

Jack's Secret Friend

A Group Story

Written and Illustrated by

Mrs. Auciello's First Grade Class

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Once there was a boy named Jack. Jack was 17 years old. He lived in a castle in a big city in Japan, with his dad, grandma, and an 18 year old sister named Mackenzie.



Art by Alicia

Jack's family always argued. They were mean and did not share with each other. This made Jack feel furious.



Art by Rachel

One day Jack was riding his bike in a forest nearby. He found a blue and green egg, about the size of a tiny rock. Soon the egg hatched and out came a baby snake.



Art by Macy

The snake was as big as a water bottle. She was orange and had black stripes. The snake looked at Jack and made a whistling sound like a flute.



Art by Colin

Jack felt happy. He decided to keep the snake and take good care of her. He named her Juliana.



Art by Lola

Jack kept the snake in a hole in the wall of the castle tower. He fed her carrots. He did not tell anyone about the snake.



Art by Lacie

One spring, there was a terrible drought.
It did not rain for 3 months. Jack's family had no food.
They were so hungry!



Art by Coner

Then one day the snake brought to him
a heap of gold coins. Jack counted the coins,
and there were 180 coins!



Art by Erin

Jack said, "Wow!" He went to the market and bought chickens and carrots. He shared the food with his family, but still kept the snake a secret.



Art by Elizabeth

But the drought continued. The people in the city were suffering. Jack asked Juliana, “Would you like to make it rain?”



Art by Daniel

The snake started to sing:
Please come back to us! Drip, drop! Splish, splash!
Help us now! Rain, come here to me!



Art by Jake

Her voice sounded like a dragon's voice. Suddenly the sky turned gray and blue. It rained for 13 days!



Art by Gabriella

Jack was happy. He felt good having Juliana as his friend. He still did not tell anyone about her. He and Juliana lived happily for many years.



Art by Riley

The snake was old now. One summer afternoon,
Jack held her as she closed her eyes.
She never opened them again.



Art by Brian

Jack was so sad he cried for 24 hours. He buried the snake in the backyard, and stuck a cherry branch in the ground to mark her grave.



Art by Jacob

Jack put an old picture of Juliana in front of the cherry branch. He went there to think about her every day.



Art by Abigail

Jack's family noticed how sad he was.
They came out to the grave and saw Juliana's picture.
His sister Mackenzie asked, "Who's that?"



Art by Sydney

“This was my friend,” Jack answered, and told his family all about Juliana. As he talked, the cherry branch grew and became a tall tree, full of beautiful cherry blossoms!



Art by Parker

A gentle breeze made the petals of the cherry blossoms fall on Jack and his family. After that, Jack's family never argued. They became kind to each other, and lived happily ever after.



Art by Tyler