THE GLITCHED GAME OF DECEIT AND HONESTY

A TALE OF FOUR FRIENDS

SHREYAS SHERA

The school's reopening after a two-month break is a delightful experience for all the students. The sound of children's chatter and laughter echoed through the halls, filling everyone with excitement and joy. There is something special about reuniting with friends and classmates after a break; that feeling was in the air that day. Two best friends named Joe and Jonathan were in 8th grade. They had known each other since grade 1. On the first day back to school after a break, the students participated in various activities. Joe chose the art activity while Jonathan opted for sports class. After the morning bell rang, the students dispersed to their respective classes. Jonathan was a big fan of games and had all types of them, while Joe's parents didn't buy him any games. Whenever Jonathan showed Joe his latest game, Joe would feel a bit jealous and left out. In the meantime, Joe sneaked out of his art class and went to their original class. Knowing that Jonathan had kept his device on his desk and he knew his password, Joe opened his laptop and started playing the latest game that Jonathan had downloaded. Suddenly, a message popped up on the screen saying, "Hi gamer 1478923, you have won 1 thousand for your marvellous game." Joe was ecstatic, thinking he had won the prize, and decided to show it to Jonathan. He clicked on the message, but suddenly the screen glitched, and some random apps got downloaded. Joe was feeling very scared and anxious when he approached Jonathan, who was in sports class at the time. He explained to Jonathan what was troubling him, and Jonathan was understandably disappointed in Joe's behavior. When they went to their class suddenly they heard a faint coughing sound and went to investigate. They discovered that

the new student, Joseph, was sleeping at the back of the class due to a severe headache. Jonathan had an idea and suggested that they tell the teacher that Joseph was responsible for what had happened. Joe felt much better after hearing this plan. After all the activities were over, the students returned to their class, and Jonathan was prepared to complain to the teacher. As the teacher arrived, he explained that someone had opened his device and that a glitch was happening, causing the entire screen to be stuck. The teacher asked if he suspected anyone, to which Jonathan replied that Joseph might be the one who did it, as he was the only person in the class. Joseph was a very lonely child and had no friends, except for the class monitor Rohit, who knew that Joseph would never do anything like this. After hearing Jonathan's words, the teacher suspected Joseph, but Rohit defended him and said he could not do such a thing. The teacher then asked Rohit to prove that Joseph didn't do it. After analyzing the device and the situation, Rohit came to a conclusion about who could have done it. He told the teacher that on Jonathan's device, there was a stain of paint and glitter, and the only person from their class who chose art was Joe. Rohit asked Joe to show his hands, but Joe denied it. Later, Rohit pulled Joe's hand and showed the same colour paint and glitter that was on the computer. From this, everyone, including the teacher, understood that Joe was the one who did it, and Jonathan was trying to save him. Joe's parents were called to the school and asked about their son's mischievous behaviour. After hearing what had happened, they realized that they had made a mistake by not allowing Joe to play any games, which led him to do what he did. They

apologized to the school and promised to give Joe more freedom to play games. They also talked to Joe about his wrongdoings and the importance of owning up to one's mistakes. In the end, Joe learned his lesson and apologized to Joseph for his behaviour. Jonathan also learned an important lesson that day. He realized that even if it's your best friend who does something wrong, it's important to be honest and not hide it. This was a valuable lesson that would stay with him for a long time. After the incident, Joe and Jonathan felt guilty and wanted to make things right. He knew that Joseph was new to the school and didn't have any friends, so he and Joe decided to reach out to him. They apologized for what had happened and asked if Joseph would like to hang out with them sometime. Joseph was hesitant at first, but he eventually agreed. The three of them started spending time together, and Jonathan and Joe even introduced Joseph to the rest of the class. They all welcomed him with open arms, and Joseph was grateful to have made new friends. Jonathan and Joe learned an important lesson that day. They realized that it's important to be kind to others, especially those who may be struggling or new to a situation. They also learned that it's never too late to make things right and that even mistakes can lead to positive outcomes. From that day forward, Jonathan and Joe made a conscious effort to be more inclusive and kind to everyone, and their actions inspired others in the class to do the same.