

**CHILDREN**

*“Learn as much as you can while you are young, since life becomes too busy later.” - Dana Stewart Scott*

**MARIA IS EXCITED ABOUT HER FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**



**Sylvia Lismore's Fictional Tyke Tale**

Maria Bennett rolled over in her warm bed when she heard the alarm clock ring.

She looked at the clock. It was 7:30 a.m.

Squealing with delight she ran to her dresser to get her new clothes and called out: “Mommy! I get to go to school at Brookmeade today, remember?”

Her mother Leila appeared in the doorway.

“I am so sorry Baby,” she said. “I don’t think I can make it.”

She hung on to the door. “I’m afraid my flu is not over yet. The way I am feeling, I couldn’t possibly drive the car.”

Maria’s face fell and tears started in her eyes.

Suddenly there was a knock.

Maria opened the front door to see a girl a little older than herself.

It was Bonnie Prentiss from two blocks away.

She said, “Maria, would you like to come to school with me? I have to go on my own because my Mom has the flu.

“We will have to walk, but it isn’t far. My Mom heard that your mother was sick too and I know it’s your first day in kindergarten. She suggested we should go together.

“I’m in Grade two this year, and I’m a little scared. We moved here in the summer, so I don’t know anybody at all.”

Maria looked at her mother, who nodded.

The mothers’ had met during the Summer in the supermarket.

Maria invited Bonnie into the hallway, “I just have to get my jacket and books.”

Bonnie’s face lit up and she smiled happily.

Leila Bennett waved goodbye as the girls left for school.



She had been worrying all night about how disappointed Maria was going to be if she couldn’t make it to school on the first day.

She thought of Charlotte Prentiss, Bonnies mother, who had called earlier, and gave thanks for having such a

thoughtful neighbour.

She would call later and thank her.

Maria’s daddy would pick the girls up in the afternoon.

*Sylvia Lismore writes short stories.*

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