

The New Kid

Henry was watching Chris, the new boy at Tree Lane School, sitting by himself during recess. It was the middle of the school year, and Henry was sure Chris was feeling **nervous** on this first day. Chris was staring down at the ground shyly, drawing circles in the dirt with his shoe. It wasn't easy being the new kid.

Henry knew all about that. He had once been the new kid in school, and his first day had felt like a month. Henry thought it would never end. But a boy named Joey had **approached** him and asked him if he liked baseball. Now Joey was Henry's best friend. All Chris needed was someone to make him feel as welcome as Joey had made Henry feel.

When it was time to choose kickball teams, Henry said, "I want Chris on my team."

Chris turned around with a **confused** look on his face. He pointed to himself as if to say, "Me?" Henry nodded, and Chris ran over with a big smile on his face.

Henry said, "You kick first, Chris. Let's see what you can do."

When Chris kicked the ball, it went **soaring** across the playground. He rounded the bases and scored the first run of the game. The other kids cheered and **congratulated** Chris. Henry gave him a high five.

"Terrific kick, Chris! Welcome to our school!" Henry said.

