

# ***BULLIED***

A story by Lee, Ho-Tak



Once there was a boy named Jacob, who was small for his age. Because of this, the bigger boys in his school bullied him. It became so bad that he hated to go to school.

One day, he decided not to go to school, but to go to the forest close to his home.

He entered the forest, and it was darker than he remembered. The trees above blocked the light of the sun. He became scared, but he knew he did not want to go to school so he continued to walk deeper and deeper into the woods.

Suddenly in front of him was a small cabin he had never seen before. He thought he knew everything about this forest, so this was a big surprise.

He stood still for a moment and then decided to go to the door of the cabin to see who lived there. He knocked on the door and shortly afterward, an old man with a long white beard appeared.

The old man asked in a gruff voice, “Who’s knocking at my door?”

Jacob stepped back in surprise. He had never seen this man before.

“Uh... uh... my name is Jacob, and I think I’m lost,” Jacob answered.

The old man just looked at Jacob for a time.

Then he said, “Would you like to come in and have a cup of tea with me?”

Jacob had always been told by his parents not to listen to strangers, but the

old man seemed to be very nice, so Jacob said, "Sure."

Jacob went into the house and sat at a small table. The chairs were shorter than the ones in his house. He liked them. They were more his size.

The old man brought him a cup of tea and a biscuit.

"Thank you," said Jacob, as he took his first sip of tea.

It was delicious. He had never had a cup of tea that tasted so good.

"Where did you get this tea? It's the best I have ever had." Jacob asked.

"I make it from plants I find in the forest," the old man answered.

Continuing, he asked Jacob, "Tell me, why are you in the forest instead of being in school?"

Jacob told him about the bullies in his school and how he hated to go to school every day. No one helped him and he was tired of being bullied all the time.

The old man listened to Jacob's story.

When Jacob was finished, the old man went to his cupboard and took out a strange looking box. He placed the box on the table and then explained to Jacob what it was for.

"Young man, when you are scared or sad, open this box, make a wish and it'll come true. Be careful what you wish for because what you want is what you'll get. You must only use the box for good things. If you use it for bad things you will find that your life will not be the way you want it to be," the old man explained to Jacob how to use the box.

Jacob took the box and started to open it.

The old man yelled at him, "Not now! Only when you are scared or sad, otherwise you will waste a wish and it will not come true."

They talked for quite a while and then Jacob left. The old man gave him directions on how to return to his home.

Jacob was happy. He had a box of wishes. He knew exactly how he was going to use it. It was his secret and no one would know until the time came for his first

wish.

It took a long time for Jacob to find his way home. He had gone a lot further into the forest than he thought.

When he got home, his mother was angry with him for not going to school. She sent him to his room. She told him they would discuss why he had not gone to school when his father got home from work.

It did not matter to Jacob. He had the box and he knew how he was going to use it.

When his father got home, they had a discussion about why Jacob had not gone to school. Jacob promised he would not do it again.

The next day Jacob got to school early. He was never early, so the teachers were very surprised. He even had a smile on his face for the first time in a very long time.

Jacob saw the bullies coming to school.

When they got to him, they asked him, "What are you smiling about? You know we're going to take your money and you'll have to buy us food during lunch time. So what's so funny?"

Even though he was scared of what the boys might do to him, Jacob replied, "I don't think so."

The bullies looked at each other.

Then one of them said, "So you want us to just beat you up now?"

Jacob replied, "I don't think so. I'm not going to do what you tell me anymore."

The bullies got ready to hit him, but before they could, Jacob opened the box and made his first wish.

Suddenly, the bullies were gone. They just disappeared.

Jacob looked around surprised that the wish had worked, the bullies were gone, and now he could do whatever he wanted.

He opened the box a second time, he made a second wish, and when he did, the bullies came back. However, they were much smaller than they were before, so now, Jacob could beat them up, and he did.

Jacob liked the feeling of the power the box gave to him. He went around the school and became a bully himself.

This went on for several weeks, and Jacob was a bigger bully than any of the other bullies had ever been. He demanded money, he made the students do things for him, he got his homework done by other people, and he took their bicycles.

