



Story Changers: Enhancing Pupils' Social Skills and Enriching Teaching Methods Through Storytelling and Virtual Reality

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## Title of the Story

### The Scary Dictionary

## Basic information on the Story

### Primary Topic

Respect

### Secondary Topic

Reading books as a timeless method for knowledge acquisition

### Learning Outcomes

Throughout the story, pupils are expected to:

- Read about and have a basic understanding of various forms of respect
- Learn about respecting different opinions
- Learn about accepting and embracing diversity
- Learn the importance of talking to others in a respectful way
- Learn the value of reading as a means for entertainment and the acquisition of new sets of knowledge
- Learn about the importance of using modern electronic devices in moderation

### Target Group (Pupils)

- 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade of Primary School
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade of Primary School
- 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade of Primary School

### Other relevant information

#### Reference (if the story refers to real facts, historical events etc.)

- Fictional story
- The story is inspired by the book "I zografia tis Christinas", written by Evgenios Trivizas and the story "Herman learns about respect", written by Maria Kourbani.



## Story's Main Elements

### Main heroes

- Lex
- Atlas
- Daily
- Chef
- Noty
- Sophia
- Mr. Sam
- Little George

### Setting

- Bookshop "The Foundation"
- Little George's house
- Little George's primary school

### Summary

The books in Mr. Sam's old bookshop "The Foundation" come alive and try to discover why so many people have stopped reading books. A group of brave books decide to go to the outer world and find out the truth. One of those books is Lex, a scary and always angry dictionary, which doesn't show respect to anyone else and considers itself as a superior book. During the group's adventure, Lex will realise the great importance of respect and eventually will decide to change its attitude toward others. In the end and despite the overuse of electronic devices by humans, Mr. Sam's bookshop will attract many new customers due to a series of events and the magic of reading books will not cease to exist.

## Story's Text

The lights went off. As every other night Mr. Sam, the owner of an old bookshop called "The Foundation", checked if all the doors and windows were properly closed. Then, he sighed and left disappointed to head home. A few years back, his bookshop was full of life. Happy kids were running around, playing and reading books. However, nowadays no one hardly ever goes to the "The Foundation". People have forgotten the magic which lies in books. They prefer to spend their



time in front of a screen. Even if they don't really need to do it. And so, Mr. Sam's bookshop is now only a shadow of its past glory.

Darkness and silence were now filling the room. The dusty bookshelves were once again hosting the same old books, the books that no one wanted to buy. And while the next light was supposed to be the sunlight in the morning, suddenly a little flame appeared. This little flame was coming from a small oil lamp and it was enough to give light to almost the whole bookshop. But, who could have lit this flame if Mr. Sam was not there? The answer came a few seconds later, when a very loud voice came to shake that absolute silence:

“WAKE UP BOOKS! THE BIG DAY HAS FINALLY COME!”. All of a sudden, the books on the dusty shelves started to come to life! Books yawning, books stretching, books jumping off the shelves full of joy, books everywhere! This magical scenery went on for a few more minutes until all the books had waken up. Then, they all gathered around a big desk, as if they were waiting from someone to deliver a speech. Through the applause and cheers of the books, a very old encyclopaedia in hardback climbed onto the desk. Then her tired voice sounded once again, the same voice which had awakened the books earlier:

“My dear books, for those who do not know me, my name is Sophie. Every year on this day, I wake up from my deep slumber and my mission is to awaken all the rest of you.”

“And why do we all have to wake up so out of the blue?” whined a sleepy psychology book.

Then Sophie smiled at him and replied:



“As books, we all have a common mission. This mission is to change peoples’ lives for the better. However, in order to reach our goal, a human must choose us and include us into their lives.”

Then an angry mystery novel interrupted the old encyclopaedia.

“How are the humans going to choose us if they cannot find us? No one ever comes to this place anymore. It’s easier for termites than humans to find us in this dumpster.”

At that moment Sophie’s smile was replaced by a strict look. The wise encyclopaedia adjusted her glasses and answered in a more serious tone:

“What you call a dumpster has been our home for all these years. Poor Mr. Sam struggled for all his life in order to build this bookshop. To him, each one of us is one of his children. So, we should pay more respect when we speak about our home!”

