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A Loyal Friend

Peter, an introverted junior student, rarely chatted with his classmates. One day, when he was on his way home, three overbearing students were stalking him to victimize him as he refused to hand out his homework for them to copy. Realizing three big bullies were tailing him, he raced to an alley in an attempt to escape from them. He crouched behind a huge rubbish bin until there was no trace of the villains. While he was apprehensive he would experience this again, he heard some whining. A puppy with an adorable face yet disgustingly smelly fur leaned on Peter's leg.

'Who are you!' Peter screamed, totally frightened. 'Oh, you scared me, little cutie. Wait, you shouldn't be here! Did someone leave you here?' Peter became sympathetic to the puppy. The puppy seemed to nod his head, looking distressed.

'Never mind, I'll bring you home and look after you. See how despondent you look,' Peter comforted him gently. He seemed not to care about his smell. The puppy was wagging his tail.

After bringing Harry home (yes, it's the dog's new name), Peter washed him and fed him with palatable dog food he bought on the way. Harry looked even more lovable after the bath. Afterwards, Peter began to do revision in his room and let Harry entertain himself

in the living room alone. Harry was hopping on the sofa, pushing over Peter's mom's favourite flower pot and biting Peter's 12-year-old birthday doll. Peter could not stand the commotion and left the room to find out what was happening. After seeing the chaos, Peter yelled furiously, 'HOW COULD YOU DO THAT? NO FOOD FOR YOU ANYMORE!' Harry cowered at the corner until dawn.

The next day was Saturday, Peter was playing games on the sofa while Harry approached him for food. However, Peter just asked him to get off every time. The doorbell rang. Unexpectedly, it was the three bullies again.

'What ... What are you guys doing here? How...?' A fight began. Their fists and legs were seizing and kicking Peter. Seeing his master attacked, Harry raced to bite the bad guys without any hesitation. He was barking and shoving them in order to scare them away. However, they fought back and punched Peter at his tummy. Fortunately, Harry's barking attracted the neighbours' attention. The neighbours went in and called the bullies' school.

Eventually, the bullies' parents were involved. They felt apologetic about what their sons had done, and they made them apologize to Peter. Since then, they stopped bullying him. Meanwhile, Peter ceased being mean to Harry. The reason was not just because Harry

protected him, but he also learnt that people should train and love their pets. From then on, Harry stopped ruining the furniture as Peter always purchased dog toys and played with Harry. He also started feeding Harry appetizing dog food and snacks again and cherishing Harry with much affection.

A relationship involves standing up for each other and playing down the seriousness of others' wrongdoings from the past.