

Raven's Talent

By Angelica Domingo

Illustration by Kenny Kierman

Raven left for school with a smile on his face. However, when he came home that afternoon, his smile had become a frown.

"What's wrong, Raven?" his mother asked.

"Nothing," he answered.

His mother gave him a warm **embrace**, grinned, and said, "Go change your clothes and come to the kitchen. I've baked something for you."

"Okay," Raven answered sadly. He went to his bedroom and changed into the first shirt and pair of shorts that he saw, then went back downstairs and into the kitchen.

He sat on a stool as his mother placed a plate of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies on the counter and a cold glass of freshly poured milk. Raven's face lit up a bit. He couldn't resist his favorite snack. He ate the cookies and drank the milk. "Thanks mom!" he said.

His mother looked at him and saw a slight change in his mood. Still no smile, but at least the frown is gone. "Now, tell me what's bothering you?" she asked.

Raven **hesitated** but decided to tell her about his problem. "We're having a talent show at school next week."

"Well, that sounds fun!" Mother exclaimed.

"It does," he admitted. "Only... I don't have any talents."

His mother chuckled. "Of course you do!" She put a hand on his forearm. "You just need to discover what you are good at, or what you enjoy doing."

"But how?" Raven asked.

"Well, I guess you just need to try doing different things." she answered, making it sound so simple.

"Will you help me?" he begged.

"Absolutely," his mother answered, placing a kiss on Raven's forehead.

She thought for just a moment and then said, "Do you remember last summer when you went to outdoor camp?"

Raven nodded.

"Tell me what you remember."

Confused, Raven began telling his mother about all the things he had done at camp. He went into great detail and seemed to be reliving all the activities that made that **experience** a good one for him.



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Raven's mother smiled. "How about the vacation we took three years ago? You know, the one to Silver Beach."

"What about it?" Raven asked.

His mother chuckled, "Tell me about it."

Not completely understanding why, Raven went ahead and **recited** everything he remembered about that weekend at the beach. His mother listened **intently** as Raven brought the events of those two days back to life with his descriptive words and energetic tone.

Frustrated, Raven finally said, "I thought you were going to help me find my talent?"

His mother smiled; a strong sense of pride painted across her face.

It took a few seconds, but Raven understood. "Story telling!" he exclaimed.

Raven laughed in **unison** with his mother.

"You have always been a good storyteller and have never been shy about speaking to a group of people."

Raven bolted up from the couch, fist flying straight up into the air. "That's my talent!"

Vocabulary

Embrace: *to hold someone closely in your arms*

Hesitate: *to pause before saying or doing something*

Experience: *an event someone takes part in*

Recite: *to say or repeat out loud*

Intently: *with great attention or purpose*

Unison: *happening at the same time*