Then the mystery novel realized his mistake and apologized.

“What I want to conclude with,” Sophie said, “is that this day is really important for us. We have to take advantage of this day and find the reasons why nobody ever comes to our bookshop anymore. Something really strange is happening and we have to find out what that is.”

All the books started cheering once again. At last, they were going to find out what lied behind this mystery. The reasons why humans didn’t appreciate books anymore.



“For this reason, I suggest that we form a team of a few brave books, which will travel to the outer world and discover the whole truth. So, which books are willing to take part in this adventure?”

Silence returned to the bookshop. No book had to leave “The Foundation” until that day. The outer world could be full of dangers. And so, the books preferred the safety and warmth of the bookshop and none responded to Sophie’s suggestion.

Then out of the crowd sounded a deep and loud voice:

“I will go to find out what is happening, you can all count on me!” said a big school atlas, with large maps for pages and a compass in his hand.

“Who are you that you are such a brave book?” Sophie asked joyfully.

“My name is Atlas and you can all imagine where my name comes from. My dream since I was little was to be chosen by a human child and teach it about various cities, countries, islands, oceans and continents. I can no longer sit here doing nothing. We have to find what has changed so dramatically.”

“You are absolutely right!” said a calendar checking at her watch. “There’s no more time to waste. I will come with you Atlas.”

“And who are you my dear calendar?” responded the wise encyclopaedia, watching satisfied the team forming.

“I’m Daily and my aim is to always become useful for humans. To remind them about the things they must remember, the things they must do and the ways in which they can use their time. So, we should not waste any more time, let’s go!”





“Not so fast” another voice was responded. “The only reason to rush is when you forget your food in the oven! I will also join you my dear friends.”

“Who are you and why are you trying to slow us down?” asked Daily staring on her watch slightly irritated.

“I’m Chef and I am a cookbook. My aim is to share my recipes with humans and make their lives better and tastier. Unfortunately, I’m still waiting for the human who will appreciate my recipes. Although, I don’t see that happening anytime soon” said and adjusted his tall chef hat.

“Don’t worry my dear book, I’m sure that everything will be alright. You will manage to find the truth in the end” said Sophie with tears in her eyes.

Then Atlas stared at her for a while and asked the encyclopaedia:

“You? Do you mean that you are not coming with us? We will definitely need your wisdom and knowledge to make it!”

“I wish I could come with you my dear Atlas” Sophie replied. “I’m just an old lady now. I no longer possess the strength or the speed for this mission. Surely, I will slow you down if I come with you.”

“Don’t you worry, oh wise Sophie, we will not let you down. We will do whatever we can to end this mission in success” Daily stated confidently. “Atlas, Chef, are you ready to begin our journey?”

At that moment, a very strange noise started coming from deep inside the bookshop’s back. This noise was similar to a roar and it was coming from the last shelves of “The Foundation’s” back section, where the light from the oil lamp



couldn't travel. The books started running in panic around the bookshop. After a short period of confusion and fear, Sophie's loud voice restored order.

"Silence! Don't panic, I know very well who this growl belongs to..."

Before Sophie managed to finish her sentence, a figure started to appear through the dark. The growling kept getting louder and scarier. The books were shaking out of fear about the monster they were about to face. Whatever that was, it was near.

"But that is a..." stuttered an alphabet book to a short story standing next to it.

"Yes, that really is a..." answered the short story.

"Yes, I am a dictionary. And a very angry one, too!" shouted the mysterious book coming out of the shadows. It was a short but very strong book, with many pages and sharp teeth. Its sight was really frightening and it had a lasting angry look.

Last but not least, the book had steam coming out of its ears. Truly, it was a scary dictionary!

"Who dared to wake me up from my deep slumber?" asked the dictionary in rage.

"I was the one to wake you up Lex" Sophie answered. "There is a great danger for all of us books to be forever forgotten by humans. We have to take action immediately if we want to turn this situation around."

"Of course there is a danger for you. That is because you have no actual use for humans. Us dictionaries are the only books which are truly useful to humans!" proudly claimed the scary dictionary.



“How can you even say something like this? We are all books and this threat exists for all of us. If humans stop coming to this bookshop, then we are all doomed to stay here forever” Daily responded annoyed.

