

The Happy Note

By Juliann Tenney Doman
(Based on a true story)

"Welcome to class, everyone."

Riley looked up at her new teacher and smiled. He looked younger than her other teachers. His voice cracked as he spoke. He cleared his throat and continued.

"I'm Mr. Berrett."

A student raised his hand. "Are you new?" he asked.

"Yes. I just graduated from college. You are my very first class."

Then Mr. Berrett explained what the class would be learning. He spoke softly. Sometimes it was hard to hear him.

Riley could hear kids whispering behind her. That made it even harder to hear what Mr. Berrett said. But Riley did her best to listen. When Mr. Berrett looked at her, she smiled.

At dinner that night, Mom asked about Riley's first day at school.

"I like my classes and my teachers," Riley said. "We have one teacher who's brand new. He was kind of nervous. Some of the kids made fun of him."

"Sometimes even teachers get nervous," Dad said.

Mom smiled. "I'm glad you're there to cheer him on."

The next day, Riley heard some kids talking in the hall.

"I have Mr. Berrett too," one of them said. "I couldn't even hear him yesterday."



"Sometimes even teachers get nervous," Dad said.

"Did you hear his voice crack?"

"It's gonna be a long year," another kid said. They all laughed.

Riley thought about what Dad had said about teachers getting nervous too. Yesterday was Mr. Berrett's first day of school. That was probably pretty scary. Mom said to cheer him on. How could Riley do that?

When Riley said her prayers that night, she asked Heavenly Father to let her know how to help Mr. Berrett.

The next day, Riley opened her lunch. Inside was a note from Mom. "You're great!" it said. Riley smiled. She loved Mom's notes. Her family called them "happy notes."

That was it! Riley and her classmates could write a happy note for Mr. Berrett!

Riley invited some of her classmates to meet at her house after school. They decorated a big, bright poster with smiley faces and stars. They wrote things they liked about Mr. Berrett. They wrote things they had already learned from him. And they told him they were glad he was their teacher.

The next day, Riley and a few friends got to school early. They hung the poster on Mr. Berrett's



classroom door. Then they hid around the corner to watch what happened.

Soon Mr. Berrett got to his classroom. "Oh!" he said. Riley and her classmates watched him read their notes. A big smile spread across his face.

When Riley saw how happy he was, she felt happy too. She smiled and gave her friends a high five.

As they walked away, Riley heard someone say, "I can't wait to go to Mr. Berrett's class today!" Riley couldn't wait either. ●

This story took place in the USA.



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