

CHARLIE THE CHEERLEADER

CHARLIE WAS A CHEERLEADER, AND SHE WAS THE MOST POPULAR CHEERLEADER IN SCHOOL. SHE ALSO HAD A PAIR OF EXPENSIVE, BRAND NAME SHOES, JUST LIKE MOST OF THE OTHER GIRLS ON HER CHEER TEAM DID. SHE WAS PROUD THAT HER PARENTS COULD AFFORD TO BUY HER A PAIR OF SUCH NICE CHEER SHOES.

LUCY, ANOTHER GIRL ON HER CHEER TEAM, DIDN'T HAVE VERY NICE CHEER SHOES. THEY WERE HAND-ME-DOWNS FROM HER OLDER SISTER, AND THEY DIDN'T LOOK CLEAN AND PRETTY ANYMORE.

CHARLIE DIDN'T LIKE HOW MUCH LUCY'S SHOES STUCK OUT. DURING CHEER COMPETITIONS, SHE HAD OVERHEARD GIRLS FROM OTHER TEAMS COMMENT ABOUT HOW UGLY LUCY'S SHOES WERE. SHE THOUGHT LUCY WAS MAKING THE TEAM LOOK BAD.

> ONE DAY, CHARLIE STARTED TALKING ABOUT HOW UGLY LUCY'S SHOES WERE WITH A FEW OTHER TEAMMATES. LUCY OVERHEARD THEM AND STARTED CRYING, AND THEIR COACH PULLED CHARLIE OUT OF PRACTICE. SOON, SHE CALLED CHARLIE'S MOTHER TO COME PICK HER UP.

CHARLIE'S MOTHER WAS VERY UPSET. ON THE WAY HOME, SHE SAID, "I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT LUCY'S FAMILY ISN'T VERY WELL OFF. HER FATHER GOT INTO A CAR ACCIDENT AND CAN'T WORK, AND HER MOTHER HAS TO WORK TWO JOBS. IT'S NOT LUCY'S FAULT SHE CAN'T AFFORD NEW SHOES." CHARLIE FELT HORRIBLE. THE NEXT DAY, SHE APOLOGIZED TO CHARLIE.