“What you just said was disrespectful to say the least” added Atlas.

Chef also commented to Lex’s mean words: “Don’t forget that you too are trapped here Lex!”

Then Lex turned toward the three books which were ready to start their journey, took a deep breath and started shouting:

“The reason why humans don’t come here anymore is because the information you have to offer are not important. To the contrary, a dictionary can teach new words to humans. Without words, humans cannot speak, write, think or communicate!”

Steam was coming out of his ears once again. Then, he took another breath and kept insulting the other books:

“Who would come to buy an encyclopaedia full of that random and useless information? Also, who even cares about your recipes Mr.Chef? If some humans can’t cook, let them go to a cooking school or something. And don’t get me started with you Atlas. Can’t you see the irony of you having all these information about every inch in the planet, but being stuck on a dusty shelf in this old bookshop? Finally, what’s an agenda good for anyway? If humans have brains and watches, why would an agenda be useful to them?”



Silence came back to the room. The books could not believe what they were hearing from Lex.

“You can insult us all you want my dear Lex” said Sophie. “All the rest of us prefer to show respect to our diversity. We share the same problems, the same dreams and the same goals. And in the end, we will make it all together. If you want, you can help Atlas, Daily and Chef with their mission. I’m sure that your help will be more than valuable to them.”

“I’m sure they need my help but I definitely don’t need their help” Lex answered and started laughing.

The atmosphere was tense at that moment, but then a small notebook climbed on the desk and got the attention of the books.

“I know that I’m just a little notebook. I have been mocked so many times by other books because I don’t look like them. However, I also want to help the rest of the books with their mission. I will do whatever I can to help the team reach its goal”.

Then the scary dictionary responded to the little notebook:

“Who told you that us books would need help from someone like you? You don’t have a single word written inside of you, but you want us to treat you like a book? Notebook? You should try No-book, it suits you better” said Lex and started laughing.

Lex’s mean words caused the laughter of many other books as well. However, the little notebook didn’t lose its courage and responded to the scary dictionary.



“I don’t appreciate what are saying about me dear mister, but I still respect you. After all, you may try to hide it, but I’m sure that you too are dreaming that someday you will be chosen by a human and help them to learn new words. You too are afraid that you might stay here forever and lose your dream. You too are...”

“That’s enough!” the dictionary said and stopped the notebook’s monologue. “I will..I will also come with after all. You would not make it without me anyway. You will need a useful and strong book to keep you out of trouble. Let’s go.”

“Your decision to help the other books is wise my friend Lex” stated Sophie.

“What about you my dear notebook? What’s your name?”

“My name is Noty Mrs. Sophie. I’m so excited to be a part of this mission. At last, I will become a useful notebook!”

“Welcome to the team Noty” said Daily, once again looking at her watch. “We should get started if we want to make it on time. So, are you ready?”

Sophie gave a last look to the team and smiled. “Take care my dear books. We will be waiting for you to come back and bring some good news.”

All books turned to their five friends and started waving at them and saying goodbye. The team was ready. Atlas, Daily, Chef, Lex and little Noty started walking, determined to go to the outer world and complete their mission.

As the books were walking, Noty asked the rest of the books:

“Sooo...does anyone know where the nearest exit is?”



The other four books stood still and started looking at each other. They knew that Mr. Sam had checked all the doors and windows before leaving the bookshop.”

Atlas had an idea. “Let’s walk some more until we find the best way to exit the bookshop.”

The scary dictionary did not agree with this idea. “Our time is valuable and the solution is so simple”, said Lex. “I will run and run and break the little window at the back so we can get out of here.”

### **1<sup>st</sup> Decision Point:**

**Which one of the two ideas will the books follow?**

**A) They will follow Atlas’s idea.**

**B) They will follow Lex’s idea.**

*If you answered A, please move to page 14*

*If you answered B, please move to page 15*



**A)** The books decided to keep walking in the bookshop, hoping they would soon find an exit. They knew that by causing damages to the bookshop, they would show a lack of respect toward Mr. Sam and their home!

A few minutes later, Daily had a thought. The back door of the bookshop had a small door flap. No human could fit through this flap, but it was big enough for Mr. Sam's dog. This could be the way out for the books!

