

# WHO WAS STEALING ADIL'S STATIONERY?

"Ring, ring... ring, ring", the alarm clock rang and Adil's mother stepped inside the room. "Come on son, wake up! You're van uncle has just informed me that he'll be arriving soon today. Hurry up! Otherwise, you'll miss your Math test.", said the mom while packing up Adil's school bag.

"Mommy, please let me sleep for a few more minutes... I'll get up soon.", Adil replied while covering his face with the blanket.

"Oh no. I prepared your favorite Nutella crepes but I think they'll all end up in Ayla's (Adil's younger sister) stomach.", said the mom with a sly smile.

"Nutella Crepes! Why didn't you tell me that before?", cried Adil. He jumped out of his bed and after getting ready quickly, he ran towards the dining room. Adil was excited to enjoy his favorite breakfast.

"Mommy, the crepes are so delicious. Please pack a few for my school lunch as well.", said Adil.

As soon as he took his last bite, the van arrived. Adil picked up his bag and left for school while waving to his mom.

He reached the school quite early. There was about half an hour for the period to start and the classroom was almost empty. Adil turned the fan on and was moving towards his bench when he saw Nofil entering the classroom. They hugged each other with immense joy since the best buddies were meeting each other after about a week. Nofil was unable to attend school the previous week because of flu and fever but now he was glad to be back. During break time they shared their lunch and did some chats as always.

When Adil returned home, he heard some familiar voice. Who was he? Oh, it was his "Uncle Asim". Adil was glad to see him because "Uncle Asim" always used to bring gifts for Adil and his sister. This time he brought a nice, sharp fountain pen for Adil. "Thanks, uncle! How did you know that I love to write with a fountain pen? It's beautiful.", exclaimed Adil.

He decided to show the pen to Nofil. The next day, when Adil reached the school, the class was just about to start. He greeted Nofil and sat beside him. They opened their books and started reading the topic that the teacher was going to discuss in the class. The teacher arrived and the class started.

As soon as the class ended, Adil opened his pencil box to show his pen to Nofil which his uncle has gifted him. But oh no, the pen wasn't in the box. "Where has it gone? I put the pen in this box yesterday.", he murmured. He checked his pockets, desk, and copies but can't find it anywhere.

“Hey Nofil, have you seen my pen?”, asked Adil.

“Pen? What kind of pen was it?”, Nofil questioned with astonishment. “My uncle gifted me a beautiful blue-colored fountain pen yesterday. I decided to show you but I think I have lost it.”, Adil replied with grief.

Nofil comforted Adil, “Don’t be sad. You might have forgotten it at your home. Trust me, it’ll be there.”

Suddenly, Adil saw the same pen in Nofil’s pouch which was lying on the desk.

“From where did you get this pen? It looks the same...”

“Yeah, I borrowed this from my cousin.”, Nofil interrupted Adil.

“Oh, okay.”, Adil was shocked. He just couldn’t understand why his best friend stole his possession and lied to him. However, the next minute he thought that Nofil might be speaking the truth. It might just be a coincidence that they both have exactly the same pens.” He ignored this incident.

After a few days, Adil lost his ruler and pencil. Now, it had become a routine. Adil used to purchase new stationery items but after two to four days, he no longer had them. Even one day, he lost the amount he placed in his pencil box to buy some new books.

Adil was so worried that why is all this happening. He was lying on the couch thinking about who is responsible for this. He finally arrived at the conclusion that Nofil is the one who is continuously stealing his stuff as he shares his things only with Nofil, they sit on the same bench in the classroom and most importantly, Nofil also stole his pen. He decided to ask Nofil about all this.

The next day, in school, the teacher asked the class monitor to collect science copies of all students for checking. When Adil checked the bag, it wasn’t there. His mind burst with anger and without discussing anything with Nofil, Adil went to the school Principal and told her the entire story.

The Principal called Nofil into her room and asked him if he actually did what Adil is saying. Nofil replied that he does not know what Adil is talking about and that he hadn’t stolen any of his belongings. When the Principal checked his bag, he found that fountain pen which according to Adil belonged to him. He expelled Nofil from school. Nofil’s eyes filled with tears. He took his bag and left the school.

When Adil returned home he was too tired and was also depressed because of the betrayal of his best friend. He changed his clothes and went to sleep without having lunch. When he got up, it was almost tea-time. After having some biscuits with tea, he decided to do his homework.

He placed his books on the study table. “Math, science or social studies? Which subject should I start first? Oh what’s that?” He saw a copy lying beside the table. When he picked it up, it was his science register which was missing and he thought that Nofil has

stolen it. He felt guilty about what he did to Nofil but the next moment, he remembered that Nofil had also kept stealing his other stuff as well.

“Nofil was worthy of that punishment.”, Adil muttered and proceeded to finish off the homework.

On Sunday, he decided to do some painting. He gathered the related stuff but he didn't have a paintbrush. “Oh yes, I bought a new one a few days ago when I visited the stationery shop. It must be in my school bag.” He checked all the pockets of the bag. “Where has it gone? Maybe I should turn it upside down.”. Adil emptied the bag to find out the brush and can you imagine what he saw? All his missing items were there in his bag.

“How's this possible?”, Adil just can't understand what's happening. After thinking for a while, he figured out that his pencil box was broken from a side, due to which his stationery and the money he kept in his box had been falling out into the bag.

He was feeling extremely ashamed of what he had done with his best friend. His sight blurred with tears. The amazing memories he had with Nofil were now revolving in his mind. Adil told his mom the entire story and asked her to take him to Nofil's home. When they reached there, Nofil's mother told Adil that he is in his room. When Adil entered Nofil's room, he saw that Nofil was sitting beside his window, watching the kids playing football in the playground.

“I'm sorry Nofil. I wasn't worthy of your friendship. I thought that you had been stealing my belongings whereas it was me who was responsible for not taking care of my stuff. You can fight me, beat me or say whatever you want to.”, said Adil.

Tears started dripping from Nofil's eyes. He came towards Adil and hugged him. “I was very angry with you but I know that you are my best friend and you hadn't done that intentionally. I have forgiven you.”, said Nofil.

“Really! So, guess what I have brought for you.”, asked Adil.

“I can smell the aroma. It's something chocolaty. Right?”, replied Nofil.

“Yes, your favourite chocolate tarts. My mother prepared them.”, stated Adil while keeping one in his mouth.

They both enjoyed them and played football along with the other kids who were playing there in the playground.

The next day, they both went to school together. Adil told the Principal that Nofil is innocent and that it was just a misunderstanding.

The students were having a speech competition on that day. Adil gave a speech on “My Best Friend” and ended his speech with these lines “Friendship is a unique relationship. We should never end it up because of just a misunderstanding. Real friends are those who help and understand each other, so we all should try to be like that.”

Everyone clapped and Adil won that competition.

Nofil was happy that Adil had now understood the meaning of true friendship. He congratulated Adil on his achievement and asked for a treat. They both laughed and made their way to the playground for their sports class.