

# The Best Gift Of All

It was the last week before Christmas break at Snowflake Elementary, and everyone was buzzing with excitement. Paper snowflakes dangled from the ceiling, glitter covered the floor and somehow everyone's hair and the smell of candy canes filled the air.

Mrs. Jingle, the music teacher, clapped her hands. "Class! This year we're doing a Secret Santa gift exchange!"

Everyone cheered — except for Max, the new kid. He'd just moved to town and didn't really know anyone yet. He smiled shyly but thought, Uh-oh... I don't even know what these people like!

When Max picked a name from the hat, he read it: "Sasha Sparkle."

Sasha was the loudest, silliest kid in class — she once wore a Santa hat in gym class and refused to take it off even during dodgeball.

Max had no idea what to get her. He thought about candy, but she already had pockets full of it. He thought about a book, but she'd probably glue googly eyes on it and make it talk.

Finally, Max came up with an idea: a homemade gift. He drew a funny cartoon of Santa slipping on a banana peel, wrote "Merry Christmas from Your Secret Banana!" and put it in a shiny red envelope.

On the day of the exchange, everyone opened their presents.

When Sasha opened hers, she burst out laughing so hard that she snorted cocoa out of her nose. "THIS IS AMAZING!" she shouted. "Whoever made this is a genius!"

The whole class laughed. Even Mrs. Jingle giggled.

Later, Sasha discovered that her Secret Santa was Max. "You're funny!" she said. "Let's sit together at lunch. I'll bring extra cookies."

From that day on, Max wasn't "the new kid" anymore. He was "the kid who made Santa slip on a banana peel."

And every Christmas after that, the class remembered the year when laughter turned out to be the best gift of all.



# THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

Multiple Choice:

1-What was the special event at Snowflake Elementary?

- a) A singing contest
- b) A snowball fight
- c) A Secret Santa gift exchange
- d) A cookie-eating race

2-Who did Max pick for Secret Santa?

- a) Mrs. Jingle
- b) Sasha Sparkle
- c) Himself
- d) The principal



3-What gift did Max decide to make?

- a) A banana
- b) A funny cartoon of Santa slipping on a banana peel
- c) A Christmas hat
- d) A snow globe

4-How did Sasha react when she saw her gift?

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5-What message does this story teach about friendship and Christmas spirit?

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