

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## The Power of Kindness

At Mica High School, students rarely went out of their way to help others. They focused on fitting in, following the trends, and being part of the crowd. Then one day, Stargirl Caraway arrived, and everything changed.

Stargirl was different in every way. She dressed in colorful, flowing dresses, played the ukulele at lunch, and cheered for both teams at sporting events. But what stood out the most was her kindness. She left little

gifts in people's lockers, even if she didn't know them well. She celebrated birthdays with cheerful songs and bright smiles. When a classmate was sick, she sent them a homemade card. She cared deeply about people, whether they were her friends or strangers.

At first, people were amazed by Stargirl's kindness. They watched in surprise as she helped a lost freshman find his class or as she picked up litter in the hallways without being asked. Some students felt happy around her because her kindness made them feel special. Others, like Leo Borlock, found themselves drawn to her unique and caring personality.

But not everyone saw Stargirl's kindness in a positive way. Some students began to feel uncomfortable. They weren't used to someone who was so openly kind without expecting anything in return. They started whispering about her in the hallways. They thought she was strange. When she cheered for the other team at a basketball game, the crowd turned against her. The same students who once smiled at her now ignored her.

Leo struggled with this change. He admired Stargirl, but he also wanted to fit in. He asked her to act more like everyone else so that people would accept her. For a short time, she tried, but it didn't feel right. Stargirl knew that her kindness was part of who she was, and she couldn't change that—even if it meant standing alone.

In the end, Stargirl's kindness left a lasting impact. Though many students didn't appreciate her at the time, some, like Leo, realized later how special she was. She showed them that kindness, even when misunderstood, has the power to change lives.