

## Curious Cal's Confidence - by Kyle Sheehan

The first class of the last day at school, Cal was in her science class. The teacher, Mr Parker was talking passionately about volcanoes. But Cal was confused and she tried to ask a question. Suddenly the teacher became ill. The doctor said Mr. Parker needed to take a week off, and Cal never got to ask her a question.

Cal had always been very shy to ask questions in class and never wanted to ask, so after Mr. Parker got sick, her confidence took another knock. When the new substitute teacher came, she was very nice to the students and Cal began to get her confidence back again.

One day when they were talking about volcanoes again, Cal built up the confidence and raised her hand to ask the substitute teacher a question. The teacher was very happy that Cal had raised her hand and with a smile told her to go ahead.

Cal asked, "How do volcanoes erupt after being asleep for so long?"

The teacher replied to her in a very quiet voice but the other students couldn't hear her.

So, Cal waited till after class and asked her classmates if they had heard the teacher's explanation and if not, would they like to know. Some of the students who didn't understand, asked her to explain it. She told her classmates in great detail everything the teacher had said about how volcanoes erupted.

Cal's classmates were very impressed by her explanation and thought she was very smart even though she was usually the quietest person in the class.

The following week Mr. Parker returned to school fully recovered from his illness. He asked the class what they had been talking about when he got sick and Cal very quickly raised her hand and gave a full account of what they had been talking about and even added her own extra information she found out from reading about volcanoes on the internet.

Mr. Parker smiled with delight at Cal and complimented her on how confident she had become in his week away.

From then on, anytime one of Cal's classmates was shy and afraid to speak up in class, she would encourage them to be brave and help them gain the confidence they needed to speak in front of everyone.

Anytime they were discussing a new topic in class, Cal would go home and research the topic on the internet and learn as much information as she could about it. She would then go to class and share her knowledge with her teachers and classmates, all the time gaining more confidence in herself and her abilities.

One day the teacher said tomorrow we're going to do a speaking contest the following afternoon.

He told the students some of the questions that they would be asked and they went home and searched their answers. When Cal went back to school next day. She told all her classmates about the topic and when it was the afternoon they did the competition. They felt very confident and thanked Cal for it. Everybody made friends with her and she's just getting more confident every time.