

## Jamila's Good Example: Jr. CT Week 1

### *"She Needs a Dog"*

It was Wednesday. Jamila Davies and her mom were going to Oakforest Animal Rescue in the big city of Chicago.

"I hope Bowser is still there!" said Jamila. "He's my favorite dog!"

"He might be, honey. But maybe someone took him home last week," replied her mom. "Remember when you adopted Buddy?"

"Yes!" she said giggling. "He was so little and chubby and I needed a friend. That's why I named him Buddy!"

It was one year ago when Jamila had come here to pick out a dog and ever since that day, the Davies came to help at the rescue every week.

Jamila and her mother lived in Riverdale, a city near Chicago. They had to move from their old neighborhood and leave all their friends behind when her father died from a bad sickness. Ms. Davies couldn't pay for the house they were living in, so they moved into a small apartment in Riverdale, a neighborhood where many families did not have very much money. Jamila had no friends here. She was very lonely and sad.

One day, while Ms. Davies was at work, she told her friend about Jamila.

"I think I know just what to do!" said her friend.

She told her about Oakforest Animal Rescue.

"Jamila needs a dog! A dog can be the best friend ever!"

The next day Jamila and her mom went to the rescue. It was a busy place, filled with dozens of happy, yappy dogs and interested families. Overly excited kids were running around opening cages and several workers were chasing dogs they had let out.

In the corner, Jamila noticed a chubby, little puppy huddled in his cage. He looked very lonely and sad.

"May I go in here?" she asked a worker.

She let Jamila in and the puppy crawled right onto her lap.

"Looks like she's found a buddy!" said the worker to Jamila's mom. "He's quite well-behaved for a little guy - just like your daughter. I think it's a great match."

"Buddy! That's what I'll name him," smiled Jamila. Then she scooped him up in her arms and brought him home.

## Jamila's Good Example: Jr. CT Week 2

### *A Sad Goodbye*

The day when Jamila brought little Buddy home was the day she changed from a sad little girl back into the happy child she used to be. She finally had a friend to play with.

A week later she and her puppy were bouncing all over the furniture and playing chase through the yard. At school, she told everyone about her new furry friend, Buddy - the name she had selected because it was exactly what she had needed – a buddy.

Ever since that wonderful day one year ago, Jamila and her mom volunteered at Oakforest every week. For the next two hours Jamila was throwing frisbees and helping the rescue workers in the dogs' play yard. She always seemed to have a current favorite, and Bowser was her puppy pal right now. They tumbled on the grass together and played catch until Bowser fell asleep on her lap, exhausted.

As they left the rescue, a young girl was walking toward the door with her mother who was pulling a dog on a leash behind her. They plodded slowly into the entrance.

The young girl was crying. "Please, Mama, please don't give Herbie away..." wailed the girl. "I can...share some... of my dinner..." It was hard for her to talk because she was crying so much.

Her mother looked down at her daughter with sad eyes. "I wish we could keep him, dear, but I don't have enough money to buy food for him. I only have enough to feed you and me. So we have to give him away."

For one second the girl looked over at Jamila. As their eyes met, Jamila thought, "Oh, if only I could do something to help her keep her dog. I wish I were older."

Jamila was very quiet as she and her mom drove home from the rescue that day.

## Jamila's Good Example: Jr. CT Week 3

### *A Big Strong Bully*

Jamila had made many friends at school when she adopted Buddy. Everybody loves to play with fuzzy, little puppies, so Jamila invited them over and, in this way, met kids from all over the neighborhood.

Because of Buddy, Jamila became quite popular at her school, Riverdale Elementary. But she also became popular because she liked sharing her dog. She knew many kids could not have a dog of their own and she wanted to make them happier by sharing hers.

