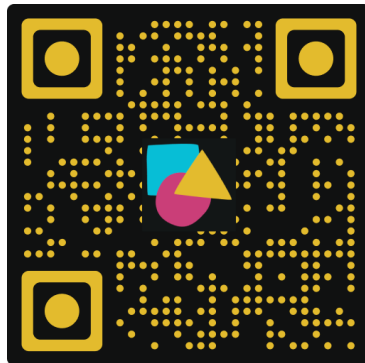




Delight your child with
unique stories every day



Samira and the Whispering Willow: A Tale of Bravery and Reading



"Once upon a time, in the beautiful kingdom of words and letters, there lived a little girl named Samira. She was a cheerful child with sparkling eyes full of curiosity and wonder. Samira loved stories. She loved how they could take her to different worlds and let her meet new people. She loved how, in some stories, she could even become the hero.

But there was one thing that made Samira nervous. She was afraid of reading aloud in front of her class. Even though she could read, her voice would tremble, and she would stumble over some words. She didn't read as quickly as her peers, and it made her anxious.

One day, her teacher Miss Penelope announced that everyone would have to read aloud in front of the class tomorrow. Hearing this, Samira felt her stomach knot. She went home that day, feeling sad and nervous.

Seeing her worried face, her father, Mark, sat down beside her and asked what was wrong. When Samira told him about her fear of reading aloud, Mark smiled gently and said, "Samira, my dear, this sounds like a classic case of 'The Tortoise and the Hare.' Do you remember that story?"

Samira nodded; she knew it well. The story of how the slow and steady tortoise won the race against the fast but overconfident hare.

Mark continued, "Samira, reading is not about being the quickest like the hare. It's not a race. It's more like a journey. It's about understanding the words, feeling their meaning, and painting their picture with your voice."

Mark then shared a magical secret with Samira. He told her about the 'Whispering Willow,' a huge ancient tree in their backyard that loved stories. He said, "Why don't you practice reading aloud to the Whispering Willow tonight? She has been around for hundreds of years and knows every story in the world. She won't mind if you take your time."

That night, Samira hugged her storybook tightly and went out to read under the dim silver glow of the moonlight, sitting beside the Whispering Willow. She read aloud, slowly and steadily, just like the Tortoise. The Whispering Willow listened quietly, its leaves rustling gently as if applauding.

The next day, when it was her turn to read aloud in class, Samira felt much better. She remembered her practice with the Whispering Willow. Taking a deep breath, she began reading aloud. She stumbled a little but remembered her father's words: it's not about speed; it's about the journey. She went slowly, making sure to understand every word and giving them life with her voice.

When she finished reading, there was a moment of silence before her classmates broke into applause. Miss Penelope smiled at her proudly.

From that day on, Samira was no longer afraid of reading aloud. She knew that it was okay to take her time and that it was not a race. She also learned the power of practice and that there are always ways to overcome our fears.

And so, Samira became an avid reader and a confident storyteller, enchanting her classmates with her beautiful, slow, and steady readings. After all, she was not the hare but the happy tortoise who knew that slow and steady wins the race."