

The Boy and the Little Duck



Aysel Banu YAVUZAL

The Boy and the Little Duck

Aysel Banu YAVUZAL



Timmy was a small boy with sandy-blond hair and a gap-toothed smile. He loved exploring near his home. One sunny morning, he put on his red cap and green rubber boots and went to the pond. He carried a bucket to collect treasures. The pond sparkled in the light, and tall reeds swayed gently. Timmy felt happy and curious.



As Timmy reached the pond, he heard a tiny sound. 'Peep, peep!' He looked down and saw a little duckling. It had soft yellow downy feathers and a tiny orange bill. Around one leg was a thin braided grass band. The duckling looked up with big shiny black eyes. Timmy knelt down and smiled. 'Hello, little one,' he said softly.



The duckling waddled closer, and Timmy noticed the pond was not very clean. There were bits of plastic and old leaves floating on the water. The banks were muddy and messy. 'This is no good for a duck,' Timmy thought. 'Pip needs clean water and a safe home.' He decided to help. He named the duckling Pip and promised to make things better.



Timmy ran to find his friend Maya. She was wearing her yellow rain jacket and purple boots. Her black hair was in two short braids. 'Maya, come quick!' he called. 'There's a duckling at the pond, and the water is dirty!' Maya grabbed her canvas satchel. 'Let's clean it up!' she said with a bright smile. They hurried back to the pond together.



At the pond, Timmy and Maya started picking up litter. Timmy used his bucket to collect plastic bottles and wrappers. Maya pulled out soggy leaves and sticks. Pip watched them with curious eyes. 'We need to be careful not to scare Pip,' Timmy said. 'Ducks need a quiet place to rest.' Maya nodded. 'We'll make it nice and clean,' she said.



Just then, Grandpa Lee arrived. He wore his straw hat and carried a walking stick. His grey eyes twinkled behind round glasses. 'What are you two up to?' he asked. Timmy explained about Pip and the dirty pond. Grandpa Lee smiled. 'Ducks need suitable environments to be healthy,' he said. 'Clean water, safe banks, and good food. I can help you.'



Grandpa Lee showed them how to clear the water without disturbing Pip. They used a net to scoop out floating leaves. Timmy waded in his green boots and pulled out a soggy cardboard box. Maya found a long stick to reach farther. Pip paddled around, peeping happily. 'Look, Pip is swimming in the clean part!' Maya cheered. Timmy felt proud of their work.



Next, they tidied the banks. Timmy pulled out tall weeds that blocked the path. Maya gathered stones to make a little resting spot. Grandpa Lee explained, 'Ducks need a safe place to sit and dry their feathers.' Timmy arranged the stones neatly. Pip waddled over and sat on the warm stones. 'Pip likes it!' Timmy laughed. The pond was starting to look much better.



Grandpa Lee said, 'Now we need to think about food. Ducks eat water plants, small insects, and special duck food.' Timmy didn't want to give Pip the wrong things. 'Can we get proper food?' he asked. Grandpa Lee nodded. 'We can buy duck food at the feed store.' Maya checked her satchel. 'I have some money saved,' she said. 'Let's go get some.'



Timmy and Maya walked to the feed store. They bought a small bag of duck food with Maya's money. Timmy carried it carefully. Back at the pond, Grandpa Lee showed them how to sprinkle the food on the water. Pip swam over and nibbled eagerly. 'Not too much,' Grandpa Lee warned. 'We want to keep the water clean.' Timmy nodded and gave just a little.



As the days passed, Timmy visited Pip every morning. He cleaned the water with a small net. He picked up any new litter. Maya came to help after school. They made a sign that said 'Please keep our pond clean.' Grandpa Lee checked on them and smiled. 'You are learning to care for nature,' he said. Timmy felt happy and responsible.



One morning, Timmy noticed Pip was not alone. Two more ducks had come to the pond! They swam in the clean water and rested on the tidy banks. 'Our pond is a sanctuary now!' Maya said. Timmy beamed. 'Pip has friends!' Grandpa Lee explained, 'When a pond is healthy, it attracts more life. You made that happen.' Timmy felt proud of their teamwork.



Timmy realized that small acts of care made a big difference. He had cleaned the water, kept the banks tidy, and provided food. With help from Maya and Grandpa Lee, the pond became a happy home for ducks. 'Animals need suitable environments,' Timmy said wisely. 'And we can help them by caring for nature.' Maya nodded. 'Let's keep it this way.'



Pip waddled over to Timmy and peeped softly. The little duckling seemed to say thank you. Timmy gently touched the grass band on Pip's leg. 'You're safe now, Pip,' he whispered. Maya smiled. 'We should tell others about our pond.' They decided to invite their friends to help keep the sanctuary clean. The pond sparkled in the sun, full of life.



That afternoon, Timmy's friends came to see the pond. They were amazed at how clean and pretty it looked. Timmy showed them how to pick up litter and feed the ducks properly. Everyone wanted to help. They made a schedule to take turns caring for the pond. Pip and the other ducks swam happily. Timmy knew that teamwork made the sanctuary even better.



From that day on, the pond was a cheerful place. Ducks swam and rested on the sunny banks. Timmy visited every day, sometimes with Maya and Grandpa Lee. He learned that animals need suitable environments to be healthy and safe. And he discovered that small acts of care and help can protect nature. The boy and the little duck lived happily by the clean, sparkling pond.