

The Red Balloon

Once upon a time, a little boy was having no fun and having no joy. He was lonely. He tried to have a dog, he tried to have a cat, but his mother wouldn't hear of that.

"They bring dirt into the house."

The little boy at school and at home, always, always played alone. Until one day looking up to the sky, he saw something flying high.

"A red balloon!"

The streets of Paris brightened that day and the little boy could laugh and play. He'd found a friend.

"Guess I'll take my little red balloon to school."

However, school was so far away so he had to take it on the street car.

"No dogs, no large packages and no balloons." the conductor said

"Guess I'll walk and take my time. This balloon is a friend of mine but I mustn't be late or they'll lock the gate and then I'll be in trouble with my teacher." the little boy said

The little boy marched on down the street and the balloon soon took up the beat. Following right behind the boy, a gang of boys saw the balloon following the boy and he wasn't even holding it on a string. It was a strange sight!

"We could take that balloon and teach it tricks! Oh, no! Let's break it with rocks or sticks!" the gang said.

"Come here! Come here!" The boy said.

He grabbed and held on tight to the string and suddenly the gang came from all directions and the boy ran to protect his friend.

The gang kept coming and the rock thrown first was the one that made the red balloon burst.

"Don't die! Don't leave! Don't go anywhere! I'll try to get you some more air."

"We got him!"

Do you know what happened? All the balloons in Paris that day loosened their strings and flew away. They formed a line way up in the sky

The little boy cried and asked "Why? That red balloon was my friend."

But the ending is happy, the ending is bright. All the balloons in the sky came to the boy's house that night to greet him in the morning.