

JOSH AND HIS DOG MAX

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Josh was the smallest boy in his class. All his classmates teased Josh because he was so small and 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 Josh enjoyed the most was playing games 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 could run faster than any other 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 Monday would be ‘Bring Your Pet to School Day’. Each of the children could bring one pet to school, and then they would tell all about their pet to the class.

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

Later, during lunch, the children were talking about their pets. Each one told about how much they loved them.

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 said, “Eew, that’s terrible!”

Frank just smiled.

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

Rudy told about how one day a mouse came into the house and Ervin just looked at it and then went back to sleep.

Everyone laughed.

Josh got so excited. It was his turn 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 kids just laughed at him.

“Ha, ha, ha, stupid Josh has the smartest dog in the whole world. Ha, ha ha, that’s sooooo funny,” they all said.

Josh just looked at them, and told them, “You’ll see. When I bring Max to school

on Monday, you'll see that he's the smartest dog in the whole world. Everyone says so and you'll think so too."

The children just laughed at him again.

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

That evening, when Josh got home after his music lesson, 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 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 gotten new computers, and now they were ready for the class to use. The boys got excited. They loved playing computer games at home. The school had a rule against playing 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."

Then one of the boys spoke up, "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? He's just going to lose anyway. We can all beat him."

They agreed and decided to let Josh join them in the game.

It was not until the 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 where the teacher could easily see what he was doing most of the time. He had to be very careful or his teacher would catch him playing the game.

The boys knew how to open the computers and how to get to the game they were

going to play. When the teacher came by, they quickly changed the program to the one the teacher wanted them to be doing. When she walked away, they went back to the game.

The game was not easy. At the end of the class, someone using the name MadMax had won the game. No one knew who that was.

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 the conversation because he knew they would just laugh at him.

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

On Monday, the big day, Josh and Max came to school. Max sat quietly beside Josh in the classroom. The teacher asked the children who had brought pets to come to the front of the room one at a time to introduce their pet.

There was Julius the frog. He hopped across the floor. The girls jumped up onto their chairs and screamed. Suzi had to chase him around the room until she finally caught him and put him back into his box.

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

The girls all said, "Eew!"

Ervin the cat just slept.

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

"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 showed them how Max would sit, shake his hand, lie down, and roll over.

When Josh asked Max, "Do you love me?" he barked.

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

After sixth period, the children 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 who MadMax might be.

Max began to bark and bark. The kids turned around and saw Josh and Max.

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.”

VOCABULARY (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. tease _____ | a. play, contend, participate |
| 2. compete _____ | b. house animal |
| 3. breed _____ | c. type or kind of dog |
| 4. pet _____ | d. law, regulation |
| 5. lazy _____ | e. one class, lesson time |
| 6. slippers _____ | f. joke, pick on, make fun of |
| 7. rule _____ | g. no energy, slothful |
| 8. loser _____ | h. contest, match, game |
| 9. competition _____ | i. house shoes |
| 10. period _____ | j. cannot win, failure |

TRUE / FALSE

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Max was a common mixed breed dog. | 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 Ervin?

7. What happened on Monday?

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

9. Who told Josh he would be better when got bigger?

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