

Milo's Precious Time

By Ashmiza Shaik

A continuation from the book "The Phantom Tollbooth" written by Norton Juster

Milo took a peek out his window as he silently observed the branched lighting striking the twinkling night sky. As his ears bursted from the loud thunderclap Milo turned around to notice something. Something which brought back old memories. Up on a bright blue wall remained a wrinkled piece of scrapbook paper which had the words "Life's an amazing adventure" bolded on it with a thick black pen. A small smirk appeared on Milo's face as he imagined the journey he went on with the Phantom Tollbooth.

He thought of this life-changing ride in which he traveled to the Lands Beyond. The Doldrums was a place he could never forget. It was a full place which consisted only of people who were not simply interested in anything at all. They were all bored just like Milo before his trip. Then came the most important city "Dictionopolis", a majestic land where words ruled the kingdom. As the clock's hand kept on spinning, Milo remembered his old friend Tock, a watchdog who accompanied Milo on his travels.

"Ahh, those were some memorable moments" thought Milo. "DING DONG!" Milo eagerly sprinted to the door and flung it open. "For Milo, who now understands the value of time" the envelope read. As he quickly ripped it open he noticed a picture of a tall, handsome boy who didn't have emotion on his face.

"Dear Milo, you have successfully understood the value of this world and how important time is. The boy you see in the picture above is Leo. Leo is always bored by everything around him. He finds that anything he learns isn't useful. If you want to form a change in Leo just like you experienced please meet him. At around 7 pm tomorrow as you normally continue your day you will come across Leo. Please inform Leo about your adventure. Through this process our world will have intelligent children who want to form a change in this world."

As soon as Milo read the letter a sudden spark appeared in his eyes. He rushed the letter back to his room quickly. A rush of excitement brought color to his cheeks as he gave his attention to the letter. He was jumping up and down as he was thinking about what to tell Leo. A confused look then approached his face as he didn't quite understand what "you will come across Leo" meant.

At last, Milo decided to just follow the letter and just maybe they will run into each other. With this thought he continued his day doing what he would normally do. As night turned to day which swapped back to night, he walked down the street, billions of questions came into Milo's head. They were all about the world's working. "If only I could meet Leo now and tell him about the world's wonders" thought Milo. He continued his long walk across the street looking around, thinking, and asking questions about the world.

Out of the blue, appeared a boy who looked oddly familiar. Milo took a close look at the boy and reached into his pocket. "Unbelievable! That's Leo!" screamed Milo. He bolted as fast as he could towards Leo as adrenaline rushed through his veins. Sweat drops were running down his face as an exhausted Milo began laughing.

Determined to form a change in Leo, Milo took a step forward and stood up straight and tall. "Leo," Milo said with a serious look on his face. But that's not what was going inside Milo's head. He was excited and a little nervous, praying that Leo would take him seriously. Suddenly, lightning flashed around then and thunder rumbled. The whole sky turned dark and leaves were blowing around in the stormy wind. Their hairs were lifted up, flapping to a new side every second as they were getting drenched in rain. Milo knew this was a sign before change was to occur.