

Sophia and The Pink Shoes

Sophia was just a girl with dreams. One of them was becoming a ballerina. Sophia had always dreamed about it ever since she watched Barbie and The Pink Shoes when she was a kid. The movie talked about a girl became ballerina. Unfortunately for her, she couldn't afford ballet class because it was too expensive. Her friend, Lissy was the one who taught her. Even the shoes she had was second-hand, which she bought from flea market. Nevertheless, the determination inside her was the one that kept the dream alive.

In school, she had an enemy. Anne. Sophia didn't like Anne because she was arrogant, a bully, narcissist and egoist. She always mocked Sophia and her old, worn shoes, "*Sophia you didn't deserve to be a ballerina, you don't even have money to attend its class, just keep dreaming till you can't achieve it,*" said Anne one day when they had lunch in cafeteria.

One thing that Sophia was envy of Anne was, her pink shoes. They were beautiful, sparkling and looked very comfortable. She knew it first on a store which she passed by while walking after meeting her friend. It was the Pink Shoes she had always wanted to buy. Of course, it was also pricey and ballet shoes could be so expensive.

During lunch break, Sophia was walking from cafeteria alone and noticed something on a school board. "Ballet Competition 2021 for High School, come join and be the star of your dream!" was written on a poster. It peaked her interest enough and she thought about it for a while. Oh, and the grand prize for the winner is the Pink Shoes that she really wanted. Suddenly, Anne and her friends came, Sophia wanted to leave but the words coming from Anne's mouth stopped her,

"What? Is the poor Sophia hallucinating again? Come on, give yourself a break, you can't force what you can't do hahaha." Anne and her friends laughed while Sophia tried to hold herself.

"You know what? Nobody cares about your comments bully." Anne was surprised to see Sophie bravely talked back, especially when she emphasized 'bully' word, as if it tried to remind what Anne was.

"Enjoy yourself while you can still talk like that, we'll see who is going to falling down and cry a river." Anne smirked evilly and brushed past her roughly along with her friends.

School ended and students happily went to their homes. Sophia and Lissy were walking together since their house were near each other, "Hey liz, do you know that ballet competition on the school board?" Sophia asked the person beside her.

"Yea, the one from Paris Ballet Academic right, though it's a small competition, the grand prize is so worthy", answered Lissy.

"I know right...", Sophie said with small voice.

"Why? You wanted to join?" Lissy noticed it immediately, because she knew Sophie rarely talked about ballet competition, she always backed away because she was not confident. Sophia sometimes was torn between her determination and uncertainty; it was difficult for her not knowing what to do. Lissy stopped beside her.

"Sophie, I know you really want to do that, I mean come on, you could give it a try, you always train so hard I know your progress, there's nothing wrong to prove it now."

“I just...I am afraid that I would fail it and what if I couldn’t find my enjoyment in dancing anymore?”

“Don’t say what discourage you, Sophie you overthink too much. And that’s because you never try, you’ll never know. Remember, even a small step has big impact, it is your chance now. So here I am, supporting you, always.” Lizzy smiled at Sophia. She was right, it was now or never, she couldn’t back off now. “Oh, and prove that bully - you know who - that she just talks rubbish, okay?” Lissy and Sophia just laughed at that. The goal had been set. She would strive to make the path now.

Day by day she always practiced, whether by herself or with Lissy. Her parents thankfully supported her and gave the encouragement she needed. After school she always managed to practice, even though her body was exhausted she didn’t want to stop. Practice makes perfect. Meanwhile Anne had been noticing the progress from time to time and she felt angry and was afraid that Sophie might win the competition. With her evil traits, she immediately thought some ideas to fail Sophie no matter what.

On one afternoon after lunch break, Sophie came to her class, only to find that her shoes were nowhere. Her one and only ballet shoes were missing. Panic rushed up inside her. No, not now. Not when she already shed tears and sweat only to get crushed like this. The competition was in front of her eyes, she didn’t have money to buy new one. She finally gained her composure to think who did all of this. Her only mind was focused on one person. She knew her very well.

“What? Are you serious?” Lissy asked Sophie who came to her house. She cried again and Lissy hugged her while patting her back softly. Suddenly her phone ringed, a message came,

From: Unknown Number

Happy now, you moron? That’s what you get for messing up with me. Enjoy your barefoot dance and see you at the competition, hahaha

Both of the best friends looked at each other realizing the person was no other than Anne, Sophie’s biggest enemy. Sophie let out an exasperated sigh, it was useless to report Anne.

“You can use my shoes,” Lissy stated out of nowhere.

“What? No, I can’t-“

“It’s okay, you’ve practiced so hard and you can’t just let it slip away because of this, it’s okay Sophie.”

“But your shoes are your favorite one and I am afraid that I would give damage to it.”

