

THE VILLAGE BULLY

A story poem for the young and learning...by MARIA BROOM

In our urban villages across the globe, we must offer teachings from elder cultures so the children and young people can be happy, and remember who they are. This story poem is an attempt to institute a very old African custom. Whenever a villager commits any terrible wrongdoing, everyone makes great preparations and forms a huge circle around their offending brother. One by one, each person, the old and young, must tell something truthful and positive they know about him. They create a large mirror of stories for him, a circle of loving reflections so that he can remember who he really is. Let's teach the children worldwide to hold each other in love.



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THE VILLAGE BULLY

Michael Jose Jamal was bigger than most of the boys.
He was taller than his dad... he always seemed mad
And he liked making whole lots of noise.

He loved his grandmother who moved far away.
He had a little sister... but she died one day.
His mother was sad and got very sick.
His father was around, but they just didn't click.

He stayed to himself almost all of the time.
And knew only one way to get a dollar or a dime.
Looking mean, he would say... "Gimme what you got!
Give it to me now or I'll hurt you a lot!"

Michael Jose Jamal was bigger than most of the boys.
He looked really mad, couldn't tell he was sad.
He seemed rough when he made all that noise.

One day he was eating some candy he took.
A teacher came over... and gave him a book.
It had stories and paintings and a whole lot more.
He never got a present this special before.

The big boy looked up, but didn't know what to say.
The teacher just smiled as he went on his way.
The children all saw this, but couldn't understand why...
Why someone who scared them would break down and cry.

Michael Jose Jamal was bigger than most of the boys.
Though he always seemed mad... he was just feeling bad,
So he cried out with all of that noise.

On Monday, the teacher made a circle of chairs.
The big boy in the middle had to face all their stares.
Each child in the circle had to say something they knew,
Something good about the boy, something positive and true.

"He can reach the top shelf, I wish I was that tall."
"He caught a little kid when he started to fall."
"When he took things from me, he never hurt me one time."
"Yeah, he scared me a lot, but is that really a crime?"

Michael Jose Jamal... sat and heard what the children said.
Just looking down, at first with a frown
Wishing he had stayed home in bed.

But he was surprised to find out they didn't hate him at all.
Just scared what he might do when he came down the hall.
He could not imagine they saw anything good.
He was considered a bully in his neighborhood.

When they all finished saying the things they had to say,
The big boy's mean look started to melt away.
He told them his story about his Mom, Grandmother and Dad.
How much he missed his sister... how that makes him feel bad.

As he told his whole story, it made some children cry.
They had sad stories too so they could understand why...
Why when you are hurting with no one to talk to,
You can find mean ugly things to say and to do.

What the big boy and his classmates learned on that day
Came from the teacher who went out of his way.
He befriended the boy that no one thought well of.
He gave him a gift and showed him some love.

You have to take a chance and think with your heart.
To be friends with a bully is really an art.
But always remember, because this is so true.
When someone hurts others... his heart's broken in two.

Everyone has a heart... for sure, there's no doubt.
And when our heart is broken, we can really act out.
So, for the class or a family or a village to win,
We can circle a bully's heart and help it to mend.

Everybody needs love, it makes us feel good.
Your classmates, your family, your whole neighborhood.
So send people your love every day, from your heart.
It can make people happy! Well... it's a good place to start.

Michael Jose Jamal... was still bigger than most of the boys.
But with the new friends he had, it was hard to be sad,
So he stopped making all of that noise.

**FORGIVENESS DOESN'T
EXCUSE THEIR BEHAVIOR.**

**FORGIVENESS PREVENTS
THEIR BEHAVIOR FROM
DESTROYING YOUR HEART.**

#BEYONDORDINARY



He drew a circle that shut me out...
Heretic... rebel... a thing to flout.
But love and I had wit to win.
We drew a circle that took him in.

Edwin Markham