Even though a lot of children knew Jamila, there was a boy in the school that EVERYbody knew - both students AND teachers - even the principal! His name was Terek. He did not have friends like Jamila. He had enemies. He was a big, strong bully that was mean to everyone, so everyone tried to stay away from him. Even the teachers hoped that he would not be put to their classroom because he frightened all the other students. He would not listen or obey and he often had to be sent out of the class to the principal's office.

Jamila wished she could go to another school, but she knew her mother was already working hard just to keep their little apartment and Buddy. Since she was a cook at a hotel, she was able to bring home leftover food which is what they ate much of the time. Not everyone was that fortunate, so Jamila was thankful.

During lunch today, Jamila and some friends were eating their pudding. Suddenly, a chair went crashing down. WHAM! Everyone spun around to see the fight that Terek had started. He was just about to push a boy over again, but just then the lunch helper hurried out from the kitchen. The boy went back to his seat and no one was brave enough to tell on Terek.

"If I were a teacher, I could have stopped that fight!" Jamila wished she were older and stronger.

## Jamila's Good Example: Jr. CT Week 4

### *Even Bullies Deserve to Eat*

The last bell rang. Jamila was glad the school day was over. She was bothered by the fight that Terek had started at lunch and wondered why he was so mean. As she crossed the school yard, she noticed a small crowd of kids gathering near the sidewalk. "Oh, no," she thought. "Not again." She was going to turn around when a boy was pushed out of the crowd and landed on the ground. The crowd moved away, leaving the boy alone to fight against Terek, who was much bigger. Terek yelled at him. "You told the teacher it was me who started that fight today! If you ever do that again, you'll be in the hospital for a hundred days before you're better!"

"Leave him alone!" shouted some boys who had run off. Terek picked up a handful of pebbles and threw them at the boys before he walked away.

Jamila ran over and helped the bullied boy up. It was Dantrell, a fifth grader in a different class than her.

"You okay, Dantrell?" she asked.

"I don't think I'll ever be okay until that big bully is gone," he said. Jamila felt sorry for him and tried to think of a way to make him feel better.

"Hey, you want to come over and see my dog? He'll cheer you up!"

As they started off, Jamila spotted a blue card on the ground. It was the free lunch card. Riverdale School gave them to many families that didn't have much money. Jamila had one. So did Dantrell. "Terek Somers," she read aloud. "He must have dropped this during the fight with you."

"Serves him right," said Dantrell. But Jamila didn't hear him. She ran after Terek.

"Hey! Terek! Wait up!"

"Whatta you want, little girly."

"I think this belongs to you," Jamila said, handing him the card. Terek snatched it out of her hand. He looked at her but didn't know what to say.

"Everyone deserves to eat," she said kindly as she turned to leave.

Terek stood silent, staring down at the card.

## Jamila's Good Example: Jr. CT Week 5

### *Someone Is Always Watching You*

Terek had been very mean to Dantrell. Since he did not want to be hurt by Terek again, he tried to stay far away from him.

Dantrell did not know why Jamila had been kind to Terek after he had pushed him down on the playground. At first, he was angry with her for giving Terek his lunch card back, but as the weeks passed, they became good pals. Since he didn't have a lot of friends, he was glad when he had the chance to play with Jamila. She had a lot of friends. "I wonder why?" Dantrell thought.

"How did you get to have so many friends?" he asked her one day. "I know you have a dog, but even if you don't have him with you, there's always a bunch of kids around you."

Jamila laughed.

"What's so funny about that?" asked Dantrell.

"A few years ago I asked my dad that same question!" she said. "Everyone knew him and liked him. So when I asked him how he got so many friends, he said it was because of his dad. He read this bible verse to him so many times, he had it memorized:

'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.'

"And then he said something I'll never forget. 'Someone is always watching you, Jamila, and they're going to copy what you say and do. So it better be a good thing.' So I decided I wanted to be like my dad. He was always so happy. I think it was because he showed others that he cared about them by helping them whenever he could and speaking kindly to them. People really like that."

Dantrell listened carefully. Then he thought, "I wonder what would happen if I try that?"

