Ruby finds a new home

There is a sweet little village called **[invent village name or insert your own]** Every year, a very special guest comes to stay in this village. Her name is Ruby and she’s a robin. When she arrives she always says *“Tikk. Tikk. Tikitikk. Titikk!* **[ask children to repeat the sound]** How happy I am! My children are now grown up and they can fly, and we all came to Malta to spend winter here. We like Malta because it’s nice and warm here and we can find food.”

Ruby lives in a garden where she can hear the water from a pond **[ask children to make the sound of water]**. She finds food to eat in a tall orange tree. When the wind blows, the leaves go **[ask children to make the sound]**.

Ruby has a friend called Silvia. Silvia is not a robin. She is a warbler and she lives in another orange tree. Ruby and Silvia have fun together. Ruby likes Silvia because warblers can do many voices. When she sees a cat Silvia the warbler calls *tshsh-tshsh-tshsh-tshsh!* to warn Ruby that there is danger **[ask children to make the warning call]**. How easy it is to fly up to the highest branches where the cat cannot reach them! On days with blue skies Ruby feels so happy she sings **[ask children to make bird singing sound]**.

When nigth falls, Ruby hears the minibeasts creeping around the dry leaves under the trees and making small sounds with their tiny legs **[ask children to make the sound]**. Then she drops off to sleep listening to their little crackly noises.

In the morning Ruby knows it is time to wake up because she hears the sparrows in the tall trees in the street wake up and *chirp, chirp, chirp, chirp!* each other good morning **[ask children to make the sound of many sparrows chirping together]**. Ruby hops around the orange tree leaves looking for minibeast breakfast. Every time she pops a worm or a fly into her beak she opens and closes her beak enjoying the good food she can find in this garden **[ask children to make the sound of juicy worms and flies being swallowed by Ruby]**. And this is how Ruby spends winter before flying back to her other home across the sea from Malta.

One winter, Ruby flies to Malta as usual to spend the winter in her favourite garden. But Ruby gets a shock: instead of her garden and her orange tree and her friend Silvia, she finds a big ugly block of apartments! Ruby panics, and looks around, calling for Silvia **[invite children to make the cries and panicky sounds]**. Her warbler friend is not there and she has nowhere to rest after her long flight.

Ruby flies and flies. She sees houses and streets everywhere. Ruby is so tired she starts panting **[ask children to make the noise]**. She is scared of everything: **[children now make all the following noises]** the horns of cars, peope shouting, doors slamming, large trucks driving and even a police car.

It’s getting dark and Ruby is very tired. She lands on a dangerous pavement with noisy cars.

“Oh dear, where shall I sleep tonight? This place is so dangerous, and I’m so tired and hungry.”

Suddenly she hears her friend Silvia the warbler calling from far away. She looks up and sees a green place at the end of the road. Ruby flies to the green place: it’s a school garden! And Silvia is on top of a bush with nice red berries.

Silvia is so happy to see Ruby and she gives her a big hug.

“I had to fly away from our old garden,” said Silvia, “The people there cut down the nice trees and they built apartments. Luckily I found this wonderful primary school. And now you found it too! How nice to have you here!”

“I found it because I heard you calling,” said Ruby. “Thank you, Silvia.”

Silvia took Ruby’s wing and showed her round their new school garden. What a wonderful school this is.

“Look, Ruby! They have a pond, a rubble wall and plants full of juicy berries. And there are minibeast homes, and there’s a bird table, which the Year 2 children fill with food for us every morning. Isn’t that nice! And the children here can make robin voices!”

Ruby was so happy.

“Tikitikk, titikk! Thank you school for giving me such a wonderful home again.”

Every year Ruby now returns to the same school and joins her friend Silvia, who lives in the school garden all year round.

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Ruby ssib dar ġdida

Hemm raħal żgħir jismu **[ivvinta isem jew uża tagħkom stess]**. Kull sena f'dan ir-raħal jiġi joqgħod xi ħadd speċjali. Jisimha Ruby u hija pitirross. Meta tasal dejjem issemma' leħinha: "*Tikk! Tikk! Tikitikk! Titikk!* **[tfal jagħmlu bħalha]** Kemm jien kuntenta hawnhekk! It-tfal tiegħi kibru u tgħallmu jtiru u issa ġejna ngħaddu x-xitwa f'Malta. Malta togħġobna għax ma tagħmilx ħafna kesħa fix-xitwa, u xorta nsibu nieklu."

Ruby tgħix fi ġnien fejn tisma' ċ-ċafċif tal-ilma minn vaska **[tfal jimitaw il-ħoss tal-ilma]**. Issib x'tiekol minn siġra kbira tal-larinġ. Meta jkun ir-riħ, il-weraq iħaxwex **[tfal jimitaw il-ħoss tal-weraq]**.

