

The Playground Hero (FK 2.9)

Tommy was nervous about starting at his new school. He had heard stories about a bully named Max. "Why do I have to go?" Tommy asked his mom. "Because it's a great school, and you'll make new friends," she replied. Tommy nodded, hoping everything would be okay.



On the first day, Tommy met lots of kids. They all wore red shirts that said, "Welcome to Pine Hill." Tommy's mom helped him find his classroom, then waved goodbye. Inside, the kids sat at their desks. Their teacher, Mr. Green, said, "Let's share something fun about ourselves. I love to play the guitar."

One by one, the kids talked about their hobbies. Some liked soccer, others enjoyed drawing or reading. When it was Tommy's turn, he said, "I'm Tommy, and I love to swim."

Mr. Green smiled. "That's wonderful, Tommy. Swimming is a great skill." Then they went outside for recess.



Tommy was playing on the swings when he saw Max. Max was bigger than the other kids and looked tough. He was pushing a smaller kid, making him cry. Tommy felt nervous. He whispered to himself, "I have to be brave."

His friend Lucy said, "Everyone is scared of Max. I'm scared of him too!"

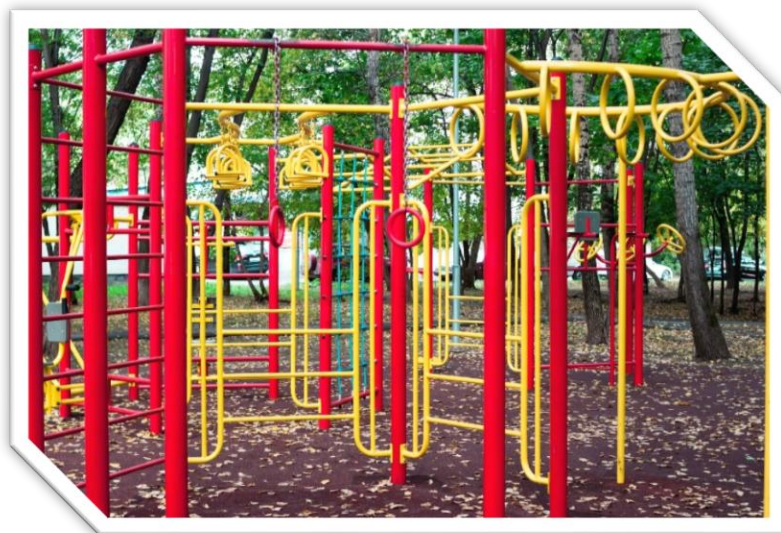
Tommy nodded. "But we have

to do something."

Lucy looked worried. "What can we do?"

Tommy thought for a moment. "Maybe we can talk to him."

Just then, they heard a loud noise. A group of kids was gathered around the jungle gym. Max was climbing to the top, showing off. Suddenly, he slipped and got stuck. He was hanging here, scared and unable to move.



Tommy knew he had to help. He ran over and called up to Max, "Hold on! I'm coming to help you!"

Max looked surprised but nodded. Tommy climbed up carefully, using his swimming skills to stay balanced. When he reached Max, he said, "It's okay. I've got you."

Tommy helped Max find his footing and guided him down safely. The other kids cheered. Max looked at Tommy and said, "Thanks. I didn't think anyone would help me."

Tommy smiled. "Everyone needs help sometimes."

From that day on, Max wasn't a bully anymore. He even started playing with the other kids. Tommy felt proud. He had made a difference.

When they got back to class, Mr. Green gave Tommy a special sticker. "You did it!" he said.



Tommy felt proud. He wasn't scared of Max anymore. Mr. Green said, "Now, let's celebrate with a class party!"

Tommy laughed. "I'm ready for anything now!"