## Jamila's Good Example: Jr. CT Week 6

### *A Kind Act Changes Things*

Today was Saturday and Dantrell was walking through town on his way to the library. He was behind three older boys who were munching on french fries. They smelled soooo good! Dantrell had not eaten breakfast, so he suddenly felt very hungry.

Up ahead, an elderly man sat on a bench. He had on a coat that was full of holes and a dirty hat. A faded blanket and a walking cane were next to him. "He must be one of the poor people who doesn't have a home," thought Dantrell.

One of the boys shouted to him as they got closer. "Hey, pops! How 'bout a snack!" He tossed what was left of his fries over, but the bag landed a little too far away. The old man tried to reach it with his cane, but it was still too far. The boys began to laugh as they slowly walked closer. They wanted to see if the old man would fall on his face. It was a mean trick they had often played on the elderly homeless in Riverdale.

Dantrell didn't know they were trying to be mean, so when he saw the man about to topple over, he dashed passed the boys yelling, "I'll get it!" and he grabbed them before the man fell.

The oldest boy stepped forward. He was mad at Dantrell for ruining his fun. He was going to yell at him, but he stopped. He heard Dantrell talking to the man.

"It was a pretty good throw," he said, "just not quite far enough." Then he turned to the older boy and smiled at him. "Looks like I got here before you to help him!"

"Riverdale could sure use more boys like you," said the old man gratefully. "I'll not forget your kindness."

The three boys felt very guilty about the mean trick they wanted to play. They were embarrassed, so they just waved and walked on.

Dantrell, however, felt very happy that he had helped the homeless man and happily skipped down the sidewalk to the library.

## Jamila's Good Example: Jr. CT Week 7

### *It's Terek Again*

"Slow down, Dantrell!" shouted Jamila. She finally caught up with him. "Boy! You run like a rat being chased by twenty lions!" They both laughed as they imagined the scene.

"What's wrong?"

"It's Terek again," moaned Dantrell.

"What happened now?"

"Since today is Friday, and we get next week off for spring break, our teacher, Ms. Janis, had us play a game. There were two teams and each team had to put together a puzzle of the United States. Every student had to help, but guess who just sat there on my team and kept knocking pieces off the table? Terek, of course. Ms. Janis told him nicely to choose some pieces and find where they belong. But he jumped up, and his chair flew backwards, almost hitting the teacher! Then he shouted, 'This is a stupid game!' and ran out the door. It ruined all the fun, and now I just want to go home so I don't have to see him for a week!"

"Wow, that's bad," said Jamila. "I don't really like being near Terek very much either," she said, "but sometimes I feel bad for him. No one can ever be happy if they are always mad and have no friends. I remember when I moved here and had no friends. I was really sad." She was quiet for a few seconds and then said, "What if Terek could find a friend?"

Dantrell said nothing. He just wanted to get far away from Terek for a week.

They walked along silently but as they did so, Dantrell thought about what Jamila said. He also remembered what he felt like before he met Jamila. Having a friend like Jamila made him happy. But how could anyone ever be friends with a bully?

## Jamila's Good Example: Jr. CT Week 8

### *Someone Is Always Watching You*

With spring break now starting, Jamila perked up.

"Hey, Dantrell!" she said. "I have an idea!" It would get their minds off of Terek for the time being and be fun. "Buddy's a year old and I really want him to learn how to catch a frisbee, but I need help. Want to go to the dog park with me?"

Of course Dantrell agreed, so they picked Buddy up at Jamila's apartment along with some dog treats then headed to the park.

Jamila threw the frisbee to where Dantrell stood with Buddy. He put it in Buddy's mouth and tried to run back to Jamila, but he tripped and Buddy ran over to play with another dog. They brought him back and kept trying. Finally, after an hour, Buddy powerfully leaped up and caught the frisbee mid-air!

"He did it! Buddy, you're awesome!" They praised him like he was an Olympic champion.