Ruby għandha ħabiba jisimha Silvia. Silvia mhix pitirross. Hija bufula u tgħid f'siġra oħra tal-larinġ. Ruby u Silvia jieħdu ħafna pjaċir flimkien. Ruby tħobb tisma' lil Silvia għax Silvia taf tagħmel ħafna leħnijiet. Meta tara qattusa ġejja, Silvia l-bufula tibda tagħmel *txxx-txxx-txxx-txxx-txxx!* biex tavża lil Ruby li ġej il-periklu **[tfal jimitaw il-ħoss]**. Imbagħad it-tnejn itiru fl-iktar zkuk għoljin tas-siġra, fejn il-qattusa ma tilħaqhomx! Meta tkun ġurnata bnazzi Ruby tibda tgħanni **[tfal jagħmlu tpespis tal-għasafar]**.

Meta jidlam, Ruby toqgħod tisma' l-ħsejjes tal-annimali żgħar tal-ħamrija huma u mixjin fuq il-weraq niexef b'dawk il-ħafna saqajn żgħar **[tfal jimitaw il-ħoss]**. U fl-aħħar Ruby tmur għajnha biha u torqod.

Filgħodu Ruby tqum għax tisma' l-għasafar tal-bejt ipespsu bejniethom [tfal jimitaw it-tpespis tal-għasafar]. Ruby tinżel fl-art tfittex qalb il-weraq biex issib xi dudu x'tiekol għall-kolazzjoni *(breakfast)*. Kull darba li ssib dudu jew dubbiena taqbadhom f'munqarha u tiblagħhom **[tfal jagħmlu ħoss ta' xi ħadd qed jibla'!]**. U hekk Ruby tgħaddi x-xitwa Malta, imbagħad fir-rebbiegħa ttir lura lejn pajjiż ieħor bogħod minn Malta.

Darba waħda ġiet il-ħarifa u Ruby bħas-soltu taret lejn Malta biex tgħaddi x-xitwa fil-ġnien favorit tagħha. Imma meta waslet ħadet qatgħa kbira, għax flok sabet il-ġnien bil-larinġ u lil Silvia l-bufula issa sabet blokk bini ikrah.

Ruby bdiet tippanikja u bdiet tħares madwarha u ssejjaħ lil Silvia **[tfal jagħmlu ilħna ta' paniku u biża']**. Il-bufula ħabiba ma kinitx hemm u Ruby ma kellha mkien fejn tistrieħ wara dak il-vjaġġ twil.

Ruby bdiet ittir 'l hawn u 'l hemm. Madwarha kullimkien djar u toroq. Ruby għejjiet u bdiet taqta' nifisha **[tfal jagħmlu ħoss ta' nifs mgħaġġel]**. Bdiet tibża' minn kull ħoss: **[tfal jimitaw il-ħsejjes li ġejjin]** ħornijiet ta' karozzi, niex jgħajtu, bibieb jinstabtu, trakkijiet għaddejin, karozza tal-pulizija.

Beda jidlam u Ruby kienet għajjiena ħafna. Ruby niżlet fuq bankina b'ħafna karozzi storbjużi għaddejin sparati.

"X'biża', fejn ħa norqod illejla? Dal-post veru periklu, għandi l-ġuħ u għajjiena mejta!"

Dak il-ħin Ruby semgħet it-tpespis tal-ħabiba tagħha Silvia ġej mill-bogħod. Ruby ħarset u rat post bil-ħdura f'tarf it-triq. Ruby taret lejn dan il-post. Kienet skola bil-ġnien. U rat lil Silvia fuq arbuxxell mimli bil-frott.

Kemm ferħet Silvia meta rat lill-ħabiba tagħha Ruby, u taret lejha u għannqitha.

"Kelli nitlaq mill-ġnien li kellna qabel," qalet Silvia, "In-nies qatgħu dawk is-siġar sbieħ u bnew ħafna bini ikrah. Imma b'xorti tajba sibt din l-iskola primarja veru ħelwa. U issa inti wkoll sibtha. Kemm qed nieħu gost li inti wkoll qiegħda hawn."

"Jien sibtha għax smajt lilek tpespes," qaltilha Ruby, "Grazzi Silvia."

Silvia qabdet lil Ruby mill-ġewnaħ u ħaditha dawra mal-ġnien tal-iskola. Xi ġmiel ta' skola.

"Ara, Ruby, għandhom vaska, ħajt tas-sejjieħ u pjanti mimlijin bil-frott. Għandhom djar għall-*minibeasts*, u hawn ukoll *bird table*. Kull filgħodu t-tfal tal-Year 2 joħorġu jferrxu l-ikel għalina! Mhux tajjeb hekk? U t-tfal hawnhekk tgħallmu jagħmlu l-leħen tal-pitirrossi wkoll."

Ruby ferħet ħafna.

"*Tikitikk, titikk!* Grazzi skola talli tajtni post sabiħ fejn ngħix."

Ruby baqgħet tmur f'dik l-iskola kull ħarifa, u hemmhekk tiltaqa' mal-ħabiba tagħha Silvia, li tgħix fil-ġnien is-sena kollha.

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