

Name _____



Flat and Frustrated

When Stanley Lambchop woke up one morning, he immediately knew something was wrong. As he sat up in bed, he felt lighter, almost weightless. He looked down and gasped—he was completely flat! A bulletin board had fallen on him in the night, pressing him as thin as a piece of paper.

Unlike in the original story, where Stanley made the best of his situation, this version of Stanley was unhappy. He didn't laugh when his brother, Arthur, marveled at his new shape. Instead, he frowned. "This isn't fun,"

he muttered. "I don't want to be flat."

At school, things didn't get any better. The other kids stared at him, whispered behind his back, and some even laughed. "Look at Flat Stanley!" one boy shouted. Stanley slumped in his chair, wishing he could be normal again. Even when he tried to play games at recess, he couldn't run as fast or jump as high. "It's not fair," he grumbled.

His parents, always practical, tried to cheer him up. "Think of the advantages, dear," Mrs. Lambchop said. "You can fit in tight spaces! You can slip under doors!" But Stanley wasn't interested. When his father suggested mailing him in an envelope to visit a friend across the country, Stanley shook his head. "I don't want to be sent in the mail. I just want to be me again."

The only person who truly understood Stanley's feelings was Arthur. "I know this isn't what you wanted," Arthur said one night. "But we'll find a way to fix it." Stanley sighed. "I hope so."

Arthur thought hard and came up with a plan. Using a bicycle pump, he carefully pumped air into Stanley, hoping to make him round again. At first, nothing happened. Then, little by little, Stanley felt himself expanding. With each pump, his body regained its normal shape. Finally, after one last puff of air, Stanley was back to his usual self.

As he looked at his reflection, Stanley felt a wave of relief. "I'll never take being normal for granted again," he said with a smile. Arthur grinned. "I liked you either way," he said.

This version of Stanley's story teaches that not everyone handles challenges the same way. Some people adjust quickly, while others struggle. But with patience, support, and determination, anyone can find a way forward.

