

Making up

Sparkey had been avoiding George ever since he teased her about her name. Whenever he sat near her, she moved her chair away. If he ran past in the playground, she turned away, tossing her plaits.

Today, she was with Alice when Charlie came up and invited them both to play tag. "Watch out! Ahmed's it!" he called.

The girls joined in with enthusiasm and were just running out of Ahmed's reach when Sparkey saw George. She stopped and tried to pull Alice away. "If you play with George, you aren't my friend," she said.



Alice was torn. She wanted to play tag, but she also wanted to be a loyal friend.

"He only called you Sparkles for fun," she said. "I know it's our special name, but we can't avoid him forever."

"He was teasing me and laughing, too," Sparkey sulked.

Later that day, Alice spoke to George and he agreed to apologise.

As they came out of school, George went up to Sparkey. "Sorry Freya," he said. "It was only a joke. Can we be friends?"

She looked surprised, but also pleased. "OK, George," she replied. "I've been a bit silly too. But if we're going to be friends, you'd better call me Sparkles."

