The Other Side of the Poster



Alex is fourteen. He likes drawing, but he does not like showing his pictures. Today, his class has an art show. His poster is on a table near the door.

It is a picture of his street. There is a shop, a bus stop and a small park. Alex looks at the other posters. Everyone uses bright colours. His picture looks very simple.

He takes a cup of blue paint. He wants to add a blue sky. But his hand hits the cup. Paint falls across the white paper.

Alex puts his bag over the poster. His friend Sam comes to the table. "Can I see your picture?" she asks. He shakes his head.

"There is paint everywhere," he says. "I want to go home." Sam moves the bag. "Can we try the other side?" she asks.

They turn the poster over. This side is white, but there are blue drops near the edge. Alex looks at them. "They can be rain," he says.

Sam finds a paintbrush. Alex draws the park again. Sam adds people with yellow umbrellas. They work together. This time, Alex does not hide his picture.

At the art show, a student asks about the blue drops. Alex shows him both sides. "This is my first picture," he says. "And this is what we make next."

On Monday, Alex brings a new drawing to school. He puts it beside Sam's book. "Can you help me with the trees?" he asks. Then he opens his paints.



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