The Squirrel's Empty Trophy

A prize for something nobody noticed.

A short story to enjoy together



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

The Squirrel's Empty Trophy

READ TOGETHER

Squirrel made a trophy from a clean paper cup. She wrapped it in gold-coloured paper and drew a large star on the front. "What did you win?" asked Hare.

"Nothing," said Squirrel. "It is for something I did." Hare waited. Squirrel pointed to the cupboard. "I put every game away before opening another one. Nobody had to remind me."

Hare inspected the cupboard. The boxes were stacked neatly. Their lids matched. One puzzle piece sat in the correct bag instead of under the sofa. It was impressive work.

"Who gives you the trophy?" Hare asked. "I do," Squirrel replied. "I was there, so I know it happened." She placed the empty cup on the shelf.

The Squirrel's Empty Trophy

READ TOGETHER

Hare thought about this. Yesterday, he had asked for help before his model fell apart. He had felt embarrassed, but asking had worked. Perhaps that effort deserved remembering too.

They made a second paper trophy. Hare drew a question mark on his. The trophies did not mean they were better than anyone else. They simply marked two things they were glad they had tried.

By evening, Squirrel's trophy held spare crayons. Hare's held folded notes. Their prizes had become useful, which Squirrel considered an excellent additional achievement.

LET'S TALK

What small effort of your own would you like to remember?

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