



No Smiles Today

By Cheryl Rao

Shanti and Arun were good friends. They had so much fun together. They shared secrets in class. They ran races on the way home. Shanti was always cheerful.

One day, Shanti walked into the classroom slowly. Her head was bent down. She looked sad. “Did someone scold you?” asked Arun. Shanti shook her head. She sat down and did not look up. She did not answer ‘Present!’ when Miss Sona called her name. Miss Sona called again, louder this time, “Shanti Kumari!” Shanti raised her hand.

“Do you have a sore throat?” her teacher asked. Shanti shook her head. Her cheeks were red and it looked like she had a fever. “Are you feeling okay?” Miss Sona asked. Shanti nodded, still not daring to look up.

“Why does Shanti look so sad?”

“Is your little brother okay?”

“Is your puppy okay?”

“Is your grandmother okay?”





Shanti kept nodding her head to each of her friends. She did not look up.

Arun wanted to make her smile. He had an idea! He took out something from his bag. As he ran to show it to Shanti, it slipped out of his hands. Shanti saw something flying towards her and she grabbed it.

It was a BIG, green, rubber frog! Shanti's eyes flew open. She opened her mouth to laugh. That's when Arun and her friends saw why she had not smiled or talked all day! Four of her front teeth were missing!

THE END

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