"Let's go swing for awhile" said Dantrell. As he swung, he saw a dad and his daughter trying to teach their dog how to catch a frisbee too. But it wasn't going so well. Their dog kept running off! "I don't think he's ever going to get this," groaned the dad. He sat down on a bench.

"Can we go to the swings, Dad?" asked the girl. As they walked over, Jamila and Dantrell hopped off and took a few more turns throwing the frisbee to Buddy. He caught it every time.

"How did you ever get him to catch that frisbee?" asked the dad. "My dog just doesn't get it."

"Treats!" smiled Jamila.

"Oh! That's a good idea!" He said.

"Here," said Dantrell as he handed them to the dad. Jamila explained to him how she had used the treats to help Buddy understand.

"Hmmm. I never thought of that," the dad replied.

The three set to work again and after another dozen tries, their dog leaped into the air and caught the frisbee in the same way Buddy had.

"WOW!" shouted the dad. "It worked! Thanks so much!"

Jamila smiled and recalled her dad's words once again, "Someone is always watching you."

## Jamila's Good Example: Jr. CT Week 9

### *The Accident*

Jamila and Dantrell spent a lot of time outside the week school was out. They rode bikes, flew kites, played with Buddy, and watched T.V. if the weather was bad. And today was one of those bad days; gloomy and rainy.

"I'm taking Buddy out for a walk. He needs to go. Want to come?" asked Jamila.

"I guess. This is getting boring," Dantrell grabbed his jacket.

There were puddles everywhere! Buddy loved water, so he tried his best to roll in every single one. When he was on his back kicking his legs up, Jamila giggled and shouted, "He looks like a turtle that can't roll over!"

Suddenly, a car came speeding around the corner. "Look out!" Dantrell shrieked and shoved Jamila onto the sidewalk. The road was slippery and the driver almost hit her. Just then, a dog came crashing through some overgrown bushes between two empty houses that were falling apart. He charged into the street. Right behind him, a big kid bolted through the bushes after the dog.

"DUKE! DUUUUKE! STOP!" he yelled.

But it was too late. The car smacked the dog and he was flung to the middle of the road where he wailed in pain.

"No, Duke! No! You can't die! I need you....please, Duke...stay alive!" The boy sobbed as he pulled his dog to the side.

The door of one of the run-down houses swung open. "OH!" cried Jamila. "Someone lives there!" An angry lady yelled at the boy as she stomped out.

"Get in here, Terek! Leave that no-good dog alone! I don't have money to feed him, and now we won't need to worry about him anymore!"

She had a toddler in her arms as she grabbed him by the shirt and started dragging him toward the door.

"You've been stealing food from stores to feed that mutt and the police know it. You're a bad boy, Terek! Get in here!" She slammed the door behind them.

Both Jamila and Dantrell wanted so much to help Terek. "There must be something we can do. But what?"

## Jamila's Good Example: Jr. CT Week 10

### *Hope and Pray He Heals*

Terek's dog lay on the side of the street. He did not move. Jamila and Dantrell walked cautiously over to Duke. Jamila put a hand on his chest and felt his heartbeat.

"He's still alive. Let's see if we can get him to my apartment. Mom will know what to do."

It was not easy moving Duke. He was very skinny, but he was a tall dog, taller than Buddy. In the end, they slid him onto Dantrell's jacket and slowly carried him to Jamila's.

"Oh, lordy, lordy," was all Ms. Davies could say when she saw the condition Duke was in. Ms. Carson, Dantrell's mom, came over, and the two ladies set to work doing what they could to make Duke comfortable.

"Looks like two broken legs," said Ms. Carson. "Don't see anything else."

They called Oakforest Rescue and explained the situation. A volunteer came by, a vet assistant, and confirmed the legs were broken. She took the time to wrap Duke's legs up in special cloth and tape so he couldn't move them. "If you can keep him quiet for a week so he doesn't move those legs, they might heal," she said. She gently pet him on the head.

