

A PERFECT FRIENDSHIP WITH A SPECIAL PERSON

It seemed like an ordinary day. Everything started as usual. We started the lesson. Suddenly, a new student came to school. He was quite tall, had dark brown hair and black slanting eyes. He seemed like a good boy. We found out that the boy was from China and he came to Turkey with an exchange programme. Many of the students looked at him strangely and kept apart, while others ran to meet him and tried to be friends with him. One of them was me. I introduced myself and offered to help him with schoolwork. I tried to talk to him about our culture, but the boy was shy at first, avoiding conversations, but at least I got his name, Xiao. He was interested in learning about new cultures, even though he was sitting all alone in class.

So one day, I invited him to go with me on a trip in the city to see the beauties and to get to know each other. Xiao was excited after the city tour, so he invited me to his home, just to learn about his culture as well. His parents prepared some delicious traditional dishes for us. They were so kind, I liked them very much. I thought I could be very good friends with Xiao.

I had different thoughts while I was with him about all these stereotypes that exist and how wrong were those discriminations. We were from different countries and cultures, but we could find many common things between us.

He asked me to promise to come to China one day and that we will not lose contact, so we could keep in touch. It helped me understand that stereotypes are a bad thing and very offensive to a person. With this occasion, the principal of the school proposed us to be the ones responsible for receiving the new students, being an example for the others.

