

Lucille's New School

Written and Illustrated

by

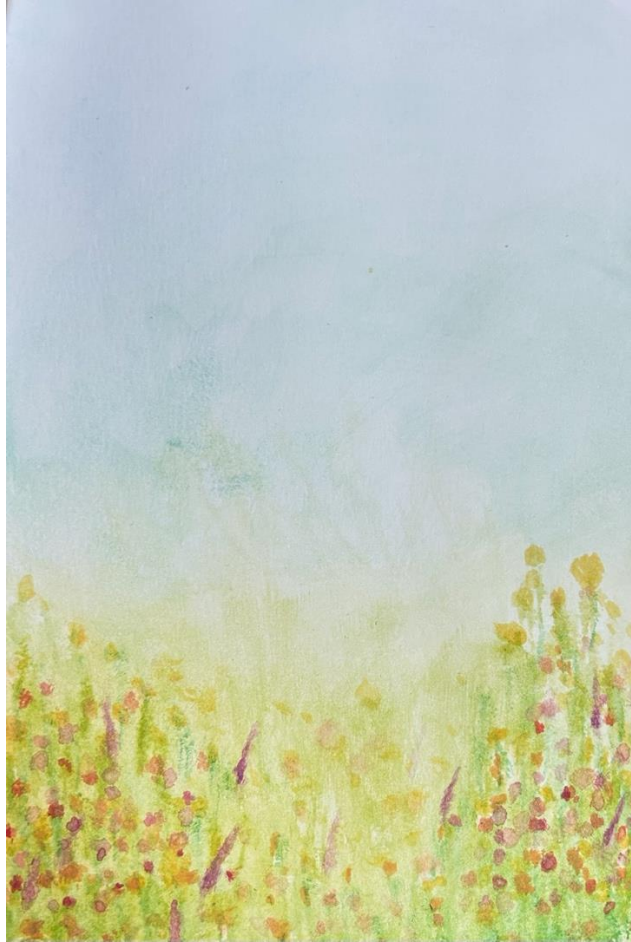
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Author's Purpose

Lucille's New School is a chapter of realistic fiction to show children how to overcome fear of new situations. For young children, it is a common reaction to be afraid when trying new things. This story can help children understand how to cope with anxiety. Included in the story are interactions with bullies to teach children how to face their fears with confidence. The characters in the story are familiar to children who can see themselves within the writing if they are facing these challenges.

Dedication

I would like to dedicate this story to my future students because I want them to know they can face their challenges even if it may be hard. New situations are tough, even for me, but I know they can overcome them by being brave. I don't want anyone to dull their sparkle because each and every one of us is important.



Lucille's New School

Creaking open the door to Lucille's room where enough light from the hall could shine in, her mother peeked her head in and whispered, "It's time to get up and get dressed."

It was the first day of second grade at a new school. Lucille's anxiety caused her to toss and turn all night. When morning came, Lucille's eyes opened and she immediately wanted to shut them and go back to bed.

The sun had not risen, the room was dark, and the air was cold. The perfect condition to fall back asleep. Her mother knew this would happen, so she crept up

to Lucille's bedside, knelt down, and whispered in her ear "I have blueberry muffins, your favorite."

When Lucille's mother told her, what was in the kitchen, she slowly dragged her body out of bed and got dressed in her favorite light, yellow dress. When eating breakfast Lucille asked, "Why do I have to go to school?"

Her mother giggled and responded with "Everyone has to go to school, silly. It will be okay. You will meet many new friends."

When Lucille heard that she took a big gulp of her milk and thought to herself how scary making new friends would be.

On the car ride to school Lucille began to feel as if she would throw up from her nerves. To calm herself, she daydreamed of laying in the flowers in the backyard because that was her happy place. Suddenly, feeling her mom come to a stop, she opened her eyes and realized they had arrived at school. She looked out of the window and written big above the school she saw the words *Evergreen Elementary*.

Not controlling her emotions, she began to cry and was then frightened of getting out of the car. She saw a teacher walking her way and waving which made her want to stay in the car even more.

Lucille was afraid.

All of a sudden, the door flung open and it was time. She had to step out of the car. Lucille hid her face so she wouldn't make eye contact but then she heard a soft welcoming voice.

“Hi, I’m Ms. Ellis, what's your name?”

