

A Winner All the Way

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Zain was the most well-known third-grader. Any teacher who entered the classroom would be compelled to say, “Zain! Stop doing that!” And how could Zain be Zain if he wouldn’t be up to some mischief or the other? Zain was always being discussed in the staffroom and in the principal’s office. How do you solve a problem like Zain? His performance was consistently poor; He never scored more than 10-15% marks in any exam, in any subject.

With a smiling face and shining eyes, a mushroom-style hair cut, wearing the blue uniform shirt and tan trousers, this little bundle of energy kept everyone on their toes.

Ms. Saira, tall and graceful, was an inspiration to the other teachers. She wanted to take up this challenge and find a way to effectively reach Zain. She noticed that criticism had made Zain obstinate and rude. She decided to go about it systematically. She set up a meeting with his parents. It was then that she found out that his parents were separated.

Seeing that Zain was good at sports, she started to give his name to participate in different games. No other teacher had thought of encouraging Zain to join a team formally because he lacked discipline and may have created problems in the team. But now, because of him, the school won in cricket and the 100 meters race in an inter-school

competition. All the students were awe-struck by his performance and heartily cheered for him. Zain was on cloud nine when he received the trophy for his school!

A few months after that when the December tests result came out, Zain had again failed in all subjects. As usual.

But there was one difference. This time he had tears in his eyes. For the first time, he was embarrassed by his result. Zain now knew the sweet taste of victory and he wanted more of it, not just in sports but also in academics. Ms. Saira consoled him and offered to help him improve his test results. He put his nose to the grind and....

At the end of the session, the school saw Zain get an A grade. He also got 'The Shining Star of the Year Award' for showing tremendous improvement. Zain had discovered the joy that comes from working hard and winning. He was all set to be a winner all the way.

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