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Jamal’s best friend, Carla, had been missing from school for three days. When Jamal saw that she was absent again, he was worried. The field trip was tomorrow. When he got home, he went next door to see her. She was sick in bed.

“You’ve missed a lot of school, Carla. Do you think you’ll be better for the field trip tomorrow?” he asked.

Carla wasn’t sure that she would be ready, but she said, “I hope so. I really want to go on the field trip. I hope I see you at school tomorrow.”

Jamal worried all night. He wanted Carla to be able to go on the field trip. He wondered if she would be feeling better. The next morning he looked for her on the bus, but he didn’t see her.

“Oh no!” he said to himself, “I think Carla is still sick.”
When he got to school he looked for her, but he did not see her anywhere. He walked into the classroom with a sad look on his face.

“What’s wrong?” asked his teacher.

“Carla is not here,” he said. “She’s going to miss the field trip.”

“It’s okay,” said his teacher, “when we get back we can draw pictures of what we saw and you can give them to her.”

Jamal liked that idea. He smiled a little bit.

“Carla will like that,” he said.
The class had fun on the field trip. It was very exciting. All of the kids had fun drawing pictures for Carla when they got back to school. After school that day, Jamal went to see Carla again. He gave her the pictures that the class made for her.

“Wow,” Carla said, “these are great! I love them.”

She grinned.

Jamal saw that his visit and pictures had cheered up his best friend. Jamal told Carla, “I think that you will be back to school in no time.”