

★ The Real Treasure of Friendship

*Once upon a time, in a small town surrounded by green fields, tall trees, and a little river, lived two best friends — **Ethan** and **Jack**. They were both in 5th grade. Their friendship was so strong that everyone in school said, “Where there is Ethan, there is Jack.”*

Ethan was playful and full of jokes. Jack, on the other hand, was thoughtful and serious. Their personalities were different, but that only made their friendship stronger.

The Mysterious Key

*One afternoon, while playing soccer on the school field, Ethan saw something shining in the dirt. Curious, he dug it up and pulled out an **old, rusty key**.*

Excitedly, Ethan shouted:

“Jack! Look what I found! This looks like a treasure key!”

Jack smiled and replied:

“Maybe it belongs to some old box or chest. But where is the box?”

Both decided that from the next day, they would search the whole town to find it.

The Treasure Hunt

The next day after school, Ethan and Jack carried a small backpack and a flashlight. They searched under trees, near old walls, and even around the abandoned well on the edge of town.

Ethan laughed and said:

“If we find treasure, the first thing I’ll buy is a brand-new soccer ball!”

Jack replied with a grin:

“And I’ll buy books with my share. You’ll play, and I’ll read!”

Their dreams were different, but their adventure was the same.

The Hidden Box

*After days of searching, one afternoon they noticed some loose stones near the old school wall. When they moved the stones, they discovered a **small rusty iron box** hidden underneath.*

Their hearts raced with excitement.

Ethan whispered:

“This has to be it! Quick, use the key!”

Jack slowly slid the key into the lock. Click! The box opened.

The True Treasure

*Inside, there was no gold, no diamonds, no silver coins. Instead, they found **old letters, photographs, and a diary** from two friends who had lived many years ago.*

On the first page of the diary, it said:

"Friends are treasures that stay alive in our hearts, even when time has passed. If you are reading this, remember: true friendship is the greatest treasure of all."

Ethan looked at Jack and said:

“We didn’t find gold, but maybe this is better. Real treasure is friendship.”

Jack nodded with a smile:

“Yes, as long as we have each other, we don’t need gold or silver.”

The Promise

From that day on, Ethan and Jack promised to never leave each other’s side. They decided to share happiness, help each other in hard times, and always respect their friendship.

As the years passed, they grew older, but their bond only grew stronger. And whenever people asked the secret of their happiness, they both replied with the same words:

“The real treasure is... friendship.”

✧✧ *Moral of the Story:*

Money and riches may disappear, but true friendship lasts forever.