

Little Man in a Big World

Joseph

It was an autumn morning. But this day was different, it was Joseph's first day of highschool. He got out of bed about to get ready for school and instantly was hit by the smell of pancakes. While he was getting ready for school he noticed his brother Steven had been acting pretty unusually, almost kind of mean.

Joseph noticed he had this awful attitude and had been making mean comments about everything from the way Joseph's hair looked to their mom's cooking. He ate and got to the door, but he realized his bus was about to leave so he had to run right for the door. Adrenaline was shooting through his veins. He ran as fast as he could but didn't make it.

Luckily a student saw him and let the driver know to stop. He went on the bus and thanked the driver and the student who asked the driver to stop. He introduced himself and found out that his new friend's name was Miles. He found out Miles was a freshman just like him and was in the same stream as him. Joseph and Miles quickly became friends and shared interests such as their favorite video game mortal combat and favorite food which was pizza. They talked about how nervous they were for their first day, but were both glad to have a friend going into it. Eventually, they arrived at school.

The second Joseph got there, he felt really nervous. Everyone was so big and he felt so little. At his old school, he was in 8th grade and was the oldest in the school, but now he was at the bottom. Everyone seemed to scare him so much. The first class of the day was algebra with his teacher Ms.Jackson. On the way to class he bumped into another student and spilled his water on him. He quickly apologized but he wasn't happy and the other student said, "Yeah watch

where you're going homo". That really upset Joseph. Before he could stop himself he kicked the bully in the balls.

Looking back at it, it probably wasn't the best idea but he was so mad he didn't know what to do. That triggered the bully's friends and before he knew what was happening, he and his friend pushed Joseph to the ground and were kicking him. Every kick a little more air left him until he could barely breathe. He then saw his brother standing in the crowd and reached out to him for help but Steven just walked away. It went on for another long 30 seconds before the boys walked away.

Someone had gotten a teacher but it was already too late, they already had taken Joseph to the nurse. They found out that he had mostly just gotten the wind knocked out of him but could have possibly bruised a rib. He was furious that his brother hadn't helped him. Actually, much worse than furious, he had lost all respect for him. He hated him. He decided that from there on out he would never talk to his brother again. He was no longer his brother in his eyes. From there on out the rest of the day had just been a blur, a big painful blur. Even though it was hours ago it still hurt almost as bad as when it had just happened. When he went home he just went straight to bed. He couldn't think and didn't know how to feel.

Steven

Steven woke up, it was the first day of school. *Hooray* he thought sarcastically. He was already in a bad mood and he had just woken up. He saw his mom was making breakfast. He got dressed and went downstairs to eat. His mom had made pancakes. After he finished eating he went to school and his friend picked him up and drove him.

Once he got to school he was on his way to his first class when he heard a crowd of people yelling he turned the corner of the hall and saw his brother and froze. He saw his friends kicking his brother while he was on the floor, he felt his heart racing. "What should I do?" he thought. I wanna help him but what would they think of me. They would call me a loser, but he's my brother though. I have to help him", he thought. But then his brother reached out to him for help. He felt like he was going to puke and he quickly rushed away. He decided to get a teacher but it was too late they were already gone. Just his brother laying on the floor, he quickly escorted his brother to the nurses office.

He didn't know what to do or what to tell his mom. Joseph finally came to his senses and the first thing he said was, "Why didn't you do anything to stop them?" Steven stuttered a bit, his blood running cold. "I'm sorry I was scared", he said, holding back tears. His brother just didn't talk to him from then on. No matter what he wouldn't talk to his brother.

After that for the rest of the day he couldn't think or do anything but feel guilt. The guilt weighed down on him, got worse and worse as time went on; it was just a blur from then on out. He was his older brother. "I'm his older brother. I'm supposed to look out for him" he thought. The second he got home he didn't even think of doing work he

just went straight to his bed and layed on it for hours on end, the only thing breaking him from his trance was his mother knocking on the door. "Steven you in there" she said with a worried tone in her voice. Steven just didn't say anything.

His mom put down dinner on the table for him and said. "I'm sorry about what happened, it's not your fault. Just please eat. I don't want you to starve.". He went to sleep without touching the food and got up the next morning. His brother gave him the death glare during breakfast. He got on the bus today because his friend was sick. He went over to his friends who had been bullying his brother the day before and said. "Why would you do that to me? He hates me now because of you jerks."

"So what?!" they said. "He's my brother no matter what and I love him. What you guys did was messed up!" Then, the bully said, "You know what, screw you!" and punched Steven in the gut. But Steve wasn't going to stand by and take the punch. After that an all out fight broke out, he couldn't even control himself. He just felt like his body was an auto pilot. His anger towards them influenced him and fuelled the fight. Until the bus driver was able to pull them apart. After they got to school they were both taken to the office. They both told their part of the story and Steven got a one day in school suspension while the bully got two for starting it. He finally felt like he had redeemed himself but did he really? Yes he built up the courage to fight the bully and confront him but did it change anything?

Artist Note

In this story Steven and Joseph have a cause and effect of Steven's brother being hurt by his friends, who are bullies, to be able to stand up for him and his brother and become a better person. It took him seeing his brother being hurt to realize that what his friends were doing wasn't alright. I decided to start the story on Joseph's view because it would show us what happened to him first and paint the picture of his brother being a bad guy who just walked away when seeing someone close to him being hurt. When seeing Stevens, we realize the situation he was in and take into consider his problems too. One way that I used dramatic irony is when Steven realizes what his friends are doing is wrong only when it affects him.