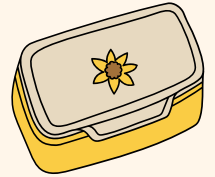


THE CASE OF THE MISSING LUNCHBOX



Ellie was excited for lunch. Her Nonna had packed her favourite spaghetti and a chocolate muffin. Excitedly, Ellie reached for her cubby, but noticed her lunchbox was missing.

"Jayden!" she called. "It's gone!"

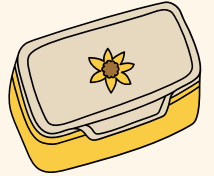
"Don't worry," said Jayden. "We'll find it together."

They searched the playground and bike racks but found nothing. So they asked Mr. Wombat, the school groundskeeper. "I saw something shiny dragged into the bushes this morning," he said. "Could be a possum!"

Ellie and Jayden followed a trail to the bush fence. There, under the leaves, was Ellie's lunchbox—spilled and chewed. A tiny sugar glider blinked at them from a branch. Ellie smiled, feeling relieved.

Back at the tables, Ellie looked at her empty box. Jayden handed her half his sandwich. "Friends share," he smiled. Ellie grinned. "Best mystery ever!"

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How did Jayden show that he was a good friend to Ellie during the story?

Where does the story take place, and how is this setting important to what happens in the story?

What problem did Ellie face at the beginning of the story, and how was it solved?

What is the main message or lesson about friendship in this story?
