HIGHLY COMMENDED
YEAR 7 AND 8 CATEGORY

A Story IN Miniature

Desk disaster

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This is the story of the mightiest miniature kingdoms— Kraft and Sketch.

It all began with a pencil.

The kingdoms of Kraft and Sketch had been arguing for centuries. They fought over the long, yellow hexagonal shape lying in the epicentre of both their kingdoms. Kraft claimed it was a sacred bridge. Sketch announced it was a powerful weapon. But neither side would yield.

Their kingdoms were small enough to fit on the average school desk. Kraft's stood between two massive math textbooks, its castle forged from folded cardboard, while Sketch's fortress was protected by massive greylead spikes. A ruler, scattered pencil shavings, and a stray eraser made up the battlefield between them.

At sunrise, as usual, the fight resumed. Kraft's army, armed with arrows of lead and shields made of rubber, marched onto the battlefield. Sketch's own army met them with toothpick swords and paper helmets. Soldiers scrambled over ruler ridges, trying to avoid the lead arrows. More screamed as their own weapons rebounded off rubber shields.

But then, it all went wrong. The sky fell.

'THE HAND OF THE GIANT!' a soldier shrieked.

Five gargantuan fingers crashed down onto the kingdoms and the pencil flew into the air. The armies watched helplessly as the very cause of their conflict for the past century was plucked from the ground as if it were no more than a feather. Then the hand disappeared and a child's voice boomed,

'I'm cleaning my desk, it's a mess.'

The citizens of Kraft and Sketch gasped. Years and years of conflict, pencil shavings, and heroism- but to the giant, it was a mess.

The desk tilted violently. The kingdoms began crumbling.

'NO!' cried the armies. But they were helpless against the sheer force of the child giant.

'PUSH!' shouted a soldier suddenly.

'SAVE THE KINGDOMS!' yelled another.

'PUSH!'

'FOR THE KINGDOMS!'

'PUSH!'

And soon, the hundreds of tiny hands that were once locked in combat were all pushing against the walls of the castles, trying to keep the kingdoms from collapsing. And finally, together, the soldiers and citizens tipped the box back over and the kingdoms were on flat ground once again. High above, the giant sighed.

' Mum, I'll do it later!'

And back below, in a miniature world, the people of Kraft and Sketch were no longer arguing. They were throwing a huge celebration to recognise their success against the most fierce predator of all- the human child!

From that day on, the two kingdoms shared the yellow pencil to design a beautiful, unified world across the school desk. They learned that erasing their differences was far more powerful than fighting over them. Now, whenever the desk shakes, the tiny citizens simply smile and hold hands, ready for the giant's next cleanup.

And that, dear reader, is the story of how two nations in eternal conflict finally became friends and realised that indeed, cooperation is the sharpest tool in the drawer.

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