Daily was much more confident now. "Follow me, I found the solution!" she said.

The rest of the books followed Daily and later she led the rest of the books to the door flap. Our friends finally made it to the outer world!

*Go to page 17 to find out what happened next!*



**B)** The books knew how wrong it would be to follow Lex's idea. By causing damages to the bookshop, they would show a lack of respect toward Mr. Sam and their home!

However, none of the books dared to defy the scary dictionary, since they were all afraid of him.

Lex saw the small window which was right above the back shelves of the bookshop. He took a few steps back and ran as fast as he could.

He jumped once on the lower shelf, jumped twice on the higher and on his third jump he landed on the glass of the window and broke it.

The bookshop was now full of broken pieces of glass. Broken glass on the shelves, broken glass on the floor, broken glass everywhere! Atlas, Daily, Chef and Noty stood sad watching this unfortunate event.

Now there was no other way for them to climb onto the shelves. Lex was the only book who made it outside.

"What do I care if the rest of them can't get out?" he thought. "I don't need anyone's help, I'm going to make it on my own."

Sadly, in order for Lex to go on with his journey, he would first have to climb down from the bookshop's roof.

He tried to look how up high the roof was. Then, the scary dictionary froze out of fear. He realized that he had a fear of heights and would never make it to the ground.





“When you think about it, maybe it would not be such a good idea to leave the bookshop” he thought. “Here I have all the warmth and safety I need. I don’t even mind staying there forever.”

Lex got back inside the bookshop and returned to his shelf to resume his sleep. And so, the adventure of our book friends ended before it even started.

*The end*

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“Now that we managed to leave the bookshop, we must decide where we should go to discover the truth about humans” Daily suggested.

We must go to the primary school which is near here. Follow me” said Lex.

Then little Noty asked stuttering: “But... Mr. Lex, shouldn't we decide on this all together? It would be much better if we make this decision as a team and respect it.”

“I will not show any respect to your decisions” was the response of Lex. “You can either come with me or never achieve your goal. The choice is yours!”

### **2nd Decision Point:**

**What will the rest of the books decide?**

**A) They decide to follow the scary dictionary.**

**B) They decide not to follow the scary dictionary.**

*If you answered A, please move to page 18*

*If you answered B, please move to page 20*



**A)** The rest of the books went a little far from Lex and had a short discussion. Then, they returned and Daily announced their decision to him:

“What you said showed a lack of respect to us once again. However, we decided to follow you so we can all stick together as a team.”

And so the books were now heading to the school through the dark night. Suddenly, a loud barking sounded and before you know it, a huge dog started running toward the books. The books started running in panic and ran inside the garden of a nearby house to hide. Luckily, they hid under a car and the dog stopped running and left a few minutes later.

While the books were trying to catch their breath from all the running, Atlas came up with a question:

“Did anyone else see that huge box of light and colors inside the window of the house?”

Daily got all excited and answered to Atlas’s question:

“I know what that is! A newspaper had explained that to me once. This box is called television. It is a device that humans use in order to get informed and entertained. Next to it there is a gaming console too! The kids connect these consoles to a television to play games!”

Having said that, Daily’s excitement turned into concern. “Do you think this is the reason why humans don’t read us anymore?”

The books remained silent for a while, when Chef proposed something in order to lighten up the mood:

“We should stay under the car tonight. The dog will never find us here and we will be protected from the cold until the morning comes.”

The rest of the books agreed to spend the night there and eventually they fell asleep one-by-one.

In the morning, a very big surprise was waiting for our friends.

“George, why are your books under the car? Hurry up and get them, we are late for school!”. This woman’s voice was enough to wake all the books up. Before



they had even realized what was happening, a hand appeared and started grabbing the books one at a time. In a few seconds' time, the books went from underneath the car into the inside of the car! A little boy had taken them and put them into his school bag.

A few minutes later, the little boy got off the car, turned back and asked his mother before he left:

“Mom, why does my bag feel so much heavier today?”

“I don't know George. Hurry up now, the school bell is ringing”.

Even so, the books managed to reach their destination!

