



The Day the Dinosaur Came to Second Grade

When Andy got on the bus on the first day of school, he saw a dinosaur! Andy was very surprised. He did not know that dinosaurs were allowed to go to school. But there the dinosaur was. It was making all kinds of noise and would not sit down. It climbed on the seats and put its head out the window. It took up so much room that Andy had no place to sit.

"Wow, that dinosaur sure is noisy! I'll bet it isn't even supposed to be here," Andy whispered to Laura.

But Andy's teacher was not at all surprised to see the dinosaur enter the classroom. It pushed ahead of everyone, grabbed a box of crayons, and dumped them on the floor. When Andy and the other children sat at their places, the dinosaur started to throw the crayons.

"Stop that!" said the teacher. "Even dinosaurs are not allowed to throw things."

The dinosaur dropped the crayons and started screaming. It screamed so loudly that no one could hear the teacher.

"Be quiet!" the teacher finally said. The dinosaur stopped screaming and the teacher said, "It's time to go play outside."

Everyone stood up and walked to the door—everyone except the dinosaur. It ran out the door without waiting for directions.

Outside the dinosaur continued to behave like a wild dinosaur. It pushed some children and took toys from others. It climbed up the slide the wrong way and sat at the top so no one else could slide down.

When the students returned to the classroom, the teacher tried to read them a story. But the dinosaur shouted and laughed and no one could hear. Then it pulled the games off the shelves. It would just not listen!

At lunch time, the dinosaur grabbed other children's sandwiches. It dropped food in the floor on purpose and poured its milk on the table. Later, when it was time to paint, the dinosaur ran around the room painting big, black lines on the other children's pictures! When the children formed a circle and tried to sing, the dinosaur jumped around and stepped on their toes. It pounded on the piano until the teacher had to close it. During reading time, the dinosaur laughed and talked and poked the children and even pulled their hair.

"Come here!" said the teacher, who was very angry. "You are a real wild dinosaur! Dinosaurs are not allowed at school. Go away and never come back!"

And do you know what happened? The dinosaur burst into tears! Everyone was astonished.

"I'm sorry!" cried the dinosaur. "I've never been to school before. I didn't know it was against the rules to shout and run and push, or to grab and throw things. Please don't tell me I can't come back! I will try to learn if you all will help me."

The teacher asked the children what they thought. The children decided to make a list of rules. They would let the dinosaur stay---if it followed the rules. The dinosaur worked hard to learn how to behave, and soon it knew all the rules, just the way all the children did.