"That's about all I can do for now. We don't have medicines available for these kinds of things."

She turned to Jamila and Dantrell.

"You two kids did a great job trying to help this poor fellow. One kind action can change a person's life - or a dog's. Let's hope and pray he heals up."

So pray they did – all four of them, day and night. But not only for Duke; for Terek as well.

## Jamila's Good Example: Jr. CT Week 11

### *Riverdale Pet Pantry*

No one knew about Duke except Dantrell, Jamila, and a few grown ups. Terek still bullied the other kids - sometimes even worse than before - but now Dantrell felt bad for him and wished he could help him.

Duke was getting better. After two more weeks, the tape and cloth wrap could come off of his legs. But what then? Terek's mom still couldn't feed him. He would have to go live at the animal rescue just like so many other dogs in Riverdale did when the families couldn't feed them anymore.

The two families prayed. "Good Heavenly Father, we need Your help. Terek needs Your help. But we just don't know what to do. These kids need their pets, but they can't afford the care. There must be a way. Show us. Amen."

Days passed. Dantrell's class was told that Terek would not be back to class until he could treat others better. Dantrell decided he and Jamila should tell Ms. Janis what happened to Duke and how sad Terek was.

Ms. Janis felt very bad for Terek when she heard the news. "Terek really does need help, and if Duke is his only friend right now, we must find a way to keep them together."

"I have an idea!" Dantrell exclaimed. "What if we made it a class project to collect enough dog food for a month and then took Duke and the food over to Terek's house?"

"That's a great idea!" said Ms. Janis.

"But let's not just make it a class project," said Jamila. "Why not make it a Riverdale project? We could start a dog food collection. Neighbors and businesses could bring dog food to our school. We could ask our parents to help, too. If we get a lot of people to help, we could keep all pets and kids together!"

"I can't wait!" shouted Dantrell. That very afternoon, the Riverdale Pet Pantry came into being.

## Jamila's Good Example: Jr. CT Week 12

### *Change Comes to Riverdale*

The next day, Ms. Janis announced the plan to the class. All the students were very excited. Many of them had taken their dogs to Oakforest Animal Rescue because they could not buy dog food. Now they might be able to bring their dogs back home!

All the students hung signs throughout their neighborhoods asking people to bring dog food to the new Riverdale Pet Pantry if they could.

Meanwhile, the Carsons and Davies made plans to visit Terek's house so he could have Duke back home again. Though Duke limped, the wrappings were off and he had gained weight and strength from all the loving care he had received. He looked very happy and healthy!

Dantrell and Jamila led the way to Terek's with Duke frolicking alongside. Their mothers followed with a wagon loaded with enough dog food for over a month as well as other food for the family.

They rang the doorbell. It was Terek who answered.

"Whatta YOU want..." he began. But Duke interrupted with his big paws which landed on Terek's chest, almost knocking him over.

"DUKE!" he shouted. "I thought you were dead!" Tears flowed as Terek and Duke hugged.

"What's all this noise?" yelled Ms. Somers. But when she saw Duke and the wagon full of food, she cried. "Ohhh my!" And then the whole lot of them were in tears together.

It seemed like everyone in Riverdale wanted to bring dog food to the Pet Pantry. They collected so much, they moved it from the school over to Oakforest Rescue. Terek volunteered to keep the pantry in order. Being so strong, he could lift all the boxes and stack them. The workers loved him! "One day, I'm going to start my own rescue and food pantry," he thought.

Late one Wednesday afternoon as Jamila and her mother were leaving the Oakforest Rescue, Jamila heard a young girl shout, "Look, Mom! He's still here! It's Herbie!"

Jamila laughed out loud when she saw Herbie bounce into the arms of his young owner. They belonged together. And now they could stay together.

Jamila whispered to her dad, even though he was not there. "I may be young, but I think I set a good example, just like you did for me."