*Go to page 22 to find out what happened next!*



**B)** The rest of the books went a little far from Lex and had a short discussion. Then, they returned and Daily announced their decision to him:

“What you said showed a lack of respect to us once again. This is why we have decided not to follow you. We will go our own way from this point onward”.

And so, the rest of the books were now heading to the school through the dark night. Suddenly, a loud barking sounded and before you know it, a huge dog started running toward the books. The books started running in panic and ran inside the garden of a nearby house to hide. Luckily, they hid under a car and the dog stopped running and left a few minutes later.

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A few minutes later, the little boy got off the car, turned back and asked his mother before he left:

“Mom, why does my bag feel so much heavier today?”

“I don't know George. Hurry up now, the school bell is ringing”.

While the boy was entering the school, he saw with the corner of his eye another book dumped on the steps. The title on the cover of the book said “Dictionary of the English Language”. “This is a very strange day. What is happening with all the lost books?” the boy thought.

Then, George put the dictionary in his already-loaded school bag and ran to make it to his class on time.

It was Lex! Even so, the books managed to reach their destination!

*Go to page 22 to find out what happened next!*



The boy arrived to his classroom in a hurry, where a 2-hour math lesson was about to start. After that, it was time for a break! As soon as the bell rang, all the pupils ran to the school's yard to play. That was the perfect moment for the books to get out of the school bag!

“This is our chance; we should hurry to get out of this classroom” Atlas suggested.

At this point, the important issue for the books was to decide the order in which they would leave the bag. Noty had a suggestion on that:

“I would be grateful if we could exit the bag according to our size, starting with the smallest book. I will need some help to get out of here for sure. In this way we will make sure that nobody stays behind”.

### 3rd Decision Point:

Lex then laughed and said:

**A) “Don’t you know that only the strongest survive? I will get out of here first. If there’s time to spare, I will help you get out too.”**

**B) “Since the team wants to do that and I am the strongest one here, I will be the last to stay in the bag. I am better than all of you so I will make it no matter what.”**

*If you answered A, please move to page 23*

*If you answered B, please move to page 24*



**A)** The rest of the books didn't even have the chance to answer. Lex unzipped the school bag and jumped right out.

While the other four books were trying to follow Lex, they started hearing footsteps approaching the bag. They had to act fast! They started running inside the classroom to find somewhere to hide. Finally, they found a plant at the back of the classroom and hid behind it. Atlas, Daily, Chef and Lex stared at each other for a while. Someone was missing.

"Where...where is Noty?" Chef asked startled.

Daily then answered: "I was the last one out of the four of us. When I left the bag, Noty was still trying to climb out of it. I guess he never made it out."

Then the sound coming from the footsteps became even louder. It turned out that the steps belonged to little George. Luckily, he didn't see the books behind the plant because he was holding his mobile phone. He grabbed his school bag and started running to the school's sports facilities for his Physical Education class.

Chef then expressed his complaint to Lex: "I hope you are happy now. You didn't respect Noty's request for help and you put your selfishness above all. How are we going to find Noty now?"

*Go to page 25 to find out what happened next!*





**B)** The rest of the books didn't even get the chance to answer. All of a sudden, they started hearing footsteps approaching the bag. They had to act fast! They started running inside the classroom to find somewhere to hide. Finally, they found a plant at the back of the classroom and hid behind it. Atlas, Daily, Noty and Lex stared at each other for a while. Someone was missing.

"Where...where is Chef?" Noty asked startled.

Lex then answered: "I was the last one out of the four of us. When I left the bag, Chef was still trying to climb out of it. I guess he never made it out."

"Weren't you supposed to be the last to leave the bag because you are the strongest?" Daily then turned to Lex and asked him in a strict face.

Lex remained silent. He knew he had made a mistake.

Then the sound coming from the footsteps became even louder. It turned out that the steps belonged to little George. Luckily, he didn't see the books behind the plant because he was holding his mobile phone. He grabbed his school bag and started running toward the school's sports facilities for his Physical Education class.

"What are we going to do now? Chef needs our help!" said Atlas.

*Go to page 25 to find out what happened next!*



An unfamiliar voice then took are friends by surprise.

“The little boy who took your friend and left in a hurry is heading to the sports facilities. If you leave the classroom and head straight you will find him.”

