

The Pencil That Didn't Feel Sharp

Did you know, that before the wonderful crafty bits and pieces go to live in their homes, they must attend Smarty Arty School of Craft. Smarty Arty School of Craft is a place where all types of crafty bits and pieces learn to be their best.

Smarty arty school of craft is better than the rest,
They practice all their skills, and it helps them be their best.
Rulers, pencils, rubbers, and the lovely sticky glue,
Paints and brushes, scissors and felts, to name but a few.
They all come to school hoping to learn something new each day,
Each crafty bit different, in their own special way.
Today we will tell the story, of a pencil called Pippin,
So listen very carefully, and we shall begin.

Pippin the Pencil hadn't been at Smarty Arty School of Craft for very long. When Pippin first started at Smarty Arty School of Craft, he was a happy and chatty pencil, but over time Pippin began to feel very lonely and very sad. The thing is, Pippin started looking at the other crafty bits and pieces, and comparing himself to them... this didn't make him feel very good at all!

Everyday, Pippin would sit quietly watching all his friends.

Roger the Ruler could make the straightest of straight lines. Polly the Paintbrush made the swirliest of whirliest marks. Gloopy the Glue could stick anything to anything, and Connie the Crayon was just bursting with the most colourful colours. But poor Pippin didn't believe he could do anything. "I'm not good at anything," thought Pippin. "I'm just a boring, pointless pencil!"

Lately, Pippin wasn't feeling very sharp, in fact he was feeling very blunt, and the more he watched everyone else the blunter he felt.

One day during a 'Smarty Arty' lesson, everyone was busy getting on with their work, but Pippin just sat there watching, feeling very blunt. Mrs Messy Modelling Mould sat down beside Pippin and gently asked, "Pippin why aren't you doing your work?"

Pippin looked at her with tears in his eyes, "I'm just rubbish at everything, I'm just a silly pencil who isn't sharp at all."

Mrs Messy Modelling Mould smiled at Pippin, "Oh no that isn't true, you Pippin the Pencil have a very special gift." Pippin felt confused, "A special gift" he thought "I don't have a special gift, I'm pointless."

Later that day on the chalk yard, everyone was having so much fun... except Pippin. Sammy Scissor came skipping up to Pippin, "Would you like to come and play with us all?"

Pippin shook his head, "No thank you Sammy, I just want to be on my own. I wouldn't be very good at it anyway. I'm not good at anything!"

Sammy laughed, "That's not true Pippin, you're good at lots of things, you're very special."

Pippin felt confused. "Lots of things?" he wondered, "I'm not good at one thing, never mind lots of things." Today was a very confusing day for Pippin. He couldn't understand why everyone thought he was good at things, when Pippin knew that he wasn't good at anything! Pippin decided he didn't want to be on the chalk yard anymore, he didn't think he deserved to have fun with his friends, after all they were so much better than him at everything. So Pippin made his way back to class where he came across Connie Crayon.

"Oh hello Pippin" sighed Connie, "I've made a terrible mistake on Connor Card. Rosie rubber is off today and normally she helps me when I make a mistake."

Pippin had a little think and quietly said, "I could try and help you, I could use the rubber on my head to try and rub out your mistake."

Connie smiled, "Yes please Pippin, that would be great!"

Pippin gulped, and began to rub. He rubbed and rubbed and rubbed, but he couldn't rub Connie's mark off.

"I'm sorry Connie and Connor," cried Pippin "I can't do it, I'm just a pointless pencil." Pippin slowly walked away. Pippin was feeling like the bluntest pencil in all of Craft Land, not sharp at all.

Pippin, feeling very sad, made his way back to class, sat in his chair and put his rubber head on the table. He noticed all the amazing things around the classroom that his very clever crafty friends had made. Pippin began to cry. He closed his eyes, tears dripping down his face and thought about how pointless he was... not very sharp at all. Then, Pippin heard a whimpering noise. He got up slowly and followed the sound. It was Patty Paper who was lying on the table at the bottom of the classroom.

"Are you ok Patty?" whispered Pippin wiping away his last tear.

'Not really Pippin,' sobbed Patty 'look at all the lovely things around us, so many ideas and such beautiful colours, and then look at me!' Pippin was puzzled. "Can't you see Pippin?" blubbered Patty "I'm just a boring piece of paper, blank and very dull. I never get chosen by the other crafts, I'm just left as an empty piece of paper!"

Pippin hated to see his friends upset, but what could pippin do? After all he believed he was a pointless pencil, who wasn't sharp at all. Pippin turned to walk away, but then he had an idea. He took a deep breath turned around and bravely said, "I think you're beautiful just as you are, but if you would like I could try and make you feel a little bit brighter." Patty grinned and nodded. Pippin jumped on to Patty Paper and began

drawing the most wonderful things. Whilst Pippin was busy making Patty feel brighter, he hadn't realised that all the other crafty bits and pieces had returned to class. They were watching Pippin with the biggest smiles on their faces. Whilst making Patty feel brighter, Pippin began to feel brighter. Pippin finished by writing...

You Patty Paper are very special, and not dull at all. Love Pippin.

"All finished" beamed Pippin.

"Oh Pippin" Patty said with such joy, "I feel wonderful, and so much brighter."

All the crafty bits and pieces cheered. Pippin turned around in shock.

"WOW!" shouted Gloopy Glue. "That's the most beautiful picture I have ever seen!" All the other crafts nodded with excitement. Pippin turned to look at Patty Paper, he could see the wonderful picture he created and Pippin realised that he could do anything he wanted to, as long as he believed in himself. For once in a very long time Pippin the Pencil felt sharp.