

STORY
WALKER
365

7 to 10
YEARS

BUILDING BEAUTIFUL INSIDE

THE MYSTERY OF THE FLYING LUNCHBOX

A Story by Arkedelic



STUDENT ZONE

THE MYSTERY OF THE FLYING LUNCHBOX

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THE MYSTERY OF THE FLYING LUNCHBOX

The lunchbox flew through the air like a frisbee on a mission.

It twirled once, spun twice, and crash-landed near the playground water taps, exploding open in a grand finale of dal, roti, and boiled okra.

Riya stared in horror. “That’s my lunch!”

Mr Das looked furious. “Whose idea of a joke was this?”

Silence.

All eyes darted around.

Then Nik spoke. “I think... I saw Mario near the bags.”

Mario turned. “What?! I wasn’t even close!”

“Pretty sure you walked past right before it happened,” Nik added.



Jane narrowed her eyes. “Wait. I thought I saw you do that weird arm-fling-thing earlier.”

Nik looked uncomfortable. “Yeah, but... I was just stretching.”

Mr Das frowned. “No one is owning up? Then everyone from this group will stay back during recess. Until we sort this out.”

Later, behind the library wall, the Squad assembled.

“That wasn’t cool,” Sam said, arms folded.

Nik shuffled his feet. “I didn’t say he did it. I just said he was near it.”

“You also did it,” Jane snapped. “We all saw you practicing that over-the-head move earlier.”



Mario looked at him quietly. “Why’d you say it was me?”

Nik stared at the ground. “I panicked.”

The truth?

Nik had flung his water bottle into the air doing a move he saw in a game video. Only the bottle knocked into Riya’s lunchbox. And... boom.

He didn’t mean to.

But when the teacher asked, and the okra hit the ground, fear kicked in.

“I didn’t want to get in trouble,” Nik said softly. “I thought if I pointed somewhere else... it would pass.”

“But it didn’t,” said Sid. “Now we’re all in it.”

“Especially Mario,” said Sam.

Nik looked at Mario. “I’m sorry.”

Mario nodded slowly. “You could’ve just said you messed up.”

“I know,” Nik said. “But it’s so easy to think of someone else when you’re scared of getting caught.”

After school, Nik stood in front of Mr Das’s desk.

“I lied,” he said. “It was me. I was doing a stupid move, and I knocked Riya’s tiffin by mistake. I was scared, so I blamed someone else. I’m really sorry.”

Mr Das stared at him.

Then nodded. “Thank you for telling the truth. It matters. But there are still consequences.”

Nik nodded. “I’ll clean up the lunch area. And apologise to Riya. And to Mario.”

“You’ll also write down what made you blame someone else. Because if you don’t know that part, you’ll do it again.”

Nik blinked. “Okay.”

Later that evening, the Squad sat under their usual tree.





“Apology accepted,” Mario said. “I’m not mad. Just... disappointed.”

“That’s worse,” Nik groaned.

Jane smirked. “Lesson learned?”

“Yeah,” Nik said. “It’s way easier to toss a lunchbox than carry a lie.”

Sid nodded. “Blame feels light at first. But it gets heavy fast.”

Sam smiled. “And we’ve all been there. What matters is what you do next.”

Nik kept his promise.

He cleaned. He apologised.

And the next time he slipped up, which was just a few days later, he raised his hand and said,

“My fault. No aliens involved.”

Even Mr Das laughed.

THE END

UNDERNEATH THE OUTBURST

What You'll Need: A small group of kids (friends, siblings, or classmates), slips of paper, and a bowl or hat.

HOW TO DO:

- 1 Write short “oops” scenarios on each slip — everyday situations where someone makes a mistake. For example:
 - Spilled juice on a friend’s book.
 - Forgot to feed the pet.
 - Broke a borrowed toy.
 - Said something unkind without meaning to.
- 2 Place all slips in the bowl and take turns picking one.
- 3 The person who picks a slip has 1 minute to act out:
 - How they might avoid owning up (twisting the truth, blaming someone else, ignoring it).
 - And then, how they would own it and fix it (admitting the truth, apologising, making amends).
- 4 After each turn, the group talks briefly about which version feels better in the long run, and why.

Reflection Prompts:

- Which part was easier for you, avoiding it or owning it?
- How did it feel when you acted out fixing the mistake?

- 
- What's one thing that could make it easier to admit a real mistake?
- 

Why This Works: This activity helps children recognise the difference between escaping blame in the moment and taking responsibility for long-term trust. It gives them a safe space to practise admitting mistakes, making amends, and reflecting on how honesty — even when hard — feels lighter than carrying a lie.



FIVE FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF THE LUNCHBOX

1. THE FIRST LUNCHBOXES WERE BUCKETS

Before the word “lunchbox” existed, workers in the 19th century carried their food to work in tin pails or small buckets. They were strong enough to survive construction sites, and sometimes doubled as a seat!

(Source: Smithsonian Institution
– National Museum of American History)

2. THE LUNCHBOX MOVIE STAR

In 1950, the first decorated metal lunchbox featured the cowboy TV star Hopalong Cassidy. Sales exploded, more than 600,000 were sold in the first year, and soon lunchboxes became collectible treasures.

(Source: Smithsonian Magazine – History of the Lunchbox)



3. JAPAN'S BENTO BOX TRADITION

In Japan, “bento” lunchboxes have been around for hundreds of years. They often contain rice, vegetables, and fish, arranged beautifully in separate sections. Some parents even turn bentos into cute characters to surprise their kids at lunchtime.

(Source: Japan National Tourism Organization)

4. THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE

A rare 1954 Superman metal lunchbox was sold at auction for over \$13,000! Collectors prize lunchboxes with famous characters, especially if they're in good condition with the matching thermos.

(Source: Heritage Auctions Records)



5. SPACE LUNCHES ARE REAL

Astronauts on the International Space Station have their own “space lunchboxes” — special pouches and containers that keep food fresh and stop it from floating away in zero gravity. No okra explosions allowed!

(Source: NASA – Space Food and Nutrition)



Image Courtesy: Midjourney
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THE CASE OF THE CRACKED CONTAINER

Lena reached into her backpack at lunchtime and froze. Her favourite steel lunchbox, the one with the yellow lid, had a huge crack down one side.



She opened it carefully. Half her pasta had spilled into the bag.

“Who did this?” she asked, looking around the table.

Ryan glanced away. “Uh... maybe it happened in your locker?”

“But it was fine this morning,” Lena said. “I checked.”

Maya frowned. “I saw someone near your bag before recess.”

Lena’s eyes darted to Ryan. “Was it you?”

Ryan shifted in his seat. “I... I don’t know. Maybe I

bumped it. But—”

Just then, the bell rang for the end of lunch. Lena closed the box slowly, deciding...

- What did Lena decide to do — confront Ryan, ask others, or tell the teacher?
- How did Ryan react when she spoke to him later?
- Was the crack an accident or on purpose?
- Did the friends find a way to fix the lunchbox — or make up for it?
- What lesson did everyone learn about honesty and responsibility?

You decide how the story ends.

See you next Monday
with another interesting story!



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