

“That’s Not a Squirrel”

Maci Sparks was excited and nervous. She was starting her first day as a children’s librarian. It was crazy how she got the job so fast. She applied to work at the library in her town. She thought she would be interviewed by the library director, but instead she was hired right away!

Maci Sparks was excited and nervous. She was starting her first day as a children’s librarian. It was crazy how she got the job so fast. She applied to work at the library in her town. She thought she would be interviewed by the library director, but instead she was hired right away!

It turned out that the director’s mom had fallen and hurt her leg. The director needed to fly all the way to Iowa to take care of her. She told Maci she would be the new children’s librarian, but she’d have to take care of the whole library by herself for two weeks! Maci was nervous because she’d be responsible for everything.

Maci walked into the library and looked around. She loved libraries so much, but this one was a little messy. There were books on all of the carts. All of the return bins were full of books. She had storytime in one hour and a lot of work to do!

This is too much work for one person to do, Maci thought. It was time to bring in some help. Maci found a bunch of teenagers hanging out in the library. She asked if they would want to volunteer. They said yes!

Maci told the teenagers that they needed to put the books on the shelves where they belonged. They didn’t have to be perfect. There were so many books to put away that if every single one was put in the perfect spot, it would take forever!

By the end of the day, the library looked a lot better! The books weren’t perfect, but people could find them. They weren’t sitting on carts in piles anymore.

The next morning, Maci walked into the library. She stopped in shock. There were books all over the floor! What could have happened? Was there an earthquake over night?

Maci put the books on a cart. When the teen volunteers came in after school they could put them away.

The day flew by. Storytime was a lot of fun. Maci signed five people up for library cards. The teen volunteers shelved all of the books that had fallen off the shelves. They also shelved all the books that had been returned. A lot of books were checked out! Maci turned off the lights and locked the library.



Oh no! When Maci walked in she saw that books were all over the floor again. And this time, a bear puppet from the children’s area was sitting on Maci’s desk! What was going on?

Maci called the library director and told her what had happened. The director told Maci that she could look at the cameras in the library. She said that she thought it was probably a squirrel making a mess. The director’s mom was starting to feel better but she couldn’t come back to the library yet.

Maci looked at the cameras on her computer. 9:00, nothing. 10:00, nothing. 11:00, nothing. 12:00, nothing...wait! Something was moving. Suddenly, all the books flew off the shelves!



Then, the bear puppet floated into view. It was hovering in mid-air! No one was holding it, but it was floating three feet off the ground! It floated over to Maci's desk and slowly came to a stop on top of her desk.

That's not a squirrel, thought Maci.

The teen volunteers helped clean up again. By the end of the day the library looked great. The books weren't all in the perfect spot, but because they were out on the shelves people were checking them out! A lot of people signed up for library cards, and a lot of people checked out books.

Maci was a little scared. Once the library was closed, she turned off the lights and ran out the door.



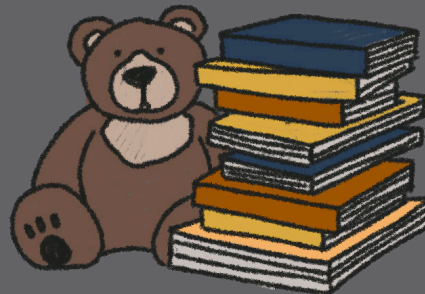
Not again! The books were all over the floor. The bear was back on Maci's desk. And this time, there was a book sitting on Maci's desk too. It was an old book that looked like it was written on a typewriter. The pages were yellow and it smelled musty. It was open to the middle. The page said "Mrs. Bear's Rules for Shelving." It had a lot of rules written down on how to shelf books perfectly.

Oh man! Now Maci knew what was going on. It had to be the ghost of Mrs. Bear! And she wasn't happy that the books weren't being shelved right. Maci asked all the teen volunteers to come talk with her. She kept the bear puppet at her desk, so Mrs. Bear could listen too.

She told the volunteers how much she appreciated their help. She told them how even though the books weren't perfect, it was more important that they were off the carts and on the shelves. That made it so people could find them and check them out! A lot more books were checked out this week than before. And the most important thing was that people were coming to the library. They got library cards, came to storytime, and found good books to read.

The teens were really happy! The new librarian really liked their work.

The library looked really good by the end of the day, and all the books were on the shelves.



The next morning, Maci walked into the library. There were no books on the floor! The bear puppet had moved though. It wasn't in the children's area anymore. Now it was on a table, next to a bunch of books. The books were all about how great libraries are!

"I guess Mrs. Bear likes the library better now too," thought Maci. Having a library ghost wasn't too bad after all. It was better than squirrels!