

JOSH AND HIS DOG MAX

by
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Josh was the smallest student in his class. Everyone liked to tease Josh because he was not very good at doing things. Josh tried and tried to do his very best, but he always finished last.

Josh's mother told him he would be better when he got bigger. It was just that he was so small he could not keep up with the other kids.

Josh did not give up. Even though the other children teased him, he kept trying and trying.

The thing that Josh enjoyed the most was playing on his computer. He did not have to compete with anyone. He could just play by himself, and if he did not win, no one else would know but him.

His best friend was his dog Max. His parents had gotten Max from the market two years before. He was a common mixed breed dog. He was white and tan. He was the fastest dog in the neighborhood

Max was a very smart dog. He would bark when it was time to eat. He would sit and lay down when he was told. He would bring Josh his slippers at the door when he got home from school. Max and Josh slept together every night. He would protect Josh if someone ever came into his room.

When Josh and Max would go out for a walk, people would always say to Josh, "You have such a smart dog. How did you train him so well?"

This made Josh feel good. He had something no one else had; the smartest dog in the whole world.

One day in school, the teacher told the students that the following Monday would be 'Bring your pet to school day'. Each of the children could bring one pet to school, and then they would be able to tell all about their pet to the other students.

Josh got excited. He was always sad when he had to leave Max at home. Now Max could come with him to school and sit with him all day.

Later that day the children were talking about their pets. Each one told about how much they loved their pets.

Suzie told about her pet frog named Julius and how, in the middle of the night, it would make noises. Sometimes when she took Julius out of his cage he would hop and hop across the floor.

Frank told about his pet snake named Slider. Slider was a big long snake that liked to eat mice.

The girls went, "Eeww, that's terrible!"

Frank just smiled.

Rudy told about his cat Irvin. He had had Irvin all of his life. In fact his parents had Irvin before he was born. Irvin was just a big fat cat that liked to sleep and eat. He was lazy.

One day, a mouse came into the house and Irvin just looked at it and then went back to sleep.

Josh got so excited that he had to tell about Max.

"My dog is the smartest dog in the whole world. He sleeps with me, he brings me my slippers every day, and he can sit and roll over!" Josh said smiling.

The other kids just laughed at him. "Ha, ha, ha, stupid Josh has the smartest dog in the whole world. Ha, ha ha, that is sooooo funny," they all said.

Josh just looked at them, and said, "You'll see. When I bring Max to school on Monday, you will see that he's the smartest dog in the whole world. Everyone says so

and you will think so too.”

The children just laughed at him.

Josh did not care. He knew that Max would change their minds. Max was his best friend, and everyone would see just how smart he really was.

That night Josh got home after his music lesson, and there was Max at the door, with his slippers, waiting for him. Josh took his slippers, and then he gave Max a big hug.

“Max, on Monday you’re coming to school with me. We’ll show them that you’re the smartest dog in the whole wide world!” Josh said.

After dinner, Josh and Max went for a walk. Josh and Max practiced all of the tricks they had learned. This made Max tired and ready for bed.

The next day in school, the teacher told the students she had a surprise for them. The school had received new computers, and now they were ready for the class to use. The boys got excited. They loved playing internet games on their computers at home. The school had a rule against playing internet games, but the boys made a plan to fool the teacher. Josh overheard them talking and asked if he could play too.

They said, “No, you’re just a loser, you can’t play. You’ll just lose anyway.”

Then one of the boys said, “What if he tells the teacher about us playing games? Maybe we should let him play. That way he’ll keep quiet. Also, what can it hurt? We can all beat him anyway.”

The others agreed and decided to let Josh join.

It was not until seventh period that they could go to the computer room. The bell rang, and the students rushed to the door and down the hallway to the computer room. Josh was the last one to get to the room so he had to take a seat at the front of the class in the corner.

The children all knew how to open the computers and how to get to their games. When the teacher came by, they quickly switched the program to the one the teacher wanted them to be doing. When she walked away, they went back to the game.

The competition was tough. The boys were concentrating on the game. At the end

of the class, someone using the name of MadMax had won the game. No one knew who that was.

The next day in computer class, the boys played again. Once again, the winner at the end was MadMax.

The following day at lunch, the boys were trying to figure out who MadMax was. They asked each other but the names the boys were using were FlyingFrog, KillerBee, MightyMan, Fruitcake, Just-4-You, and DownTown. No one said they were MadMax.

Josh stayed quiet. He did not join in because he knew they would just laugh at him.

On Monday, the big day, Josh and Max came to school. Max sat quietly beside Josh in the classroom. The teacher asked each of the students to come to the front of the room and introduce their pets.

There was Julius the frog. He just sat and did not do anything.

Slider the snake wrapped itself around Frank's arm and wiggled its tongue in the air.

Irvin the cat just slept.

Now it was Josh's turn. He and Max walked to the front of the class.

"This is my dog Max. He's the smartest dog in the whole world," Josh introduced Max to the class.

The students began to laugh. The teacher told them, "Stop and listen to Josh."

Josh then showed them how Max would sit, shake his hand, lie down, roll over and bark when Josh asked Max, "Do you love me?"

The children were surprised. They agreed that Max was the smartest pet. They all came to the front of the class to pet Max and to tell him how smart he was.

After sixth period, the class went to the computer room again. At the end of the class, MadMax won the game for the third time. As the boys left the room, they started to talk about whom MadMax might be.

Max began to bark and bark. The kids turned around and saw Josh and Max. Suddenly one of the boys asked, "Josh, are you MadMax?"

Josh just smiled and walked down the hall with his best friend Max. He thought to himself, “We are so smart.”



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

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. tease _____ | a. participate, contend |
| 2. compete _____ | b. house animal |
| 3. breed _____ | c. type or kind of dog |
| 4. pet _____ | d. law, regulation |
| 5. lazy _____ | e. change, swap |
| 6. slippers _____ | f. annoy, pester, joke |
| 7. rule _____ | g. slothful, no energy |
| 8. loser _____ | h. contest, match |
| 9. competition _____ | i. house shoes |
| 10. switch _____ | j. cannot win, failure |

TRUE / FALSE:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Max was a Dalmatian. | T / F |
| 2. Josh was a very smart boy. | T / F |
| 3. Josh had many friends. | T / F |
| 4. His classmates teased Josh. | T / F |
| 5. Josh liked to play on his computer. | T / F |
| 6. Max slept with Josh. | T / F |
| 7. The cat was named Julius. | T / F |
| 8. Josh used the name MudMix for his computer game. | T / F |
| 9. Josh and Max were proud to be so smart. | T / F |
| 10. Josh was fat. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. Where did Josh's parents buy Max? _____
 - a) at the pet store
 - b) on a farm
 - c) from a neighbor
 - d) at the market

2. Where did Max sleep at night? _____
 - a) in Josh's bed
 - b) on the floor in Josh's room
 - c) in the kitchen
 - d) in his dog house

3. Why was Josh so excited? _____
 - a) "Bring Your Pet to School Day"
 - b) "Computer Games Day"
 - c) "How Smart is Your Pet Day"
 - d) "My Favorite Pet Day"

4. What did Max do when Josh asked him, "Do you love me?" _____
 - a) he rolled over
 - b) he brought him his slippers
 - c) he fell asleep
 - d) he barked

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

1. What was the name of the snake?

2. Why was Josh always teased?

3. What was Josh's user name for the computer game?

4. What kind of dog was Max?

5. What color was Max?

6. What kind of animal was Irvin?

7. What happened on Monday?

8. What day did the children bring their pets to school?

9. Who told Josh he would get bigger?

10. What did Josh end up being good at doing?
