

Mittu's Unexpected Reward

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The school was abuzz with excitement. Children were bustling around with their models for the science fair which was being held as a part of Gandhi Jayanti celebrations at school. Some made spaceships, some made submarines, and some made parts of the human body.

Mittu got a model on 'Evolution'. His model had clay stilettos of various stages of human evolution right from apes and Neanderthals to modern man. Each model had its own environment of caves and trees suited to that era. Mittu also carried a neatly written chart depicting all the things his model depicted. The

model was so well made that all his friends crowded round Mittu to see it.

The teacher in charge of the event came to the room to allot numbers to the students and was very pleased with Mittu's model.

"Oh! What a beautiful model you made Mittu," said the teacher.

"No, Ma'am," Mittu began hesitantly. "My mother made most of it. I only helped her make it but I wrote the chart myself."



"There is no need for the judges to know it, right?" said the teacher.

"We will surely get a prize for this and we don't want to spoil it, do we?" she continued, smiling at the whole class.

"Yes, Mittu" said Mittu's friends. "If the

exhibits and interacted with each child for a long time. Whenever they liked a model, they stood there and listened to the student explain it and always asked the student who made the model.

When it was Mittu's turn, they asked him the same question.



judges ask, tell them you made it yourself. It is always nice to win a prize."

Mittu felt unhappy. He didn't want to take credit for what he didn't do but he kept quiet all the same.

At noon, the judges came to see the

"Who made this model?" asked one of the judges.

The teacher and Mittu's friends looked confidently at him waiting for him to reply "I made it" as they had told him to.

But Mittu was silent for a minute and

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said quietly, "My mother made the model, Sir. I only made the chart."

Mittu's friends and teacher were disappointed. They said to him, "Oh! We could have bagged the prize Mittu. If only you had told them that you made the model." Mittu just stood silently.

It was soon time to announce the prizes and Mittu sat in the last row. Slowly the names were being called.

They announced the winner, but Mittu wasn't one of them. Everybody clapped and the winners stood proudly displaying their trophies.

Mittu's friends scolded him. But then there was an unexpected announcement, "Your attention please! The judges have

decided to declare a special prize on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

"This prize is given to encourage children to stick to the principles of our Father of the Nation. This special prize goes to Mittu for being bold enough to tell the truth about his model to the judges!"

For a minute, the hall was silent and then there was a huge round of applause.

Mittu went on to the stage to receive his award. His friends and teacher were glad that Mittu did the right thing in spite of being told otherwise.

Mittu was rewarded for the most important virtue he had and he was glad to be rewarded in this most unexpected manner for it.

