



# Read Liberia Activity

## Finding Friends

An Original Story by Sean McCollum

Artwork by Sam Valentino



Ada felt lonely. Her family had just moved to Monrovia. She did not know anyone in their new neighborhood. The only person to play with was Max, her three-year-old brother.

Their mother was cooking in the kitchen. "I'm very busy," she said. "Go to the park, and take your brother."

Ada groaned. She did not want to take Max.





She held Max's hand as they walked down the busy street. The park had trees and places to run and play. There were swings and a football field. Boys and girls were kicking a ball.

Max saw some birds on the ground. He chased them, and they flew away.



“Hello,” said a girl with a white scarf around her head. A boy was holding a jump rope. “Assalamu alaikum—peace be with you,” she said. “My name is Akila. This is my brother Fadil.”

“Hi,” Ada said. “I’m Ada, and this is my brother Max. Are you Muslim?” Akila and Fadil nodded. “I never had Muslim friends in my town!”

Akila asked Ada if she wanted to jump rope.

“Yes!” Ada said. Jumping rope was one of her favorite games. “Max, don’t go anywhere!” she told her brother.



They found a flat place. Akila and Fadil turned the rope while Ada jumped. Ada called out, "One, two, three, four! I would like to jump some more!"

Akila and Fadil joined in. "Two, four, six, eight, jumping rope is really great!" They took turns jumping and turning the rope.





After a while, the three of them sat down to rest. Ada told them her family had just moved to the city from a small town.

“How do you like the big city?” Akila asked.

“I like it, but it is very noisy,” Ada said.

Fadil spoke. “Yes. It’s too loud with all the cars and trucks,” he said. “I think life must be better in a town.”

“Oh!” said Ada. “It’s too quiet there!” They all laughed.



Akila looked around. "Where's your brother?" she asked.

"Oh no!" Ada cried. "Where did Max go?"

The three of them jumped up. They began searching the park. "Max! Max!" Ada called.

Akila pointed to where some birds were flying.







The three of them ran. There was Max, laughing and chasing the birds. Ada picked up her brother and gave him a big hug.



"Thank you, and peace be with you," Ada said.

"And with you, too," Akila and Fadil said.

Ada and Max waved as they started walking home.

"See you soon!" Ada called.