***The Missing Charm***

Mandy woke up in the morning. She did her normal routine, every day. She also had to put up with her younger brother, Chester, every day. Mandy got ready for school, but she felt that she forgot something. Then she remembered. Her lucky charm! She ran up the stairs into her room, to find her locked lucky charm case open.

Mandy was late for school though, so she **had** to forget the charm and go. As she walked to her school , she felt that everything was strange. No one was walking on the streets, no one was at the nearby playground and no one was in a car at all. Strange, Mandy thought, but she kept going to school. Finally, she arrived.

DING-DONG! DING-DONG! DING-DONG! The school bell rang and everyone went to their classes. Mandy quickly got to her Yr 4 math class, just as the teacher came in. “Good morning Class 4M, Today we are going to have a math test!” announced Mr Macall. Everyone groaned, including Mandy, who loves math tests because she is the smartest in her class. Then Mandy thought how she was ever going to succeed in this test, especially when she doesn’t know where her charm is!

As soon as they got their papers, Mandy was overwhelmed as she saw the questions. It looks hard, but only if Mandy had her charm, then she would’ve thought it was the easiest thing in the world. 3…2…1… START! As soon as her time started, she started reading the questions but knew that she doesn’t have her charm, so she couldn’t get the words in her head. *3+4+8? Mmmm… I don’t know!* Mandy thought.

In her test, there were 15 questions in 30 mins. She already spent 4 mins on the first question, so Mandy quickly got her mind on the test paper and answered 3+4+8 which equaled 15. On the next question, she only spent 3 mins. On the third question she spent 2 minutes onwards, until the 13th question.“ One more minute!” warned Mr Macall as he checked the time. Mandy flinched and quickly answered the last two questions on the test, just before time ran out.

“Alright 4M, enough of the chatter, you can have a break outside now!” cried Mr Macall, as he started collecting the papers. All the children ran out and Mandy went with her best friend, Belle. “ How was the test?” asked Belle, as they were getting out some food. “Not that good…” replied Mandy, “I lost my charm, so I didn’t feel like it was easy.” “Ohhhhh no!” said Belle, “ Have you checked if Chester has it?” Mandy stopped and looked at Belle. “ Why didn’t I think of that? Thanks, Belle, sometimes you’re so smart.” thanked Mandy. “ No, you’re the one that’s smart!” answered Belle, as they laughed for the rest of the break.

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When Mandy got home, she found Chester, playing with her charm (Chester was only 3 years old). She finally got hold of her charm, and everything got back to normal.

THE END