

Smile and Say Hi

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Michael Joe Bob was a prince of a guy,
He was smart, very brave but remarkably shy.
Michael slew dragons and waged mighty wars,
but when people came over, he stared at the floor.
“Smile and say hi, Mike,” his mother would say.
“I can’t.” Michael yelled, quickly running away,
straight to his room where he’d slam the door tight,
then jump into bed and pretend it was night.
One day Mike’s dad said, “I know that you’re shy,
but tomorrow in school, Mike, just give this a try.
Smile and say hi. There’s no reason to run.
Make friends with the kids and you’ll start to have fun.”
“I can’t,” Mike shouted, he covered his head,
“and no one can make me get out of this bed!”
That night in Mike’s room a fierce battle grew.
Fire-breathing dragons marched in two by two.
The dragons made noise so Mike covered his ears,
He squeezed his eyes shut trembling with fear.
Off in the distance the Dragon King said,
“Hey, Mike, get your bootie up out of that bed!
I need a buddy; it’s your time to fly.
Throw back those covers and give it a try.”
Mike opened one eye and to his surprise,
the dragons were grinning. Could they be good guys?
What if I tried it? What if it’s true?
Flying sounds awesome, now what do I do?

Mike inched out of bed. I do want to fly.
It sounds kind of scary, I guess I could try.
Most of the dragons were ready for fun,
but a small one looked down and then started to run.
“Wait, draggie,” Mike shouted tears filling his eyes.
“Don’t freak! I’m not scary, just smile and say hi.”
The little one stopped and looked back at Mike.
“Hey, kid.” The King nodded, “Now that’s what I like.
Today is the day of the big dragon race,
Hop on my back and we’ll try for first place.”
Mike scrambled up, the Dragon King roared,
loud whistles blew and away they all soared.
Right out of Mike’s room and all over the town,
Mike giggled with glee. He bounced up and down.
The King breathed fire. Mike yelled, “My school!
See the swings on the playground. Dude, this is so cool.”
The dragons dipped down like a giant green cloud.
They zoomed past Mike’s school and he giggled out loud.
The King flew so fast no one else could keep pace.
“We did it.” Mike shouted, “Our team won the race!”
At school the next day, Mike glanced at the sky.
He heard the King whisper, “Mike, give it a try.”
So he tapped a boy’s shoulder and made himself say,
“Hi, um you’re in my class. Um, do you wanna play?”
“Sure.” The boy answered, “I’ll play with you.
I hang by my knees, Mike, can you do that too?”
I did it, Mike thought, gazing up at the sky.
I hung by my knees and I smiled and said hi.”