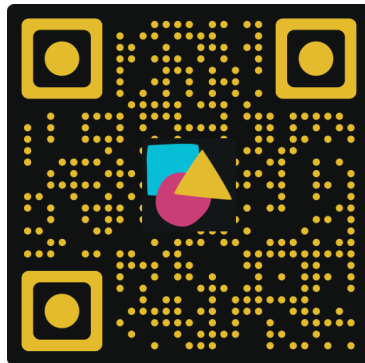




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Desta's Adventure to Friendship: The Language of Laugh and Draw



"Once upon a time, in the heart of a bustling city, lived a bright and enthusiastic girl named Desta. Desta was no ordinary girl. She was special because she had just moved from her beautiful home country to this new, exciting one for her first year in school.

Desta was thrilled about starting her new school but also felt a little scared. She was going to be attending the ESL program which meant that, like other children from around the world, her English abilities were limited too. She worried about making friends because she couldn't express herself very well in English yet.

On the first day of school, Desta woke up extra early. She picked her favorite dress, the one with colorful butterflies on it, and tied her hair in two neat braids. Holding her mother's hand tightly, she walked through the big school gates.

In her first class, she met Mrs. Roberts, a kind and patient teacher who always wore bright scarves that made Desta smile. There were kids from many different countries in the class. Some spoke Spanish, others Chinese or Arabic, but everyone was learning English.

One day, while they were learning vocabulary words, Desta noticed Ethan sitting next to her. Ethan was quietly sketching something. It looked like a dragon! She tapped him on his shoulder and pointed to his drawing. He looked confused for a moment but then smiled and nodded at her curiously.

Desta picked up her pencil and started drawing too - a beautiful castle for Ethan's dragon! Ethan's eyes lit up when he saw what she drew. Even though they couldn't understand each other's languages well yet, they had begun to understand each other through drawings.

From that day, they started sitting together during class and lunch. They would share their drawings and laugh at their silly attempts of speaking English. Before long, they became best friends.

As the weeks turned into months, Desta began to feel more comfortable speaking English. She realized something beautiful – it didn't matter that her English was limited when she first arrived because friendship spoke a language of its own. A language of kindness, understanding, and shared interests that didn't need words to be understood.

In the end, Desta found more than just a new school and a new country. She found a friend who made her feel at home. And she found the courage to overcome her fears and challenges.

And so, the story of Desta's first year in a U.S. school teaches us that language may connect us, but it's the unspoken bonds of friendship that truly bring us together."