

The Smile That Traveled Around the World

By Joyce Furstenau



Characters

Brandon: a teenager with special needs

Stacy: the store clerk

lady: lady customer at the grocery store

attendant: attendant at gas station

gas customer: customer at gas station

mother: mother and child who visited Japan

Brandon was excited. It was his first day on the job at the neighborhood grocery store in a small California town. He brushed his teeth and then smiled at himself in the mirror. He was genuinely happy. He was going to earn his first paycheck. Brandon was only sixteen, and he had gotten his first job. He walked to work. He attended a training session last week, and his bosses felt he was ready to start. He was nervous about his first day, but he was excited, too.

When Brandon arrived at the store, he put on his apron. One of the checkers helped him tie it in the back. Brandon smiled and said, "Thank you, Stacy," when she was done. Stacy smiled back at Brandon and said, "You're welcome, Brandon."

His first customer emptied her cart at the checkout counter. Brandon smiled at her and asked, "Paper or plastic?"

lady answered, "Paper." Brandon asked the customer if she needed help out.

"Why, yes, I would appreciate some help from a boy with your smiling face," she said. Brandon was thrilled. He was off to a good start. lady offered to tip him, but he replied, "No, thanks. I'm glad to help. Besides, this is my job." lady smiled again and thanked Brandon for helping her. "And thank you for starting my day with a smile. It feels good to smile, doesn't it?" she asked.

"Come back again, and if you haven't got a smile, I'll give you one of

mine," Brandon replied.

lady laughed out loud. She smiled as she drove to the gas station. attendant at the gas station didn't seem happy. lady smiled and passed on Brandon's greeting, "If you haven't got a smile, I'll give you one of mine." attendant smiled. Then he chuckled.

"Thanks, Ma'am; I needed that," he said.

When the next customer came in, attendant smiled as he paid for his gas. gas customer looked at attendant curiously. "You're sure happy at this early hour of the day," he said.

"Yep! If you haven't got a smile, I'll give you one of mine," said attendant to gas customer.

gas customer happened to be on his way to the airport. He thought about attendant's comment on his drive. He smiled in the car, and then he chuckled. "If you haven't got a smile, I'll give you one of mine. That's a great motto," he said aloud to himself as he entered the airport parking garage.

gas customer, who was headed to London, England on business, passed on the greeting to everyone he saw along the way. He smiled at the baggage handler, the ticket taker, and the hostess on the airplane. When the hostess came by, she noticed the passenger was smiling. They spoke, and the passenger passed on his new motto to her as well.

The person sitting next to him on the plane was smiling by the time they reached their destination. The smile and encouraging words had spread throughout the airplane. Many of the departing passengers smiled at the customs agent as they waited in line to present their passports in London. The customs agent smiled at the next passenger who was catching a flight to Italy. In Italy, the passenger smiled and passed on the good words to another passenger who was on a flight to Turkey. The passenger to Turkey smiled and passed on the good word to a group of teenagers who were getting on a flight to Japan. The teenagers laughed and smiled and passed on the good word to mother and her child who were waiting to catch a plane from Japan to Los Angeles. By the time mother and child reached the United States, the sky was brilliant red as the sun was setting. mother

smiled at the child as they both looked out at the crimson skyline of their city. They smiled as they drove home from the airport.

The next day, mother and child who had been in Japan the day before realized their shelves were empty.

mother and child made a trip to the grocery store.

A new takeout boy named Brandon was standing at the checkout counter when mother pushed her child in the grocery cart along with their groceries to the checkout counter. Both of them still looked very tired. They did not look at all happy to Brandon.

"Paper or plastic?" asked Brandon.

"Paper," answered mother with the child.

"Would you like some help out?" asked Brandon with a smile.

"Why, yes, that would be nice," she replied. Brandon smiled as he bagged her groceries. The child stared at Brandon as he placed the bags in the cart.

"If you don't have a smile, I'll give you one of mine," said Brandon to the child. "Hey, I heard one of the kids on our Japanese flight say that," said the child as she smiled at Brandon.

"There, you see. You do have a smile, and it looks good on you," said Brandon. He wheeled out the groceries with the child in the cart. It was the same smile that traveled all the way around the world yesterday. It would look good on you, too.

Smiling is infectious; you can catch it like the flu.

Someone smiled at me today, and I started smiling too. ~Anonymous .

Name _____



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<p>1. In what state did Brandon live?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Arizona</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Colorado</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C California</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Hawaii</p>	<p>2. What was Brandon's job?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A A janitor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B A checker</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C A produce stocker</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D A box boy</p>
<p>3. What did Brandon pass on to lady?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A His apron</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B A free bag of carrots</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C His smile</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D A grocery cart</p>	<p>4. What did Brandon say to lady that she passed on?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A A smile confuses a frown.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Everyone smiles in the same language.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C If you haven't got a smile, I'll give you one of mine.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D The world looks better behind a smile.</p>
<p>5. How did the smile comment arrive in London?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Lady at the grocery store called her son in London.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B The mailman sent a letter to his friend in London.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C The customer at the gas station was traveling to London.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Brandon got on a plane and went to London.</p>	<p>6. Where did the smile finally arrive after going around the world?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A France</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Brazil</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C California</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Japan</p>