The books were trying to understand where that voice was coming from. Then they realized that the voice was coming from the plant itself!

#### **4th Decision Point:**

**What do the books do then?**

**A) The books follow the plant's instructions and show their gratitude.**

**B) They don't know if they can trust the plant. They ignore its instructions and leave in a hurry.**

*If you answered A, please move to page 26*

*If you answered B, please move to page 27*



**A)** Respect means to appreciate someone's willingness to offer help. Even if you don't need that kind of help, you can always refuse in a polite way.

So, Atlas responded: "We are really grateful for your help my dear friend. If we manage to fulfill our goal it will be partly thanks to you. Before we leave, could you please answer a question? The boy was holding an object when he came into the classroom. Do you know what that could be?"

"Of course I can answer to that question!" said the plant. "That my dear friends is a mobile phone. It helps humans communicate when they are far from each other. When used properly, it can be a very useful device!"

"When used properly? Do you mean there is also a wrong way to use a mobile phone?" asked Noty.

"Yes there is. Unfortunately, many kids prefer to use mobile phones and other electronic devices to play games for many hours, instead of reading books or doing sports. Playing games is not a bad thing, but when you do it for many hours it becomes an unhealthy activity."

The books started looking at each other. They were starting to realize why so many humans had stopped reading. They thanked the plant and started heading to the sports facilities.

*Go to page 28 to find out what happened next!*



**B)** Lex's response to the plant was not very kind.

“Why should we trust a plant? I don't think someone like you would want to help us. However, I have a question. The boy was holding an object when he came into the classroom. Do you know what that could be?”

“I will not answer your question” said the angry plant. “Lack of respect and rudeness should never be rewarded.”

The books started looking at each other. They knew that Lex's response was very rude. Respect means to appreciate someone's willingness to offer help. Even if you don't need that kind of help, you can always refuse in a polite way.

After that, our book friends started heading to the classroom's exit.

*Go to page 28 to find out what happened next!*



Just before the books leave the classroom, a huge history book jumped in front of them and started talking to them:

“I haven’t seen you in this classroom before. You must be new here. Let me introduce myself. My name is Hero and I am the leader of all books in this school.”

“We are very happy to meet you Hero! Atlas replied. “I can see that kids read books in this school. I wish that was also the case for our home, the bookshop.”

Then the history book responded:

“Why don’t you stay here forever? Kids will always read you here and you will not be forced to roam around. We would be more than happy to have you here. The more books, the merrier! ” said the kind book.

This was a very tempting offer! Staying in the school was every book’s dream. That was a place where books were used and respected.

### **5th Decision Point:**

**The books started discussing about what they should do. Then Lex, scary as always, said:**

**A) This decision belongs to me. I am the strongest here and you have to respect my opinion.**

**B) Do as you like. Personally, I will do what I think best.**

*If you answered A, please move to page 29*

*If you answered B, please move to page 30*



**A)** Lex didn't respect the opinion of any of the other books. This was a big mistake. Respect is not earned with fear. It is earned by listening and accepting the opinion of others, even if you feel like disagreeing.

Lex responded to Hero in a disrespectful way.

"Listen mister, we don't want to be used only once and then be treated as garbage. Kids read you once but then dump you for other books. I am a more useful book than you will ever be! However, I have a question for you. What is that object on the teacher's desk? I have never seen something like it."

All of a sudden, an army of books gathered around Hero. They were standing right opposite the bookshop's team and staring at them in a threatening way.

Then Hero, who got really angry after Lex's disrespectful words, responded:

"I will not answer to your question. Since you don't respect us, you are no longer welcome here. You either leave this classroom on your own, or we will show you the way out" said the upset history book.

Our friends then started running without looking back. The army of books seemed a bit too angry with Lex's words.

They were sliding, jumping around, running and hiding and finally they managed to find the school's sports facilities. At some point, they spotted George's school bag. They finally found their friend!

*Go to page 31 to find out what happened next!*



**B)** Lex didn't respect the opinion of any of the other books. This was a big mistake. Respect is not earned with fear. It is earned by listening and accepting the opinion of others, even if you feel like disagreeing.

