Friendship Always Wins

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One afternoon, Maya Mermaid was playing at her friend, Quilla’s house. Maya and Quilla had so much fun together they lost track of time.
Maya noticed the ocean began to get darker and cooler as the sun set that evening. Maya immediately swam home. She knew that she needed a goodnight’s rest for the big race at school tomorrow.
The next morning, the warm sun peeked through the calm ocean water. Maya was asleep snoring loudly in her rainbow clamshell bed.
Maya's eyes slowly opened up to the bright sun rays peeking through her window. She hurried out of bed, brushed her soft blue hair and quickly swam to school. She hoped she would not be late for the big race.
Maya arrived at the school minutes before the race began. She saw Quilla at the starting line. Quilla looked tired and worried.
"Are you feeling alright, Quilla?" asked Maya.

"I am tired from little rest and I lost my glasses. I hope I can finish the race," answered Quilla.
Ready. Set. Go!!!

The race began. Maya was determined to win first place because she practiced tirelessly all year long.
Maya was about to cross the finish line when she began to wonder where Quilla was. Maya looked back and saw Quilla struggling to stay on the path. She couldn’t see where she was going.
The crowd was laughing.

Maya knew she wanted to win but she did not want to leave her best friend behind.
Maya puffed up her chest, braced herself and turned around to help Quilla. When Maya reached Quilla, she grabbed her hand and flapped her tail as hard as she could to get them to the finish line.
Maya pushed and pushed. She didn't give up. They both closed their eyes and gave it one last umph! Finally, they crossed the finish line together.

The crowd cheered!
Maya looked up. She saw Quilla smiling.

"We won!!!" exclaimed Quilla.
The crowd was so amazed by Maya and Quilla's friendship. Everyone learned that with perseverance and compassion for one another anyone can accomplish anything.