Lucille slowly turned her head and looked at the teacher. She was beautiful. She had shiny short golden-brown hair with curtain bangs. Her soft smile made anyone at ease. She wore a beautiful dress, all the way to the floor. It made Lucille smile.

Lucille introduced herself and told the teacher she was afraid to go to school. Ms. Ellis said she would walk her to her class if that would make her feel better. Lucille then said yes and got out of the car.

Walking to class holding Ms. Ellis’ hand she saw artwork along the halls. She wondered if it was still up from the year before. There were many doors and twists and turns in the halls. Finally, they approached Lucille’s classroom.

She knew it was time to let go and say goodbye to Ms. Ellis but then out of the corner of her eye she saw her kneel down. She said, “Guess what? This is my classroom too. I will be your new teacher.”

All Lucille did was smile very big and her teacher knew she was overjoyed. When Ms. Ellis reached for the doorknob all of a sudden Lucille’s heart dropped and started to beat super-fast.

Lucille was terrified.

When the door opened all of the students looked up. Lucille wanted to disappear. Ms. Ellis walked in and said, “Good morning class. This is Lucille and she is new to the school.”

Everyone wanted to introduce themselves to Lucille, but she was too nervous to even speak. She just waved and went straight to the desk with her name. All the children had a journal in front of them, so she opened the journal on her desk and saw the question on the board saying what to write about.

When she was writing she heard a little girl across the class say in a sassy voice “I’m Sam, you never said hi to me!”

Lucille didn’t know what to say because she didn’t know if she was talking to her. She had blond hair in pigtails and a mean snarl on her face. She repeated it a second time staring straight at Lucille. Lucille was confused as to why she had an attitude with her.

Lucille said, “Oh, hi” and went back to work. She could hear Sam mumble from across the class “She’s weird.”

When Lucille heard this tears started to form in her eyes. She thought to herself that no one would ever be her friend. After learning their first lesson it was time to go to recess. Lucille wanted no social interaction. She went up to Ms. Ellis and told her that she had a tummy ache and asked if she could stay in the class.

Ms. Ellis told her she had to go outside because there would be no one to sit with her but she could sit on the benches near the playground under the pavilion. Sitting under the pavilion on the bench Lucille watched all the children play. Everyone who walked past just stared and never asked for her to join them.

She saw a big patch of grass with many flowers. She wished she could go sit and make flower crowns, but her stomach was hurting so bad from all the embarrassment of today.

Lucille was ready to go home.

When it was time for lunch no one wanted to sit with her. She was an outcast. Everyone had their friend groups from the school year before, so she sat alone at the little table that said *Peanut Allergies*. One boy ended up sitting across the table from her, but he never said a word.

They ate in silence.

When it came time for carpool, she was so excited to leave. She just wanted to go home and watch a movie with her mom. In carpool you have to sit with your legs crossed, book sack on, hands in your lap, and be on the lookout for your parent's car. Lucille saw her mother's car and was overjoyed. She stood up ready to run to the car, but then suddenly heard Sam say "Eww, whose car is that?"

Lucille broke down when she heard that. She ran to her mom's car crying. Today was the worst day ever.

The teacher opened the car door and she hopped in and hid her face in her car seat and cried. This made Lucille's mom sad.

Her mother asked, "Lucille, what happened? Was school really that bad?"

Lucille said, "Yes, it was horrible. This girl named Sam is so mean and I made no friends."

When they arrived home, her mom comforted her and said they could have a movie night after dinner and bath. Lucille prayed that tomorrow would be a better day for her.

Soon it was Friday and every morning since the first day of school Lucille has had a stomachache before school from worrying about Sam and being alone with no friends.

Come recess time on Friday, Lucille played alone. She walked around and watched everyone. All the little kids did about the same thing at recess everyday. When walking around she saw Sam approaching her. Her heart dropped because everyday this week Sam has approached her and has had nothing nice to say.

Sam said, "I think my baby doll has the same dress you are wearing today. Are you a baby?"

Lucille thought her dress was beautiful. It was baby blue and had puff sleeves and lace around the edges of the whole dress. It was one of her favorites

and for Sam to say that, it crushed her. Lucille started crying and Sam started to laugh “Are you a cry baby too?”

