

## Stand Up!

As I was walking down the street, suddenly felt something gooey hit on my head . It brought a perplexed look on my face, I looked back at what happened and BAM another one hit my face. In a haste I wiped it and saw what it was, a... tomato? Uh-oh! They were boys to be more precise, boys from my school (8<sup>th</sup> graders). I ran as fast as my stubby legs could go but unfortunately, they caught me and after they were done with me, I limped home with my body aching.

When I was at home, I quickly put on powder on my eye so my mom would not notice my black eye also I wore my fluffy full pant. Oh wait, I am so sorry I forgot to introduce myself “I am Joe Macrez, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and I live in a small apartment with my mom (she is lovely and super smart)”. I used to live with my elder brother ,Ezer(who is tall, handsome, national level athlete champion and a computer engineer too ) ,but he is gone searching for our dad. What I was told of my dad was that he was in a secret organization which works for national security (he is super strong but very gentle and kind from inside). You might have noticed that everyone is at least amazing at something, but I am just a shorts stubby boy with glasses who is only good at math and coding. Anyway, I went to my room and I was lying on my bed.

As I was drifting in my sleep my mom stepped in and gave me an odd look while she said, “why are you wearing this woolen pant in summer?”.

I responded hesitantly “I... I am cold and uh... uh I went up a hill and a really strong breeze was going past me”.

She now said like those people in movies who say it in a threatening but calm voice “well you must be fine now or maybe even hot”.

I sighed and said, “I feel fine now I’ll change into my normal pants”.

I changed into my normal pants, went to the dinner table and ate dinner, Mom said, "Please don't start game coding again, remember tomorrow is school".

I replied, "I know mom".

Dinner was over so I went to bed but could not sleep because I wondered *why did those boys throw tomatoes, and why particularly tomatoes?* After some time, I fell asleep, but I had a terrible dream that those boys were chasing me repeatedly and I kept running but never made it but to look on the bright side I improved my running speed!!

I woke up early in the morning and got ready for school, packed my bag, and ate breakfast and waved to mom to say bye. Our school is awesome it has different classes. I like computer room the most, but it has only few systems and which are always occupied. I also like my library which is full of amazing books. We have a big cafeteria, but we must share with the other class kids though.

Well, I told you enough about our school now so let us continue the story. I went to class and studied social studies, then we had a lunch break. When I was going to start to eat one of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders said "hey weirdo" I looked at what was going on saw one of the boys(tallest one) who threw a tomato I quickly went in to a crowd of people without knowing where I was going and I just went in a circle and hit that guy who called me "hey person" I ran as fast as I could in the opposite direction but he caught me I quickly thought of something and said "your moms is here"! with a doubtful voice. To my surprise he let me go and he said "huh where is she?" he kind of said it in a worried tone but when he could not see her then he looked back at me but by that time I was long gone. People laughed at him because he looked like a baby with that worried face. He went away in sulking in embarrassment.

When school was over, I went with many people crowding me like I was some famous superstar but in a second, they all went away I looked for them but instead I saw that tall boy again!! *It must be revenge!* I thought! After that I ran as fast as I could, took all the short cuts I could find but when I saw my house in distance I saw that boy, he was literally standing on the door step! To make it worse he had a sack of tomatoes! Just then my mom came and shouted, “what do you think you are doing on our doorstep boy?”

He got frightened and quickly left but as he was going, I think I heard him mumble something “I’ll get that boy tomorrow” I hope I heard that wrong because those were lucky misses. I am scared now I told my mom “I don’t want to go to school for a week mom.”

She gave me a puzzled look and said, “why don’t you want to go?”

“I just don’t want to.”

“well ok, but on one condition”

“what is the condition?”

“you will not eat so much sweet and you will do exercise one hour daily.”

“WHAT!!”

“you decide.”

“ok fine!”

“oh, wait I almost forgot!”

“Oh no” I muttered!

“you have to make up 6:00 AM, then you can do exercise first thing after you wake up and remember if you forget then you got to go school again and still do the exercises.”

I almost started crying when I heard this and wanted to say NO WAY!! But what came out of my mouth was “okay fine.” On day one, I did squats for 20 minutes then I did pushups for ten minutes then I did sit-ups for 20 minutes and I lifted weights for 10 minutes. I looked like I took a shower in sweat but as the days passed, I got better, faster and stronger... As my one week was done my mom wanted to see how much weight I lost. I could not believe my eyes I lost 5 pounds!!

My one week was done now so I was scared again to go to school. I could not add suspicion by telling my mom could I stay home for another week, so I had to go to school. I went to school only paying attention to class and when lunch time came, I ate lunch quickly and quietly so that no one would notice me. I was hiding myself from those boys but living with fear was so suffocating, I couldn't concentrate on my studies also. Finally, I decided running away from a problem is not a solution, I needed to fix it from the root .I thought, *I am a good human being who always helps others and that matters a lot. Everyone has right to live in a healthy, peaceful environment, where knowledge and love is shared. Society grows, if everyone values empathy, respect and ready to help.* I felt better and left for the day.

Next day when I was walking normally, I saw that guy in terrible condition, trying to solve some math problems in the library. Instead of running away, I went up to him and asked if he needed help. He said “yes” without even looking at me. I helped him understand the concept (Percentage) in a very easy manner, told him the formula and helped him out. He was so concentrated that he did not even notice me .When we were done, he looked up, when he saw me he was so surprised and ashamed of his behavior and said, “why did you help me when I bullied you?”

I replied, "My mom says, we should always help others, if you do GOOD, GOOD WILL be done to you..."

"Thank you very much, you have taught me a BIG lesson today, I will never forget this day in my life and never ever bully anyone again." boy said.