

# The Magic Pen

by Breanna O'Bryan

"Oh nuts," Piper thought as she realized she had left her pencil pouch at home. She walked up to get a pen or pencil from her teacher, Mrs. Lane. With a frown, she quietly asked Mrs. Lane if she had anything to write with that she could borrow.

Mrs. Lane smiled and gave Piper a beautiful, light blue pen and told her to keep it.

Piper thanked her, walked back to her seat, and started on her work. She could not figure out her math problem. She thought to herself over and over again, "What is  $2 + 5$ ?"

A couple of seconds later, the pen Mrs. Lane had given her started to shake. Next, the pen felt like it jumped out of Piper's hand. The pen landed on the table, stood straight up on her math paper, and wrote 7 in the blank space left for the answer to the problem. The pretty blue pen was magic! Piper could not believe it! She would have told her friends about her special pen, but she did not want her friends to take it from her. She wanted that pen all to herself. Piper was so selfish that she didn't even tell her family about the magic pen.

When Piper was picked up from school, her Mom asked how her day had been.

Piper said that she had a good day, and that Mrs. Lane had given her a new pen.

Her mom asked to see the pen, but Piper lied and said that she had lost it. Piper really wanted to show her Mom, but on the other hand, she did not want her Mom to figure out that she had a magic pen and might possibly take it away.

On the way home, Mrs. Rose, Piper's mom, asked if Piper wanted to stop and get an Oreo blizzard.

Piper said no because her tummy hurt, but she actually just wanted to get home and play with her new pen.

When she got home, she went to her room and started writing down a bunch of math problems that she did not know the answer to. She wrote down things like  $10+12$ ,  $9+10$ ,  $8+13$ , and  $11+7$ . The pen started to shake again, but this time it spoke to her, too!

The pen told her answers to the problems, yet Piper refused to write them down, even though she was surprised her pen talked to her. She asked the pen to write down the answers for her.

The pen said she would write the answers only if Piper called her by her name.

Piper asked the pen what her name was, and the pen said her name was Penny.

After that, Piper asked Penny to write the answers to the math facts for her, and because the little pen was called by her actual name, she wrote the answers. Penny stood up and wrote 22, 19, 21, and 18.

Mrs. Rose walked in and wondered who her little girl was talking to. When she asked Piper, her daughter hesitantly lied again. Piper said she was talking to her stuffed animals.

Mrs. Rose left Piper and her stuffed animals and came back later to bring her dinner. When her mom arrived with her food, Piper thanked her and asked to just be left alone. Her mom left her grilled cheese sandwich, tomato soup, and chocolate milk on Piper's hot pink bedside table in her light pink room next to her Doc McStuffin's poster.

Piper went to the food and started eating her grilled cheese sandwich. As she was eating, Penny said that she was hungry and wanted some food, too.

Piper asked how much food Penny wanted, and when she got an answer, she gave the little pen a bite of her grilled cheese and a spoonful of tomato soup. Also, Piper gave her new friend some of her chocolate milk. Penny was so happy after her stomach was filled that she practically said, "Thank you," a zillion times.

Penny wanted to be challenged with more math problems, but Piper said she was too tired to think of more numbers, and wanted to go to bed.

The next morning, when Piper and Penny were in Mrs. Lane's class room, Piper wanted to go straight to math, even though she knew that her teacher usually liked to have spelling first, snack second, and then math. Piper did not need the magic of her special pen to help her with spelling because she was fairly good at it. When snack time came, Piper finished snack as fast as she could, so that she could start on math and use her magic pen. Even though Piper was very hungry, she only ate half of a graham cracker and a few gold fish. She went back to her seat eager to start on her math, but Mrs. Lane said that she could not start math until everyone else had finished eating their own snack.

Now Piper wished she had eaten more of her snack, but did not say anything to Mrs. Lane because she was a slow eater. She thought that if she went back to the table, and ate more, that she would only take up more time before getting to math. So instead, she played with the stuffed unicorn that she always brought with her because she thought Fluffy, the unicorn, brought her good luck. While she waited for what seemed like hours, Piper played with her purple hooved, sparkly blue horned, light pink, stuffed friend.

When the other kids finally finished eating, Piper got to do math with her pen, at last. As soon as Mrs. Lane handed out the math paper, Piper realized that she had left Penny at home! So again, Piper asked Mrs. Lane for another pen or pencil with hopes that it would be magic like the last pen her teacher had given her. Instead of a pen, Mrs. Lane handed Piper a pencil, and it wasn't magic! Piper was so disappointed that she was crying on the inside, and almost on the outside. Also, Mrs. Lane told Piper she had to give the pencil back to her at the end of the day. It was a cool pencil, which made her even more upset. She had to hold back the tears that were about to trickle down her face.

