

The Boy and the Dolphin



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Sam raced across the warm sand, his red sneakers kicking up little puffs of gold. His yellow T-shirt, printed with a small dolphin, flapped in the sea breeze. Mum and Dad were setting up towels, and his little sister Lily was already chasing seagulls. The beach stretched wide and bright, and the ocean sparkled all the way to the sky.



Sam flopped onto his towel, but then he saw something in the waves. Three silver shapes leaped high, grinning in the sunlight. "Dolphins!" he shouted, pointing. Dad pushed his sunglasses up and smiled. "They come here to play in the warm water," he said. Sam watched, his hazel eyes wide. He had never seen anything so wonderful.



All morning Sam watched the dolphins. They rolled and splashed, clicking and chattering as if they were laughing. Sam felt like they were friends already. "I wish I could swim with them," he said to Lily. She giggled and drew a dolphin in the sand with her finger. Sam decided right then that he would do something special for these playful animals.



At lunch, Mum handed out sandwiches from her woven tote bag. Sam noticed a plastic wrapper blowing across the sand. Then he saw a straw and a crumpled cup near the water. "Where does all this trash come from?" he asked. Dad frowned. "People leave it behind, and the tide takes it out to sea," he said. Sam's smile faded.



Mum explained that litter in the ocean can hurt dolphins. They might get tangled in plastic or eat it by mistake. "That's terrible!" Sam said. His freckled nose wrinkled with worry. "Can we help?" Mum nodded. "We can start by cleaning up this beach," she said. "And we can ask others to help too." Sam's eyes lit up with an idea.



Sam ran to find Lily. She was building a sandcastle with a moat. "Lily, we need to save the dolphins!" he said. "Will you help?" Lily jumped up, her red pigtailed bouncing. "Yes! I can pick up trash too!" she cheered. They ran back to Mum and Dad, who were already putting on gloves. Dad carried a big roll of bags.



Mum brought extra gloves and bags from her tote. Dad carried a big sack for the heavy stuff. Lily grabbed her pink bucket to collect small bits. Sam slung his green canvas bag over his shoulder. "Let's clean the whole beach!" he said. They started near the water, where the trash was worst. Sam picked up a bottle and felt proud.



Soon, other families joined in. A girl with a bucket, a man with a net, and two boys with big bags all helped. "The dolphins need clean water!" Sam told them. Everyone worked together, laughing and chatting. Dad took photos of the dolphins leaping in the background. Lily found a shiny shell and put it in her pocket for luck.



By afternoon, they had collected ten bags of trash. Sam's green bag was full of plastic and paper. His arms were tired, but he felt happy. "Look how clean the sand is!" Lily said, twirling in her striped swimsuit. Mum smiled. "You made a big difference today," she told them. Sam looked at the sparkling water and smiled.



That evening, Sam sat on the balcony with a notebook. "I want to help dolphins everywhere," he said. "How?" asked Lily. "I'll make a guide," Sam said. "With pictures and tips for keeping the ocean clean." Lily clapped. "I can draw the dolphins!" she said. They got crayons and paper and started working.



Sam wrote simple tips: "Put trash in bins. Bring bags to the beach. Never leave plastic behind." Lily drew a smiling dolphin on every page. Mum helped with tricky words, and Dad printed copies at the hotel shop. Sam colored the cover bright blue, with a dolphin jumping over the words "Keep Our Ocean Clean!"



The next day, Sam gave the guide to everyone on the beach. "This will help the dolphins!" he said. People smiled and promised to help. A little boy said, "I'll tell my school!" Sam felt proud. He knew that even small actions could make a big difference. The dolphins leaped in the distance, as if saying thank you.



On the last day, Sam stood at the water's edge with his family. The dolphins appeared again, their silver backs shining. "Goodbye, friends!" Sam called. He knew he would never forget them. "We'll keep the beach clean," Lily promised. Mum hugged Sam. "You showed us all how to care," she said. Sam smiled his gap-toothed smile.



Back home, Sam shared his guide with his class. His teacher put it on the wall. "Caring for animals starts with protecting their home," Sam told everyone. His classmates cheered. Some even planned their own beach cleanup. Sam felt a warm glow inside. He knew that every little bit helped.



Sam often thought of the dolphins. He kept a photo of them on his desk. Sometimes he wondered if they remembered him. He promised himself he would always pick up litter and help wildlife. His green bag hung by the door, ready for the next adventure. The ocean was a little cleaner because of him.



And whenever Sam visited the beach, he looked for the dolphins. They always came to play, leaping and splashing. Sam knew that his small hands had made a big difference. He hoped other children would join in too. After all, the ocean belongs to everyone, and every creature deserves a clean, safe home.