

From Far Away

By Saoussan Askar with Robert Munsch

In the new country, my father took me to school and left me there. He said, “Be good and listen to your teacher.” I listened to my teacher, only I didn’t know what she was saying because she did not talk right.

The other kids tried to talk to me, but I was not able to answer. I didn’t speak English.

I had a buddy who showed me the school and played with me at recess. But she didn’t understand when I tried to teach her a rock game I knew from back home.

...Finally I began to talk, little by little. I learned enough English to make friends, and school started to be fun. Now I am in grade two and I am the best reader and speller in the class. I read and write a lot of stories. The teacher is now complaining that I’m never quiet.