Jelly

The Long Way Home

LITTLE READERS



Mia and Mom walk
to the little park
with their puppy.



Mia wears her yellow shirt and blue overalls. Puppy trots beside her.



At the park, Mia rolls
a red ball across the grass.
Puppy runs after it.



He brings the ball back.
Mia laughs and rolls it
one more time.




Soon Mom looks up
at the sky. “It is time
to go home,” she says.

Mia puts the ball
in her bag. She takes
Mom's hand.



They walk toward
the little bridge. It is
their usual way home.



But a sign stands
in front of the bridge.
A worker waves to them.



“We are fixing the bridge,”
the worker says. “Please
use the other path today.”



Mia looks at Mom.
"Will we still get home?"
she asks.



"Yes," Mom says.
"We can take the path
around the pond."



The other path looks long.
Mia holds Mom's hand
and takes a deep breath.



Puppy sniffs a flower beside the path. Mia stops to look, too.



A yellow butterfly
lands on the flower.
Then it lifts into the air.



“Hello, butterfly,”
Mia says. The butterfly
flies toward the pond.



Mia, Mom, and Puppy
follow the curving path.
They pass a tall tree.



A squirrel sits
on a low branch. It holds
a nut in its paws.



"That squirrel is having
a snack," Mia says.
Mom smiles.



The path goes beside
the pond. Mia sees ducks
moving across the water.



One duck has three
little ducklings. They swim
close behind.



"One, two, three,"
Mia counts. Puppy watches
with his ears up.



The path turns away
from the water. Ahead,
Mia sees a red bench.



“Can we rest?” she asks.

“Of course,” says Mom.

They sit on the bench.



Mom gives Mia some water.
Puppy drinks from his
little travel bowl.




"We have come a long way,"
Mia says. "Yes," says Mom.
"And we are getting closer."

They stand up again.

Mia takes Mom's hand.

Puppy follows the path.



Soon they pass a garden
with bright purple flowers.
Bees buzz nearby.



Mia spots a blue gate
at the end of the path.
“I know that gate!” she says.



Behind the gate is
the bakery near their home.
They are almost there.



Mia smiles. “I know
the rest of the way,”
she tells Mom.



They turn at the bakery
and walk down their street.
Puppy's tail begins to wag.



“There is our tree!”
Mia says. She can see
their front yard.



They reach their gate.
Mom opens it, and Puppy
walks through first.



“We made it home,”
Mia says. She sets down
her bag by the door.



Mom gives Mia a hug.
"You did well on our
long walk," she says.



Mia thinks of the ducks
and the yellow butterfly.
She thinks of the squirrel.



"We saw so many things
on the other path,"
she tells Mom.



Puppy brings his red ball
and places it at her feet.
Mia gives him a pat.



"We can play again
after a little rest,"
she tells him.



Mia sits beside Mom.

Puppy curls up close.

It is good to be home.



Where do Mia, Mom,
and Puppy go to play?
What do they bring?



Why can they not use
the little bridge?
Who tells them?



Which path do they take
to get home?
How does Mia feel?



What does Mia see
beside the flowers?
What color is it?



What animals swim

on the pond?

How many little ones?



Where do they stop
to rest and drink water?
Tell a friend.



What places help Mia
know they are near home?
Name one.



What new things did Mia
see on the long way home?
Name your favorite.



The End

