



Rubel The Sand Fox

Author: Arwa Althunyan

Illustrator: Hossam Hassan



Things were not okay in Hills evening school.



Rubel the sand fox crumpled himself up like a ball in his place. Nearing the end of the day, his heart beat even faster. He thought "Will they take my food away again?"



Unfortunately, what he was afraid of happened. The red wolves awaited him in front of the school gate. Rubel was small in size compared to them. He seemed like a cat facing tigers. He knew that one punch from them will throw him several meters away.



That's why he decided not to move. He kept still and quiet. One of them said, "How are you today weak one?" then they grabbed his bag from him and took his lunch. They tore the bag and threw it in the air.



Before they left, the biggest fox approached him. He told Rubel, “you can eat your lunch at school, but you are stupid, you want to leave it in the bag, for us to take from you.”



Rubel dragged his torn bag and returned home. His mom looked into his eyes and said, “They did it again today, didn’t they?”. He didn’t say a word, but indeed he burst into tears and cuddled into her.



Another day passed and Rubel and his mother spend it with no food.
The big red foxes take all the chicken in the village too.

Their cubs take Rubel's lunch that the school provides him.



His mother said, "I'll go with you and we'll complain to the principal once again."



Rubel lowered his head and said, “He’ll say what he says each time. In Hill evening school surviving is for the fittest.” Mother replied, “Then we have no other choice.”.



Leaving his childhood home was not an easy experience for Rubel and his mother, but he can't bear becoming weaker and weaker because of hunger. Although his mother prepares insects and plant roots, they are not sufficient to keep him healthy. Rubel and his mother walked away on a rough rocky road. They climbed sand hills and Rubel thought of how the new house was like and more than that, he thought of his new school.



The new house was small and humid. Rubel was quite disappointed. His mum waved goodbye before he went to school and he said, “I hope this school is better than my first school”. In New Sand School, there awaited him a surprise.



Most the students were sand cats and were very nice to him, but better than that, the school had no red foxes.



When it was lunchtime, they offered three chickens to each child. Rubel rubbed his eyes. He couldn't believe it was true. He ate a chicken in one gulp and hid two chickens to eat with his mother at home.



In his new school, Rubel had a wonderful time. Everyone loved him and he made lots of friends, but his best friend was Archie the cat. They studied and played together, but one day something totally unexpected happened.



Before Rubel entered his classroom, he ran into big red bodies. He raised his head to see their cunning smiles.



Unfortunately, Hill Evening school needed some rebuilding. So all the students there were transferred to New Sand School for some time. Rubel froze in his place as heard them say, “Is that you again, you weak one?!” Just before a red fox took him by the neck, the teacher came and asked everyone to go back to their places.



Rubel took a deep breath for a while, but he knew that tough times are coming back. Archie noticed how worried his friend was so he held his hand and said, "They won't overcome us my friend."



The two friends set off after the school day was over. They climbed a faraway hill. Rubel lowered his head and said, “I don’t want to go to another place.” Archie said, “Let’s think of a way that would make them fear from us.”. And an idea suddenly came to Rubel.



He remembered that he saw the red foxes attacking a skunk, which simply made a terrible smell that made them go away and never come back again.



In Rubel's house, the two friends opened the chemistry book and started working on some experiments until they made a chemical with a terrible smell, similar to that of the skunk. They placed it in small balls. Rubel wondered, "Do you think this will work?".



The next morning after school. Rubel came out of school, and he was surprised he didn't meet any red foxes. He was happy he didn't meet them and said, "It seems they went back to their school." He comfortably sat and waited for Archie, his friend.



Archie was very late and Rubel began to get very worried. Could the foxes have taken Archie? Rubel jumped up and ran towards Archie's home.



Sure enough, he found Archie in a trap laid out by the foxes. Before the foxes could attack either of them, Rubel came to the rescue and threw their new stink bomb in the air! The foxes yelled “What a terrible smell!” and quickly ran away over the sand dunes.



The next day, everything was back to normal at school and Archie and Rubel each enjoyed their chicken lunch in peace.



The End