



A TEDDY for Freddie



by
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But Freddie wasn't in class, and Sarah was sad. In fact Freddie hadn't been in class all week.

Where was he? Sarah wondered.



On the way to lunch, Sarah stood in line. Her mind was full of many thoughts about funny animals. She thought of Freddie. She knew he'd laugh at her animal ideas and at their crazy colors. Sometimes they'd laugh so much and so loud that the teacher would have to remind them to be quiet!

They always did what their teacher asked. But afterward, they'd look at each other. They'd hide their silly giggles deep inside their bellies and just grin at each other.





"Mrs. Weathers, where is Freddie?" Sarah asked as she stood beside her teacher in the lunch line.

"He's sick, Sarah," she replied.

"Oh," said Sarah. "But he's been out of class nearly all week."

"He'll be back soon. I know he's your giggle buddy," she replied with that knowing smile on her face.

"He's my *bestest* friend!" Sarah said.

"He's your *best* friend," Mrs. Weathers corrected Sarah. "*Bestest* isn't a word. Don't worry, Sarah. Your *best* friend will be back soon."

Sarah went through the entire lunchtime thinking about how she'd always say that Freddie was her *bestest* friend. He just was, and she liked saying that he was.

That evening during supper, Sarah told her mother about Freddie. She told her that he'd been sick all week. She told her mom he was her *bestest* friend.

Her mother told her the same thing Mrs. Weathers had told her. "He's your *best* friend Sarah, not your *bestest* friend. *Bestest* isn't a word."

Sarah looked at her mom and smiled. He was her *bestest* friend, and that was the way she'd always say it.

Maybe from then on, she'd only say it that way to Freddie and to herself.



The next week, Freddie didn't come back to school. Sarah became sadder and more upset.

Mrs. Weathers could tell Sarah wasn't happy. All of her paintings were no longer brightly colored and filled with crazy animal creatures.

One day Mrs. Weathers told the whole class that Freddie might not be back for awhile.

He was in the hospital because he'd been very sick. She said she thought the class should send him some get-well cards.

Sarah's heart was filled with tears and sadness at the news. She wondered if Freddie would be all right. She wondered when she would see him again.



At supper that night, Sarah told her mom all about Freddie being in the hospital.

She started to cry. She was very sad. She was worried about her friend.

Her mom got up and came over to her. "Sarah," she said as she hugged her, "I'm sure he'll be much better very soon. Would you like to go with me to see him at the hospital?"

"Oh wow, would I love to see him!" exclaimed Sarah. Her eyes brightened, her tears stopped, and her heart beat happy, happy beats.

"Yes, yes, Mom. When can we go?" she shouted with pure joy.

Her mom promised to call the next day and find out all the information so they could visit Freddie.

