

Mentor Text

Move to Motor City

One Saturday, after a long day of treasure hunting, Dyamonde and Free were sitting on Free's stoop. They watched their busy Washington Heights neighborhood, when Free looked a little sad.

"Hey, what's up with you?" Dyamonde asked, tilting her head.

Free sighed and looked down at his shoes. "I just found out... I'm moving back to Detroit."

Dyamonde's eyes widened. "What? No way! You just got here!" she exclaimed, her heart sinking. Free had only moved to the neighborhood recently, and they had become best friends so fast. The thought of him leaving felt like a punch to the stomach.

"That's what I thought too," Free said. "But my dad got a new job, and we have to go. It's happening in a few weeks."

For a moment, Dyamonde didn't know what to say. She could feel her chest getting tight, but she didn't want to cry. Not in front of Free. So, instead, she took a deep breath and said, "Well, that stinks! But you know what? You don't have to stop being my best friend just because you're moving."

Free looked at her, surprised. "Really? But I won't be here anymore."

Dyamonde smiled, determined. "You can't get rid of me that easily. We've got phones, video calls, letters—everything! Besides, you'll probably come visit, and maybe I can visit you, too!"

For a second, Free didn't say anything. Then, he smiled a little. "You always know how to make things better, Dyamonde."

Dyamonde grinned. "That's what best friends are for!"

As the days passed, Dyamonde and Free made a plan. They spent as much time together as they could. They wrote a list of all the things they would do when Free came to visit, like going to their favorite candy store and having a handball tournament.

On Free's last day, they had a big goodbye party with all their friends. Dyamonde still felt sad, but she knew it wasn't the end of their friendship. As Free left, she waved and yelled, "I'll see you soon, Free! And don't forget to call me as soon as you get there!"

Free waved back, smiling. "I will!"

Even though Dyamonde would miss Free, she knew their friendship was strong enough to last, no matter how far apart they were.