

## TOIVO AND RAUHA

When Fadia woke up in the morning, she went to tell Elpida, Kim, and Irini what she had seen. She walked, until she found them talking to the other refugees. When Fadia told them about her dreams, the mirror glowed, and then, suddenly, Elpida, Kim and Irini were found in Finland walking in a school. When they walked inside the school, they found a boy being bullied.



The bullies had new and expensive clothes, while the boy just had ripped jeans, an old hoodie and sneakers. When the bullies went off, the boy saw the trio and went to talk to them.

-Hello. said the boy,

-Hi! Why did those guys bully you? asked Elpida.

-Because they are rich, and I am pretty poor. My parents do not have a job, said the boy sadly.

-Hey! Do you want to be friends with us? Elpida, asked kindly. My name is Elpida, she continued.

-And mine's Kim!

-And mine's Irini!

-Yes! My name is Toivo!

Just then, the bell rang.

-Ok! See you guys after the break! said Toivo, as he ran inside the classroom. Then, the trio ran to the playgrounds and found a girl, named Rauha. They all introduced to each other.

- Do you know Toivo? asked Irini.

-Yes, I do! He is a pretty fun guy to be honest, Rauha said.

-Well, do you want to meet him on next break, asked Irini, trying to help Toivo find friends and stop being lonely in the school.

Rauha agreed gladly as she had already noticed that Toivo spends a lot of time alone and that made it an easy target for being bullied.



During the break, the four went to meet Toivo. Toivo was being bullied again, but this time the group went to protect him. They tried to go in between Toivo and the bullies, meanwhile Rauha said,

-Imagine what it would feel like to be bullied yourself! Just hold a mirror and reflect on your bad behavior! It's not fair to be bullied at all, and even less fair to be bullied about a thing you can't control!

And just then, the mirror that Irini was holding glowed in a red color, helping the bullies to understand their mistakes.

They said,

-You know what? I want to stop this. I'm sorry we bullied you Toivo, said one of the kids courageously.

-That's ok! We can be friends from now on Toivo said happily.

The children sat under a tree and shared their stories with the children from Finland.

And then Toivo and his new friends learned about the children revolution in Cyprus to bring peace between the two sides. They also learned about the revolution in Germany for accepting and

respecting the different children. Last, they learned what it is like to be a refugee and what is needed for welcoming and including refugees in their new home, away from their motherland.

-Let's all go to a trip to Koli, a place I love! It's a very beautiful landscape with a big lake that resembles the mirror that was with you in your long journey. A journey that helped us all, suggested Toivo.

Koli was indeed a magical place for their final gathering before returning home. They stood all at the top of the hill looking mesmerized at the beautiful lake that was ahead. Toivo threw a



stone into the lake shattering its mirror- like surface into a series of homocentric circles that seemed to be continued forever!

-Our journey started from a small initiative in Cyprus! exclaimed Elpida. Our efforts there were like this small stone thrown by Toivo into this beautiful lake!

-And look how many revolutions have happened after this small stone, this first revolution in Cyprus, said Kim excitedly!

-This is what active citizenship is about! Taking an example from the others and continuously making efforts to change the world!

The children held their hands in silence... They all felt emotional and wanted this moment to last for eternity!

-One for all and all for one! shouted Toivo. We will be forever connected through our story! he concluded.

Then, the magic mirror glowed brighter than ever and everyone was back home.

Elpida found herself back in the attic of her home. She tried to feel where the mirror was, but it wasn't in her pocket anymore and when she tried to see outside, through the window, she saw fireworks making a heart-shape as they blew up in the air.

Slowly, a smile was formed on her face and stayed with her forever!

**THE END**



