The Missing School Trophy (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

The silver cup disappeared from the glass case on a Monday morning. It was the oldest prize in our school, and it was heavy. The frame around the case was made of iron, so nobody could break it easily. The head teacher called a meeting in the hall before the first lesson.

She told us that she would investigate the matter herself. Her voice was calm, but everybody understood that she was angry. She asked all of us to think carefully about the weekend. Two hundred students sat quietly and looked at the floor. Then she said something surprising. She said that she did not intend to punish anyone, because she only wanted the cup back. Many teachers nodded. Mr Brown, the sports teacher, stood up and said one sentence. "Surely, one of you saw something on Saturday afternoon," he said.

After the meeting, people started talking about Daniel. He had stayed late on Saturday for football training. Daniel was a quiet boy with a real talent for music, and he often practised in the hall after school. Some students said he was involved in the theft. Others said he was completely innocent and simply unlucky. I was his friend, so I refused to believe the story. People tend to blame the person who is easiest to blame. That is a sad habit. The whole issue made me feel uncomfortable for days.

On Wednesday, the truth arrived in a strange way. A cleaner found the cup inside a cupboard behind the stage. She had moved it herself on Saturday evening, because she was washing the floor. She had simply forgotten about it. The head teacher told the school the news and apologised to Daniel in front of everybody. He smiled and said nothing. Later he told me that his intention had never been to look for revenge. He just wanted people to trust him again. Mr Brown, who was Daniel's biggest supporter, gave him the cup to hold for a photograph. Our music teacher said that a talented student like Daniel deserved better treatment. I learned something that week. Real intelligence is not only about good marks; it is also about judging people fairly.

Woordenlijst

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