

Noemi's First Day at School!

Traduzione di Noemi va a scuola!
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1

That night, Noemi couldn't sleep. Summer was ending, and the next morning she would be going to school.

That evening, she had made a heart with her mom. Her mom had said, "This way, you'll know I'm thinking of you."

Noemi thinks:

"I can't sleep,
I'm thinking about Mom and school.
My dreams are gray with sadness.
But I have a red heart next to me."

2

When she arrived at school, her heart was beating fast, but when she saw the teacher with a kind smile, she felt calmer.

She didn't want to leave her mom. Her mom gave her the heart they had made together and said, "When you feel sad, touch the heart and remember that I love you."

Then she gave her a kiss, a hug, and waved goodbye with a smile.

Noemi thinks:

"There's a teacher with open arms.
She has a flower on her dress and a smile on her face.
Mom gives me the heart and says:
'My heart is close to yours.
Go, smile with friends, teachers, colors, and songs.'"

3

Teacher Linda gently welcomed all the little ones as they arrived.

Here comes Giò the squirrel! He had a bushy tail and lively, curious eyes. He carried a small bag with acorn caps.

He had eaten the acorns, but the caps were so pretty that he saved them to bring to school.

Noemi thinks:

“Giò thought of all of us in the woods:
he brought acorn caps.
One for me too.
It’s small, and I hold it tight in my hands.
It smells like the forest and kindness.”

4

Next came Ugo the little owl, carrying a big book of fairy tales, his favorite.
His mom and dad had read them all to him!
He said to Noemi, “Let’s ask the teacher to read them; they’re fantastic. I’m sure you’ll love them!”
Noemi replied shyly, “I like fairy tales.”

Noemi thinks:

“A friend and a book: Ugo and fairy tales.
The teacher will read like my dad does at night.
With friends close by, the story will feel even better.
I still think of Mom, but I have her heart.”

5

Then Diana the little wolf arrived, carrying a basket of strawberries she had picked in the forest.
She smiled at Ugo, at Giò, at the teacher, and at Noemi.
Diana’s sharp teeth scared Noemi a little, but she was kind: she had brought a basket of strawberries for everyone.

Noemi thinks:

“Diana’s sharp teeth scare me,
but she has strawberries in her basket and doesn’t eat friends.
I see kind eyes, red strawberries,
and smiles as white as the moon.
All for us.”

6

The teacher, seeing the acorn caps, brought out some Play-Doh. It came in beautiful colors.
They played together and made funny characters!
Linda also gave them some stars that looked shiny.

Noemi thinks:

“Play-Doh and acorn caps!
My hands in the soft dough
made a new friend.
The teacher added shiny stars,
just like her smiles.”

7

The teacher read Ugo’s book, making the funny voices that they all loved.
Then they made a drawing to take home. Linda also gave them stamps.
Noemi drew a dragon and used the heart-shaped stamp.

Noemi thinks:

“The teacher reads,
I open my eyes wide in amazement.
Sometimes fairy tales are scary,
but then everyone lives happily ever after.
I drew something scary:
a fire-breathing dragon
with kind hearts around it.”

8

Diana asked the teacher, “Can we eat the strawberries I picked in the forest?”

“Of course!” replied Linda.

They were so sweet. They enjoyed them while Diana sang a little rhyme she made up:

“I went into the forest and found a little elf.

Red and tiny, he gave me a nice basket.

Then I found the strawberries, and I brought them here for you!”

Noemi thinks:

“A gifted strawberry is sweeter.
I eat it in small bites
and look at her smile.
I say a little thank you to Diana.
Then I touch Mom’s heart,
she’s sweet and comforting
like the strawberries.”

Noemi felt sad. The teacher noticed something was wrong and asked Noemi, "Is there something I can do for you?"

Noemi replied, "Teacher, am I still a friend even if I didn't bring anything?"

Linda answered, "Of course! To be friends, you just need to be close and play together. Today was special because you were here too."

Noemi smiled tenderly.

The teacher added, "But... you have something wonderful: the heart you made with your mom. How about we make one for everyone?"

Noemi thinks:

"I didn't bring anything for the little ones.

I have my mom's heart.

A red cardboard,

a kind teacher,

and now there are hearts for everyone."

Noemi's eyes widened as if something wonderful was happening, and she said a shy "Yes."

The teacher and the little ones cut out hearts, and Linda gave them stamps and a blue ribbon.

They decorated the hearts and then wore them around their necks! Noemi added butterflies to her heart.

Linda said, "You know, little ones, you think of your mom or dad, but right now, they're thinking of you too.

They can't wait to pick you up and hear about your day with your friends."

Noemi thinks:

"They're hearts from Mom or hearts from Dad,

white stamps from the teacher,

and sky-blue ribbons."

A sweet scent filled the classroom: a scent of hugs and cuddles.

The parents had arrived. Noemi's mom picked up her little girl and asked, "Noemi, tell me, how was your day? What did you do?"

She replied, "Your heart was close to mine." Her mom smiled, the most beautiful smile in the world.

Noemi thinks:

“Moms and dads are waiting for the door to open,
the little ones’ arms are already open for them.

Mom says to me: ‘I’m back!’

But she was always here on my chest.

Tomorrow I’ll come back with a red mom’s heart,

white with butterflies and teacher’s smiles.

A rainbow of friends is waiting for me.”

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