Lucille ran straight to the flower patch where she saw two girls picking flowers. They must have been in another class. She tried to keep her distance and stay unnoticed. She heard the two girls talking. She was nervous that they might see her crying. Still crying, the two girls approached her and squatted down.

They said that Sam was mean to everyone all the time and that you just have to ignore her. Lucille wiped her tears away and was embarrassed now that she was crying. The two girls told her that it was okay to cry and that crying makes them feel better whenever they do it. This made Lucille feel much better when they said that.

The two girls asked for her name and she told them it was Lucille. They said they loved her name and that their names were Flora and Catherine. Catherine said she used to get bullied by Sam until she learned to stand up for herself and show her that she didn’t care what she said.

Lucille took everything to heart so it would be hard to ignore her. Flora then said she could come pick flowers with them and she was overjoyed.

Lucille didn’t talk much because she was shy, but Flora and Catherine loved to talk so it all worked out. Flora said, “Next time she is mean to you, just walk

away and act like it doesn't bother you. That's how you will get her to leave you alone. Show her you don't care."

Lucille said she would try it out next time Sam were to approach her. She told them she was just glad it was almost the weekend so she could go home. Flora had the idea that she should join her and Catherine for a play date this afternoon after school. Lucille said she would have to ask permission from her mom but that she would love to.

The bell rang and it was time to walk back to class. Lucille saw they were in the classroom next to her but was sad that they weren't in her class. They eased her nerves.

Sitting in her own class she saw Sam waving and calling her name. Sam said, "Hey baby" and all Lucille did was ignore her.

This was making Sam mad.

Sam said a little louder "Hey little baby!" The teacher heard. Ms. Ellis stormed over to Sam's chair and told her there will be no name calling in the class and to apologize to Lucille. Sam apologized and from then on out Lucille knew that ignoring Sam would be the solution to her bullying problem.

When it was time for carpool Flora had her mother pull her car to the side and wait for Lucille. When Lucille saw her mom, she hurried to her car to ask if she could ride home and have a playdate with Flora and Catherine. Lucille's

mother said she would park next to Flora's mom to ask her questions and meet her. She would never let Lucille go to a stranger's house.

After talking for a long time Lucille's mother agreed to let her go. The girls were all so happy. When Lucille hopped into the car Flora's mom said, "Hi, I'm Ms. Sarah, so nice to meet you."

Lucille smiled, waved, and thanked her for letting her come over. Pulling into the driveway Lucille looked out of the window and saw a castle-like house; it was big. There was beautiful greenery around the house and flowers!

The whole playdate they were outside running through the flowers in the big backyard. They eventually all got tired of running and layed down in some flowers. Flora said she was so glad to have Lucille as their new friend and Catherine agreed. When they sat up, they saw Lucille's mom walk into the backyard and they realized it was time for her to go home.

Lucille ran to her mom and told her how much fun she had with her new friends. The girls all said goodbye and that they couldn't wait to see each other next week at school.

Monday rolled around the corner, fast, and it was the morning of school. Lucille was a little nervous because Sam was still there, but it made her feel better that she had new friends to play with.

Come recess time Lucille was running to see Flora and Catherine but Sam blocked her path.

“Hey baby” she said with a mean tone.

Lucille stopped, looked up at her, and just walked right around her and ignored her. Sam gasped and stormed off. Flora and Catherine saw what happened and gave her a high five. “That’s how you do it!” Catherine said.

From then on out she knew it was going to be a good rest of the school year because of her new friends and the new confidence she found by standing up to Sam.

Vocabulary

Afternoon: Any time after lunch to before dinner.

Anxiety: To feel worried or nervous.

Approach: To come to or near a person or thing.

Comforted: To make someone feel better.

Creaking: A squeaky noise.

Daydream: Mind wondering like a dream in daytime.

Introduce: To meet someone.

Mumble: To talk quietly or in a whisper unclearly.

Pavilion: An outside cover.




Social Interaction: When two humans communicate.

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About the Author

Maggie Grace Boudreaux is a sophomore majoring in Early-Childhood Education at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Maggie enjoys sewing, crocheting, playing with her dog, writing, and playing with children. Maggie's future goal is to graduate, become a teacher, and maybe even an author. Maggie loves writing stories that children would like and what she would have loved to read when she was a child. She hopes to someday publish a children's book.