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LATER THAT NIGHT...

TAKING KAYLA OUT FOR A WALK, BACK IN A BIT!

BEAUTIFUL DAY TODAY, I BET RECESS WAS NICE!

IT WAS, THIS GIRL MALLORY SAID THE FUNNIEST THING ON THE PLAYGROUND.

SHE SAID, AT THE END OF READING TIME MS. PALMER STARTLED HER SO MUCH WHEN SHE SAID "BOOKS DOWN!" THAT THE BOOK FELL RIGHT ON HER FACE!

HAHA, I GUESS THE WORDS REALLY JUMPED OUT AT HER!

NOW YOU KNOW WE ARE NOT GOING TO JUST TALK ABOUT RECESS, RIGHT?

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THAT BOOK I GOT YOU?
I dunno... I liked it, I guess.

You know you can tell me anything, no matter how embarrassing it may be.

I know...

But no one could understand this!

It was just a bad day.

You know, first days are never easy. When I was your age I--

And something happened that I can't explain.

Will you tell me more about it?

Uhhh

Kayla!! Hey, Kayla over here!

You gotta help! It's Teek. She's lost and I can't find her!

We can help you, right, Aunt Monae?
Mom and Dad are searching the yard. I looked all back there.

Where haven't you looked yet?

Why don't we try the park?

We'll go this way!

I'll look over here.

Thank you!

Here Kitty Kitty!

Here Teek!

Meow kitty, come out right meow!

Come out kitty!

I can't find her anywhere!

Let's take a little break, Kayla. Come here and look at this.
That’s really sweet of them isn’t it?

Yeah, that is.

That reminds me of somebody that I used to know.

I was around your age in fact. Her name was Ann. She was one of my favorite teachers as a kid.

Really? Why was she your favorite?

Slowly sound out each part of the word.

She helped me a lot... reading was hard for me.

It seemed so easy for all my friends. I worried so much with reading.

It felt like something would pop out of me.

Really?

Yes, really. Ann kept helping me and I learned how to control my worries more and more.

It’s time... time to go to school... school, her noo-ther, I mean, Mother said.
ANN WAS LIKE A MENTOR TO ME.

A MENTOR?

SHE SOUNDS WONDERFUL.

RAIGHT, SOMEONE YOU TRUST AND CAN HELP YOU WITH MANY DIFFERENT THINGS.

KAYLA! OVER HERE!

I CAN'T REACH HER!

SHE'S TOO FAR IN.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET HER OUT?

COME ON TEETH, PLEASE COME HERE.

COME HERE KITTY, KITTY. COME ON.
KEEP CALLING HER.

HERE KITTY, KITTY, KITTY!

KITTY, KITTY, WHO'S A PRETTY KITTY?

IT'S NO USE!

WE GOTTA KEEP TRYING!

LOOK WHAT I FOUND OVER HERE...

SEE IF THIS HELPS ANY.

OOOH, GREAT!

THAT'S A GOOD KITTY!
Thank you so much for your help! I’m so happy to have Teek back home!

No problem!

You’re welcome.

That was such a great walk!

Haha, it was quite the adventure.

Now Kayla, I’m not letting you off the hook so easily from our reading conversation.

I know. I mean, yes ma’am.

I know school can be hard, but you got this! I had someone in my corner as a kid, does anyone come to mind that you trust like that?

Well... Ms. Palmer was really helpful today... there’s Emily too...

A teacher can be a great mentor.

Thanks, good night Aunt Monae! Love ya!

Night, night sweetie.
Issue 2 Parent/Caregiver Resources

Kayla and Aunt Monae spend time together as Kayla listens to Aunt Monae share her own experience learning to read (shared experiences/normalizing reading difficulties).

Kayla is deepening her relationship with Aunt Monae, which may lead to Kayla opening up more to Aunt Monae about her feelings and experience learning to read.

Kayla may be fearful to share her feelings and experiences with Aunt Monae, even though she is loving and supportive. To learn more about why kids with learning issues may be fearful, see this information from Understood.org: https://www.understood.org/en/friends-feelings/managing-feelings/fear/6-common-fears-for-kids-with-learning-and-attention-issues

Kayla hears about Aunt Monae's experience learning to read. To learn how to show empathy about learning issues, see this information from Understood.org: https://www.understood.org/en/learning-attention-issues/understanding-childs-challenges/talking-with-your-child/9-ways-to-show-empathy-for-kids-with-learning-and-attention-issues#slide-2

Kayla also hears about how a mentor helped Aunt Monae. To learn how having mentors can help kids with learning issues, see this information from Understood.org: https://www.understood.org/en/friends-feelings/empowering-your-child/self-esteem/how-having-mentors-can-help-kids-with-learning-and-attention-issues

For more information or to stay up to date with Kayla’s adventure

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