

Babysitting Blues at the Park

Juan and Kourtney met last year at the School for the Blind in Texas. They hung out with other great kids and soon became best friends.

Although Juan was totally blind and Kourtney had low vision, both carried a cane, took classes together at their local school and were inseparable.

One Saturday, Juan's mother, Lorena asked, "Juan, will you take care of Grace while I run to the store?"

"Sure, Mom", Juan answered. "May I ask Kourtney if she can come over and help me with my four-year-old sister?"

"That would be wonderful," Lorena answered.

Right after ten o'clock in the morning she left the house, but before she left she reminded Juan, "Juan, the temperature will be around ninety degrees, so make sure Grace, Kourtney and you have plenty of cold water if you go outside or go to the park."

"Okay, Mom," Juan agreed. Hmmmm, he had not thought about going to the park, but if they were going to go, they should leave early since it was a hot summer day.

Juan called Kourtney and soon she, Grace and Juan were on their way to the park.

"Let's check the temperature," Kourtney said. Juan agreed and when Juan used his laptop with his voice output system, it read eighty-two degrees.

"Eighty-two degrees," Kourtney echoed. "We better take ice water to the park in the water bottles." Grace was so excited to go to the park; she raced into the kitchen and grabbed three water bottles. Kourtney and Juan filled the water bottles and walked to the park with Grace.

When the children made it to the park, Grace begged to go to the pond.

“What types of fish are in this pond?” Grace asked.

Juan explained, “Since the water is pond water, it is fresh water, so the fish have to be fresh water fish. If the fish lived in the ocean, they would be salt water fish. It is the same with plants.”

Soon Grace was ready to do other things.

“I like the park,” Grace smiled. “Can we play tennis on the court over there with the special tennis kit?”

“Sure,” Juan and Kourtney said together and laughed.

The three children played tennis when Grace wanted to run back to the park.

“I am getting tired,” Juan laughed.

“Me, too,” Kourtney giggled. “Grace is keeping us hopping for sure.”

Soon the temperature rose to ninety degrees, so the children decided to go back home.

When the children arrived back at Grace and Juan’s home, they went inside the cool air-conditioned house and drank cold lemonade.

Grace continued to ask many questions about fish and plants from the park, so Juan took out a book he enjoyed a few years back when he began learning Braille.

“Here Grace. Let me read, “**Splish, the Fish**, for you.” Grace was so happy and listened while her brother read.

Once again, Grace was ready to do something else.

“Okay, Grace, I will show you how to play **Tic-Tac-Toe** with me and then you can play with Juan.”

“I love you, Kourtney and Juan. I have had so much fun today, but I am tired,” Grace declared.

Five minutes later Juan and Kourtney began laughing hard. They could hear Grace went to sleep.

“I love Grace,” Kourtney said to Juan. “However, let’s play a quiet game so Grace can sleep until your mother comes home.

“That is a deal!” Juan laughed.

When Juan and Grace’s mother came home, the two babysitters and Grace had all three fallen asleep. Lorena smiled.