The students in the school began to hate Jacob.

Jacob was not as happy as he thought he would be by being a bully. No one liked him. He became sad. How was he going to make friends?

He remembered the box. If he was sad, he could make a wish.

He opened the box to make another wish.

All of a sudden, he was in front of the cabin in the woods. He went to the door and knocked. The old man answered the door.

“What is this I hear about you? You have become a bigger bully than the boys who used to beat you up. Your last wish will not come true. In fact, your first two wishes are no longer true. When you go back to your school, everything will be the same as before. You have not used the box wisely,” the old man said in a very strong voice to Jacob.

The box then flew from Jacob’s hands to the old man.

Jacob was very sad. He said he was sorry for not using the box the way the old man had told him. He asked for one more wish.

The old man asked what he would wish for.

Jacob thought for a minute and then told the old man his wish.

“I want to be bigger, I want to be handsome, I want to be popular, I want to be smarter, I want to be.....”

“WAIT!” the old man said. “You’re being selfish. Your wishes will come

true. So go home and don't come back!"

Jacob left the old man's house and went home. He ran to his room to see if what he had wished for had come true.

When he looked in the mirror, everything was the opposite. He was smaller, he was ugly, he was never going to be popular, and he even felt like he was dumber.

"OH NO!" he said aloud. "My life is going to be even worse than before!"

He lay down on his bed and cried.

"I wish I had not used the box that way. I wish I had been smarter and used the box for something good. I wish I had just made the bullies my friends instead of making them small, that way all of my other wishes would have come true."

Jacob fell asleep still crying about his mistake.

In the morning when he got up, he was no longer ugly. He looked the same as he did before.

When he got to school, he was surprised that the bullies came up to him and said, "Hey Jacob. What's up?"

Jacob realized that his last wish had come true.

**VOCABULARY:** (*Match the word to its definition*)

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|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. bully _____      | a. well liked, admired    |
| 2. cabin _____      | b. request, desire, hope  |
| 3. discussion _____ | c. afraid, fearful        |
| 4. scared _____     | d. not good looking       |
| 5. wish _____       | e. sensibly, cleverly     |
| 6. handsome _____   | f. tormentor, tyrant      |
| 7. popular _____    | g. more stupid            |
| 8. ugly _____       | h. small house, cottage   |
| 9. dumber _____     | i. good looking man       |
| 10. wisely _____    | j. conversation, dialogue |

**TRUE / FALSE:**

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|---|-------|
| 1. Jacob was small for his age.                         | T / F |
| 2. Bullies picked on Jacob.                             | T / F |
| 3. Jacob liked to go to school.                         | T / F |
| 4. Jacob ran to the forest.                             | T / F |
| 5. An old man gave Jacob a magic box.                   | T / F |
| 6. None of the wishes came true.                        | T / F |
| 7. Jacob made many friends after the bullies were gone. | T / F |
| 8. Someone stole Jacob's bicycle.                       | T / F |
| 9. Jacob did everyone's homework for them.              | T / F |
| 10. Jacob remained ugly, and stupid.                    | T / F |

**MULTIPLE CHOICE:**

1. What did Jacob get when he was in the forest? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) magic box
  - b) magic flute
  - c) magic lantern
  - d) magic rug
  
2. What happened after the first wish? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e) the bullies died
  - f) the bullies ran away
  - g) the bullies disappeared
  - h) the bullies said they were sorry
  
3. Who became the biggest bully of all? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Joshua
  - b) Joseph
  - c) James
  - d) Jacob
  
4. What did the old man take from Jacob? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) magic rug
  - b) magic flute
  - c) magic lantern
  - d) magic box

**COMPREHENSION:** (*Write a complete sentence to answer the question.*)

1. Why didn't Jacob want to go to school?

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2. Where did he go instead of going to school?

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3. Who did he meet in the forest?

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4. What did the old man give to Jacob?

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5. What was Jacob's first wish?

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6. Why did Jacob's father have a talk with him?

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7. When was the only time when the box would work?

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8. What did Jacob have other kids do for him?

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9. What was Jacob's last wish?

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10. What happened on the next day at school?

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