Daily replied to the history book in the kindest way possible:

“Dear Hero, we really appreciate your suggestion but we have to continue our journey. Our friend needs our help. However, could you please answer a question? What is that object on the teacher's desk? I have never seen something like it.”

Hero was more than willing to answer Daily's question.

“That object is called a computer. It is a device which helps humans in so many ways. It helps them read, write, find information and communicate. Unfortunately, many humans spend more hours than they should using this device.”

All of a sudden, an army of books gathered around Hero. They were standing right opposite the bookshop's team, smiling at them. Then Hero commented:

“Kindness and respect are very valuable nowadays. You should know that from now on you have many new friends in this school. We really hope you find your friend very soon!”

Our friends thanked the school's books and said farewell. Then they continued their adventure and left the classroom as silently as they could.

They were sliding, jumping around, running and hiding and finally they managed to find the school's sports facilities. At some point, they spotted George's school bag. They finally found their friend!

*Go to page 31 to find out what happened next!*



The books ran and entered George's bag. The Physical Education was now over and our friends spent the rest of the school day inside the school bag.

Atlas kept busy by trying to adjust his compass, Daily kept staring at her watch worrying about the time, Chef kept complaining that he was hungry, whereas Noty was smiling the whole time. He was so happy that the team had managed to get together once again. On the other hand, Lex was mumbling and growling, growling and mumbling. Who knows what he was saying.

When the bell rang for the last time, George left the classroom and ran toward the school's exit, where his mother was waiting for him. At some point while on their way home, the books heard George saying to his mother:

"Mom, I found another dumped book at school today. It's a really thick dictionary and its price tag has the logo of Mr. Sam's bookshop, "The Foundation".

George's mother then replied to him: "Another kid must have dropped it by mistake. We should take the dictionary back to Mr. Sam. Surely, he will know who this book belongs to."

That afternoon with a great deal of luck, the books would manage to return to their home, the bookshop!

Mr. Sam was stunned as soon as he saw the dictionary that George and his mother had taken him.

"I could swear that this dictionary was here yesterday. I really don't know how this could have happened. I never sold to anyone!"

George then answered: "Don't worry Mr. Sam, a lot of strange things happened today that had to do with books. It's as if the books have come alive!"

Then they all started laughing with George's joke. Who could have known that it was not that much of a joke?

What nobody observed while they were having this discussion, was that the books managed to escape George's bag and they all slowly hid inside the bookshop.





Mr. Sam thank George and his mother for returning the dictionary to him and invited them to visit the bookshop again anytime they want!

The night was slowly approaching. Once again, Mr. Sam checked if all the doors and windows were properly closed. Then, he sighed and left disappointed to head home. Today was another bad day for his bookshop. Not even a single customer had visited "The Foundation". While he was closing the door, he sighed and said with his tired voice:

"Maybe the time has come for me to close the bookshop once and for all."

Then he turned off the lights and left.

For the next few minutes, you couldn't hear anything in the bookshop. The books could not believe that something like that could really happen. There was a possibility for their home to close forever, after all these years.

Sophia, as the wisest and calmest of all books, decided to speak first after the bad news.

"You should not panic my dear books. Don't forget that our friends have returned from their mission today. Atlas, Daily, Chef, Noty and Lex will definitely have some good news for us. The kind of news which will allow us to keep our home alive!"

At that moment, the five books climbed on the desk and stood one next to the other. All eyes were on them now.

The first comment came from Daily, who started speaking with tears in her eyes:

"My friends, we have returned with some news, but surely they are not good news. Through our adventure in the outer world, we found some devices which threaten our very existence. Television, gaming consoles, mobile phones and computers are more important for humans than we are."

Then it was Atlas's turn to continue.

"Maybe they are right. Why should humans read me, when they can find all the information I have to offer by using those fancy devices?"

"Same goes for me" Chef said and sighed at the same time. "You can watch all the recipes you want live on television. We are doomed."



Noty was weeping the whole time. “At least you all have each other. I am not even a book. I am nothing.”

### 6th Decision Point:

**What happened then?**

- A) Lex asked from all the books to stop complaining and accept their fate.**
- B) Lex asked from all the books to stop complaining and keep believing.**

*If you answered A, please move to page 34*

*If you answered B, please move to page 35*



**A)** While all the books were starting to panic, a thunderous outcry sounded and stopped everything and everyone. Such a loud sound had never sounded in this bookshop.