“No, that’s 0,000001% chance you would damage it, it’s fine I could buy another. It’s yours now”

“I don’t deserve you, Liz. Thank you so much, for everything.” Sophie pulled Lissy in a tight hug, she was really blessed and thankful for having a person like Lissy in her side. She couldn’t forget her kindness and help.

The day of competition had come. Everyone was nervous, including Sophie. She felt little bit unconfident since she only learned the dance not from professionals unlike her rivals who might learned it in private class. But for now, it was not the time to think about that, she just needed to focus on her performance, to enjoy the beat, enjoy the move and feel the atmosphere.

It was Sophie's turn to show her performance. She stood tall in center, facing the three judges nervously. When the music cued, she started to sway. Right foot, left foot, hands moving gracefully. She only could hear the music and her careful steps making such harmony. When the music had stopped, she ended her dance successfully. Everyone was clapping their hands, including the judges who were also nodding their heads, acknowledging her beautiful performance. Meanwhile, Anne who stood among the audience felt annoyed and couldn't believe Sophie was still not giving up.

The announcement came. For some times, Sophie was still nervous, she didn't want to get her hopes high. It was already such an accomplishment for her joining the competition. Winning this was the bonus. The judges announced on the stage. Everybody was praying, hoping that it was one of them. "The winner of Paris Ballet Competition is... Anne Josephine," said the judge.

Sophie and Lissy were noticeably shocked and couldn't believe their eyes. What did just happen? Did they hear it right? Anne was the winner? Sophie watched as her enemy walked towards the stage and smiling so happy. The Pink Shoes now were on her hand and she watched Sophie at the side while smirked. Well, Anne's performance was also undeniably stunning, Sophie couldn't blame the judge's choice but still, she felt bitter feeling inside her. Anne would continue to bully her; it might even get worse.

Days felt so slow for Sophie, she still couldn't stop thinking about the event. It had been a week since then and for some points Sophie lost her motivation. Nevertheless, she believed there would be another chance, she just needed to wait. Sophie was sitting on a bench in her school when a message came in. She flashed out her phone and noticed it was from Paris Ballet Academy, what could it be? She wondered why,

"Announcement: Anne Josephine was disqualified as the winner of Paris Ballet Competition regarding her past actions that are considered malicious and disreputable. We would now announce the legitimate winner who fulfil the judges' criteria for the competition. Congratulations to Sophia Delaney as the right winner. We would contact the winner immediately for further information. Thank you," Sophie almost screamed as she read along the lines, she needed to tell this to Lissy. Liz then told Sophie that it was all because someone whom happened to be a relative of one of the judges.

"Remember Maya? The girl that you helped long time ago when she got bullied by Anne?" Lissy asked Sophie.

"Maya? Her name is Maya?"

"Yes, I forgot to tell you. So, I knew her from science club and we aren't close actually but sometimes she asks for help in doing assignments."

"How did all of this happen then?"

"Maya told me everything when we were working on a project in our club today. I was so surprised she was the cousin of the judges, named Chris. So apparently, Chris is her uncle. He is kinda ballet dancer too. Well, she never told me about her family anyway so I didn't know. Then she told me that she reported Anne as soon as she knew the winner. Fortunately, judges' choice isn't a something that can't be changed. The school is also discussing about Anne, she could be dropped out, I think. So yeah, I see that they already informed you right? Actually, I

was going to tell you sooner but I had been keeping up with things today so I couldn't tell you immediately," Lizzy explained.

Sophie then nodded her head, "I... I don't know what to say, I mean I am happy now and I need to thank Maya. Anne deserved what she got though, bullying is a serious issue and I am glad the school realized that."

"Someone is getting new shoes today, her dream shoes," Lissy nudged her shoulder to Sophie and laughed.

"Shut up, you helped me with everything, I think you're the one to receive it. I will give to you, Liz."

"What? No. You're funny, Sophie. You're the winner, the actual winner. Stop saying nonsense."

Sophie chuckled and both of them laughed. There would be such things like this happened and Sophie couldn't expect this kind of life event.

Activity 1

Writing Activity

Pass the paper and rewrite the story

Make a group of four and prepare one sheet of paper, a pen for each student. Sit in a row, facing the front, so each would face the other's back. Rewrite "Sophia and The Pink Shoes" in turns. The student in the very back is the first to write with only 30 seconds time-limited. After that, pass the paper to the front and the student needs to continue the sentences which have been written by the previous student. Pass until everybody cooperated in rewriting the story. The text must include orientation, event, compilation, evaluation and resolution.

Activity 2

Speaking Activity

Tell me your own story

In this activity, students are grouped in pairs to tell each other a personal story/ experience. A box of keywords is provided and students must take one keyword. Based on the keyword, tell a story to the other student. For example, Student A got "ice cream" keyword, then he/she must tell his/her story about ice cream. Take turns to other students and have fun!

Activity 3

Grammar Corner