Piper went back to her seat and started to work on her paper, but without her magic pen, it seemed so much harder. Piper never really thought about this, but now she wished that she was not so forgetful with her pencil case. On her math page, the problems got harder, and Piper did not know how to do them. The problems were  $10-6$ ,  $12+3$ ,  $15-8$ , and the extra bonus question was  $10-6+15$ . Because Piper did not understand, she had to stay after school so that Mrs. Lane could tell her how to do the math. Piper's school got out at 1:55 PM, but Piper had to stay at school until 2:30.

Fifteen minutes after Piper was picked up from school, she arrived at her family's house, and ran to her room to find her magic pen. Penny was in Piper's Disney Princess pencil case, sitting on her bedside table. Piper opened the case and pulled Penny out. Piper told Penny how sorry she was for leaving Penny at home. Penny forgave her and asked how Piper's day had been without her, and why she was not home until 2:45?

Piper told Penny that she could not figure out her math problems without her help. She explained that she had to stay at school extra time with Mrs. Lane to learn how to solve hard addition facts. Then Piper told Penny that after she got the hang of doing her math, it really

wasn't that hard to do. Piper also said that she did not really need Penny's help anymore, but wanted to keep her so that she would have someone to talk to.

Penny was happy that Piper was going to keep her, but was disappointed that she could not help with math anymore. Penny told Piper that she felt useless!

Piper told the magic pen that she would still be used on the really hard problems, but only the ones she couldn't figure out by herself.

Penny felt a little better, but not a lot. She wanted to be used for more than just a few problems. Penny decided to run away to find someone who needed 'help' with homework.

Piper didn't notice that Penny was gone until the next morning. When she found out, she told her mom that she did not feel well, and that she wanted to stay home. She was really just too sad to go to school.

Piper's mom gave her some medicine to make her feel better, but the medicine specifically said that it should not be used unless the patient was truly sick. Soon afterwards, Piper actually started to feel bad. She started coughing and sneezing rapidly. Her mom thought that it was just a cold, until she felt Piper's warm forehead. Piper had a fever of 103 degrees!

Mrs. Rose then rushed Piper to the doctor's office, because the highest fever Piper ever had was 99.9 degrees F. They signed in and had to wait about twenty minutes, which seemed like an hour to Piper. In those twenty minutes, Mrs. Rose called Piper's dad and told him to meet them at the doctor's office quickly. He came from his job as a high school science teacher to see Dr. Chairman.

It turned out to be a waste of time for Mr. Rose, because Dr. Chairman had figured out Piper's thermometer was not working correctly. She only had a little bit of fever and the doctor just wanted Piper to rest for a while. He said that if she did not feel better within the week, to come back to see him.

As the Rose family was leaving, Piper saw a beautiful blue pen. Could it be Penny? Piper went to the edge of the beige desk where it lay. She politely asked if she could have the pen simply because she liked it so much. The nice, pretty, young lady sitting behind the desk filing papers told Piper that if she wanted the pen, she could have it.

Even though Piper was not completely sure this mysterious pen was Penny, she gladly grabbed the pen and thanked the employee for it. The worker went back to filing papers as Piper headed back over to her parents who stood patiently at the door.

Mr. Rose took the rest of the day off work to stay home with Piper, and he thought she would like some ice cream. He went to the ice cream shop while Piper and her mom went home. Once in her room, Piper lay down in her bed and took a brief nap.

Piper woke and wanted to see if the beautiful blue pen from the doctor's office was really Penny. Piper opened her little pony and rainbow purse to grab the light blue pen but heard a familiar voice calling her name. It was Mr. Rose. He had just come back from the ice cream shop with a small vanilla ice cream cone dipped in chocolate, Piper's favorite. He got a large caramel and fudge sundae to share with Mrs. Rose. Piper thanked him, and hugged her daddy tightly before taking the cone from his hands. The happy family all sat at the dinner table and ate their delicious treats.

When Piper was full, she went back to her room. She again picked up the small bag, and this time, got the pen out. As she picked it up, it started to shake and rattle. It was Penny! Piper was as happy as a puppy eating a treat.

Penny said that she had been lost, and everything was very scary without Piper being there. She also said that she would never leave Piper again.

Ever since Piper started to understand how to do her math, she promised herself that she would only use Penny when she absolutely needed her. She decided to tell her mom and friends about her wonderful, miraculous, magic pen.

At first, her parents didn't believe her, but Piper showed them how real Penny actually was. They were amazed to see the pen writing answers to math problems. Her friends were very excited for her. They all wanted a pen just like Pipers, but she told them that Penny was one of a kind. After a few days, Piper was thankful that she was now able to talk to her friends without keeping any more secrets.

After a few years, Penny was in the fourth grade, and realized that she did not need Penny any more. So she decided to give Penny to her five year-old brother, Tommy. He was so happy and thankful, that his face lit up like Christmas lights. Piper had to tell him that he could only use the magic pen when he really needed extra help. She didn't want him to get lazy. He followed that rule and loved his new magic pen.

If Piper had never met Penny, do you think her life would be different? I guess we'll never find out.