

A Good Bad Day



Ivan searched through his closet for his shoes. Where did he leave them? They had to be around somewhere, and if he didn't hurry, he would miss the school bus and be late for school.

His shoes weren't in the closet, so he looked at the back door. There they were, covered in muddy grime.

Ivan groaned. Now he remembered. He had taken out Buster, the dog, before going to bed last night. It had been muddy in the yard. He couldn't wear muddy shoes to school, but he didn't have any others.

He grabbed a washcloth from the drawer, wet it at the sink, and wiped the mud off his shoes.

A glance at the clock told him he had better hurry. He finished putting on his shoes, grabbed his backpack, and dug through the pantry to find something to eat. All he found were crackers, but that would be fine. At least he had something.

He sprinted out of the door and toward the bus stop.

On the bus, Ivan sat alone. Other kids sat around him, laughing and smiling, but no one interacted with him. At school, he found his locker and hung up his backpack. Then he went to class.

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In class, Mr. Henderson smiled at him. "Morning, Ivan. I'm happy to see you today. I read your book report, and I really enjoyed it. You have a special way with words."

Ivan stared in surprise at Mr. Henderson. He slowly smiled. "Thanks Mr. Henderson. I really liked that book."

"Good," said Mr. Henderson. "There are more in the series. I'll show you after class."

Ivan waited excitedly all through class. He didn't think about his muddy shoes or his empty stomach. All he thought about was talking to Mr. Henderson and reading more books. He really liked books, but he didn't have any at home. His favorites included science and experiments, and sometimes they included magical elements. When class ended, Mr. Henderson showed Ivan a bookshelf in the corner of the room. "The books on this shelf are all part of the series, so I think you'll really like them. All the other books here are good reads, too."

Ivan looked uncertainly at his teacher. "I can borrow them?"

"Take one at a time, but yes, you can read each of them," he said.

Ivan smiled. His bad day had just gotten better. "Thanks, Mr. Henderson. I can hardly wait."

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- 1) What is the theme of the story?
 - a) Kids are fascinated by books.
 - b) Kids often have to rush through their daily routine before they go to school.
 - c) Sometimes, it just takes one little word of appreciation for people to cheer up.

- 2) Identify the narrative point of view used in the text.
 - a) first person
 - b) second person
 - c) third person

- 3) How is the way Mr. Henderson treated Ivan in class different from the way kids treated him on the bus?

- 4) Which of the following sentences is more likely to be true?
 - a) Ivan was probably only interested in books, and few other things excited him.
 - b) Ivan had an edge over the other kids in the class with his special way with words
 - c) Every morning, Ivan had to wipe the mud off his shoes.

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- 5) What does the word “read” mean in the sentence below?
All the other books here are good reads, too.