“Silence! It is now my turn to speak!”

This horrifying growl belonged to (you guessed it right) Lex, and it was loud enough to bring back an absolute silence. Then the scary dictionary went on saying:

“Instead of weeping and crying, crying and weeping, you should all accept the truth. This world is moving forward and you are not a part of it.”

After these insulting words by Lex, something had changed about Sophia. Her wise and calm look tuned into an angry one. Then she responded to Lex:

“Enough is enough Lex. This is the last time we allow you to speak in such a disrespectful way for us. Respect is gained, not with fear, but by being kind and accepting others for who they are. We will keep respecting you, but you are no longer considered a friend of us. You can return to your dark corner and leave all the rest of us to deal with this threat.

But let me tell you one last thing. You can try to convince yourself that you are different. However, deep down, you know that if we disappear, you will disappear with us.”

For the first time ever, tears covered Lex’s eyes. He realized that he went too far by not respecting his fellow books once again. He would never be considered as their friend anymore, and he only had himself to blame. He started walking away disappointed, regretting his mistake.

The scary dictionary returned to its shelf and no one ever heard of it again.

A few months later Mr. Sam was forced to close his bookshop once and for all. The books stayed on their dusty shelves forever and never managed to fulfill their dream.



**B)** While all the books were starting to panic, a thunderous outcry sounded and stopped everything and everyone. Such a loud sound had never sounded in this bookshop.

“Silence! It is now my turn to speak!”

This horrifying growl belonged to (you guessed it right) Lex, and it was loud enough to bring back an absolute silence. Then the scary dictionary went on saying:

“Stop crying already! It is a fact that humans prefer to spend their time using these devices instead of reading us. This is because they have forgotten the magic which is hidden in reading!”

The rest of the books were stunned. It was the first time they heard Lex saying something nice!

Then Lex took a deep breath and continued:

“I would like to apologize to each and every one of you for being disrespectful. It was a huge mistake and I hope you will forgive me someday.

My friend Atlas, you should not worry. You are filled with interesting information and colorful pictures and maps! Surely, someone will choose you to learn all the things you have to offer!

Dear Daily, without you and your time management skills we would never manage to finish our mission. You are a very useful tool for every human!

And what can I say for you Chef? Your recipes could make any human drool.

When it comes to you little Noty, someday your empty pages will be filled with letters, drawings or the dreams of a little child for the future. And this is something magical!

What I want to point out is that us books deserve the respect of humans. So we shall never lose our hope. Better days are coming!”

The books could not believe to what they were listening all this time. The scary dictionary transformed into a friendly dictionary!



After Lex's motivating words, all the books decided together that they will keep hoping that things will change. Then, they agreed to meet again on the same day one year later and went back to their deep sleep.

A few days later, Mr. Sam was sitting in his bookshop bored, reading the daily newspaper.

All of a sudden, a huge bus parked in front of "The Foundation". As soon as the bus's door opened, a crowd of little children started getting off and running into the bookshop. Mr. Sam was speechless.

The last kid who got off the bus was little George. He looked very happy and he ran straight toward Mr. Sam.

"Good morning Mr. Sam! You must be wondering what we are all doing here. Let me explain. When I came here with my mum the other day, I was amazed by all the exciting and colorful books you have here. So, I talked with my teacher and suggested that my whole class will visit you. In this way, my classmates will also have the chance to see the magic that is hidden in your bookshop!"

George's classmates were all so excited with all the great books they found in the bookshop and started buying all kinds of them! One after the other, the books started leaving their shelves. Even little Noty left the bookshop that day. A little girl chose it, saying she would use it to write all her goals for the future.

When all the kids were back on the bus and ready to leave, their teacher said to Mr. Sam:

"Thank you so much for your help and your great books Mr. Sam! We will keep visiting your bookshop at least once a month from now on. Books and knowledge in general are the best foundation for the development of a child."

Mr. Sam thanked the teacher with tears in his eyes and returned inside his bookshop. Then, he continued reading his newspaper with a big smile.

He was now the happiest man on earth!

***The end***