

Parent/Teacher Conference

Humorous Trio by Samuel Stokes

TEACHER: Good morning, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison. Thank you for coming. I understand that you have some concerns.

JACK: Yes, we're concerned that little Billy is behind on his speech.

LINDA: That's right, we can't understand anything he says.

TEACHER: Uh, yeah, I sort of noticed that issue as well.

JACK: We read to him all the time and we encourage him to read aloud.

LINDA: Nothing seems to work.

TEACHER: Yes, and it seems his written communication is also below grade-level.

LINDA: Has he been making any progress with his handwriting?

TEACHER: Not really, he doesn't write much at all. He hardly ever picks up his pencil. He typically just chews on it.

JACK: Oh my, what do you think the problem could be? Is he having trouble holding his pencil?

TEACHER: Well, yes...

JACK: Is there something we can do to help him in gripping his pencil?

TEACHER: Well, we could look into that, but I'm not sure we're really getting to the root of the problem here.

LINDA: Oh, and what is that?

TEACHER: I'm not really sure how to bring this up.

JACK: Go ahead, we won't be offended.

LINDA: That's right, we just want the best for our little Billy.

TEACHER: Well, Billy is a little different.

JACK: In what way?

TEACHER: Have you noticed, he's very small?

LINDA: Oh, yes, well neither of us were ever very tall, either.

JACK: I was always the shortest in my class...

TEACHER: So, you're saying it runs in the family?

JACK: Well, actually there's something we haven't told you about Billy.

LINDA: Yes, you see, Billy is adopted.

TEACHER: You don't say...

JACK: Yes, we didn't want any of the other children to give him a hard time about.

TEACHER: Of course, well, I think this goes a long way in explaining the problem.

LINDA: What do you mean? There's nothing wrong with being adopted!

TEACHER: Of course not, but what do you know about Billy's parents?

JACK: We don't know anything about his parents. He was found abandoned.

TEACHER: Ah yes, well have you noticed he's very hairy.

LINDA: Well, some people are. That shouldn't really be a problem.

TEACHER: Well, true, but.

JACK: What exactly is it that you're trying to say?

TEACHER: I don't know how to put this, but...

LINDA: Just go ahead and say it.

TEACHER: Well, I'm pretty sure little Billy is a gerbil.

JACK: A gerbil?

LINDA: Are you sure?

TEACHER: Well, I'm not entirely sure.

LINDA: Oh, what a relief.

TEACHER: I mean, he could be a hamster. I've never been quite sure how to tell the difference.

JACK: There's no way Billy is a hamster or gerbil or anything of sort. He's just a typical little boy.

LINDA: Yes, he does all the things boys like to do.

TEACHER: Such as?

LINDA: He likes to run and play a lot.

JACK: That's right! He's always running on his running machine!

TEACHER: Running machine? You mean a treadmill?

LINDA: Well, it's really more of a wheel.

TEACHER: Like a... hamster wheel?

JACK: Well, I think that's beside the point. He's a healthy boy and his doctor says he's doing just fine.

TEACHER: And who is his primary doctor?

LINDA: Dr. Pesnell.

TEACHER: Dr. Pesnell? Isn't he a veterinarian?

JACK: Well, yes, but he's a friend of the family, so he offered to do Billy's checkups for free.

TEACHER: Well, has the doctor said anything about, uh... well, I'm not sure how to bring this up, but you do know that Billy has a tail, don't you?

LINDA: No he doesn't.

TEACHER: It sort of appears that he does, actually.

LINDA: No, that's not a tail. It's just a birthmark.

TEACHER: A birthmark? I'm pretty sure it's a tail.

JACK: Please be sensitive. He's very self-conscious about his birthmark.

TEACHER: Uh... ok. Well, I'm not sure what we can do until we come to terms with the fact that Billy may in fact be of a different species than us.

LINDA: Oh, you and your preposterous theories. Well, anyway, what do you suggest?

TEACHER: Well, I think maybe little Billy might do better if we transferred him to Mrs. Shirley's biology class. He could be the class pe-, I mean the class teaching assistant.

JACK: Really? You think Billy would be good at that?

TEACHER: Oh yes, I think the kids would learn a lot about biology by having Billy in class.

LINDA: How wonderful!

TEACHER: Yes, I think he will be especially helpful in helping the kids learn about rodent diet and behavior habits.

JACK: Why's that?

TEACHER: Never mind, just sign here and we'll transfer him to Mrs. Shirley's class right away.

(They sign the paper)

LINDA: Thank you so much! I'm so proud of little Billy becoming the teacher's assistant!

TEACHER: Yes, I'm sure he'll do very well. Anything else you would like to discuss while you're here?

JACK: Oh, we also need to talk to the coach about basketball tryouts. You don't think Billy's too short for basketball, do you?

TEACHER: *(flummoxed)* Maybe we should just see what coach has to say about. Thanks for stopping by, have a nice day.