The Umbrella for a Sandwich

A picnic gets a tiny roof.

A short story to enjoy together



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

The Umbrella for a Sandwich

READ TOGETHER

At the picnic, a broad leaf dropped beside Ada's sandwich. "It needs an umbrella," Ada said. Dad moved the wrapped sandwich away from the tree while they looked at the leaf.

Ada did not put the garden leaf on her food. Instead, she folded clean paper into a little roof. Dad helped attach it to a cardboard stand, with no sharp point.

The roof stood beside the sandwich, far enough away that paper and glue stayed away from lunch. Ada shaded a tiny patch of table. "A private dining room," she announced.

Her brother made a sign: Sandwich Hotel. Ada added a second roof over an empty paper plate. Their toy animals could use that one. The real lunch stayed safely wrapped until they ate.

The Umbrella for a Sandwich

READ TOGETHER

A breeze lifted one roof. Ada held its base. "The hotel has weather," she said. Her brother placed a smooth, clean weight on the outside of the cardboard stand.

After lunch, they packed every piece away. No paper roofs remained under the tree. The sandwich hotel travelled home in a bag, although its first guest had been deliciously eaten.

At home, Ada set it over a toy chair. "New guest," she told Dad. A small wooden rabbit sat beneath the roof and looked entirely satisfied with the accommodation.

LET'S TALK

How did Ada keep the pretend roof separate from the real food?

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