The Storm on the Lake (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Old Marek had lived beside the lake for sixty years. He was an experienced sailor, and the fishermen always asked him about the weather. In his youth he had crossed the lake in every season, sometimes in boats that were far too small. Now he sat on the wooden pier each morning with a cup of tea.

One July afternoon a group of young people arrived with a bright new boat. They were laughing and carrying bags of food. Marek looked at the clouds in the west and stood up. He walked over to warn them about the coming storm. The tallest boy smiled and said the sky looked fine. Marek explained that the sky can look wrong for an hour and then change completely. The group was not sure whether they should believe him.

Whenever someone ignored his advice, Marek felt the same quiet worry. He pointed at the notice board, where the safety rules were written in large letters. He told them that the worst accidents on the lake always happened in good weather, because people stopped watching the sky. The tallest boy read the board twice. His friends waited near the water while he was thinking. Finally he said that one lost afternoon was worth nothing next to a real danger.

The group decided to stay on land. They bought bread and cheese in the village and had a picnic under the trees. Whatever Marek told them, they listened, and he told them many stories. Forty minutes later the wind arrived. Grey clouds covered the whole lake, and heavy rain fell for two hours. The new boat stayed safely at the pier. When the sun came back, the young people thanked the old man and promised to ask him again next time.

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