



Let's be Friends

It was the last day before the school closed for winter holidays. Vidya and Alok were enjoying their break time with the crisp samosas their mother had made.



Vidya spots a boy sitting alone under the huge banyan tree. Vidya asks, "Who is that boy and why is he always sitting alone during the lunch break?" Raghu says, "He is Anil. He is new to our school. He is in Radha's class." Radha adds, "Oh, him? We call him 'Silly Anil'. He is always quiet, and does not talk to anyone in class, not even to our teacher." Alok looks a little disturbed and says, "That does not make him silly. Maybe he is shy, or he misses his old school, and friends."



Vidya and Alok both agree that Anil must be feeling left out and lonely. They feel very sad, and decide that they must do something to help.

The last bell of that day rang and all the children ran out of the gate screaming, "Chutti!"... "Chutti!"... "Chutti!" Alok asked Vidya if he could play for another five minutes. Vidya smiled and agreed. Alok runs to the swing in the playground as Vidya follows him.



Alok looks at Vidya and asks, "Vidya, is it right for Radha and others to not be friends with Anil just because he does not answer in class?" Vidya replies, "Of course not! It is not right on our part to look down on anyone. In fact, we should be friends with him, and let him know our school is so much fun."



Alok then sees Anil standing near the banyan tree. He calls out to Anil, and offers him a turn on the swing. Anil gives an ear-to-ear smile, and comes running towards the swing. Vidya is happy that her brother was able to break the ice with Anil.

Vidya says, "Come on boys, let's reach home before it gets dark."

As Alok, Vidya, and Anil start walking, Alok puts his arm around his new friend, pulls out a few toffees from his pocket, and offers them to Anil. Anil gleefully takes a couple, and thanks Alok.

Vidya says, "Anil, you must come to our house during the holidays. We will play, and learn a lot of things." Alok tells Anil about Magic Potli and all the 26 letters too.

As they part ways for their respective homes, Anil promises Vidya and Alok that he would certainly spend time with them during the holidays. Later that night, they filled their diaries, and went to bed.

