanket.

"That one," she said. "But only when it is working." She closed the notebook gently. Even a pretend punctuation mark could have a very busy morning.

LET'S TALK

Which sentence asked something, and which sentence told something?

Original story and illustration created with AI assistance. MimoMango, 2026.