

★ The Broken Pencil

One afternoon in a small village school, a boy named Ayaan sat quietly at his desk. He was almost done with his homework when—crack!—his pencil broke in two.

He froze, staring at the broken pieces. “Great... now what? I can’t even finish one simple task,” he muttered under his breath.

Miss Sara, his teacher, noticed his frustration. She walked over, picked up the pencil, and turned it in her hand. For a moment she said nothing, then smiled gently.

“Ayaan, have you ever thought about what makes a pencil truly useful?”

He frowned. “It’s broken. It’s useless.”

“Not really,” Miss Sara replied. “The wood on the outside can break, but the inside—the lead—is still there. That’s what gives the pencil its purpose. And you’re the same. On the outside, life may knock you down, but inside you have courage, ideas, and strength. That’s what matters.”

Ayaan was silent. For the first time, he understood. The broken pencil wasn’t the end—it was a reminder.

He sharpened what was left of the pencil and finished his work. This time, he wrote with a smile, because he knew no problem could take away what he carried within.

★★ Moral

Our true value comes from within. Even when the outside breaks, the strength inside can still shine.