

# Homework First, Play Later


## Using a Gold Responsibility Mindset

By Dr Diana Chavez Ketterman








A whimsical illustration of a playroom. A large wooden frame surrounds a light-colored wall. The wall is decorated with several stars: a large orange star in the top left, three smaller orange stars in the top right, and three small blue stars on the left side. In the bottom left corner, a small white rocking horse with an orange mane and tail is rocking on a red wooden rocker. The floor is covered in white snow, and there are small green plants and bushes scattered around. The background is a soft blue sky with white snowflakes.

Cesar was playing video games in his  
playroom laughing and having fun.








Suddenly, Amin walked in with a serious look.  
"What are you doing?" he asked.



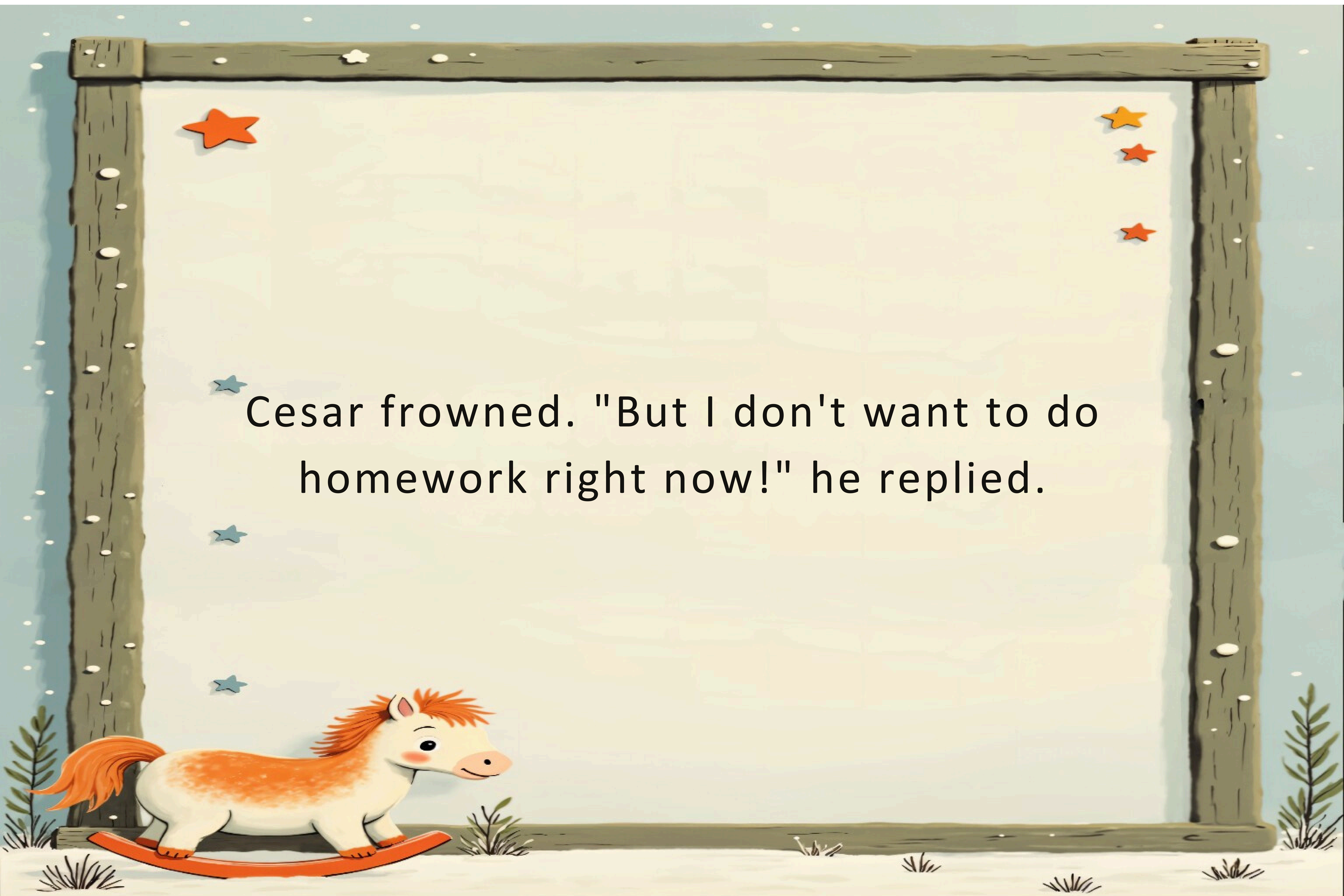




"You should be doing your homework, not playing video games!" Amin said.








Cesar frowned. "But I don't want to do homework right now!" he replied.








Amin said, "Your grades could go down.  
Homework comes first."








Suddenly, the Gold Bear appeared beside Amin. The bear nodded and said, "Let's make a plan."








Gold Bear added, "Do your best, I know  
you can!"






Amin continued, "We'll play just like you say, but work comes first today."



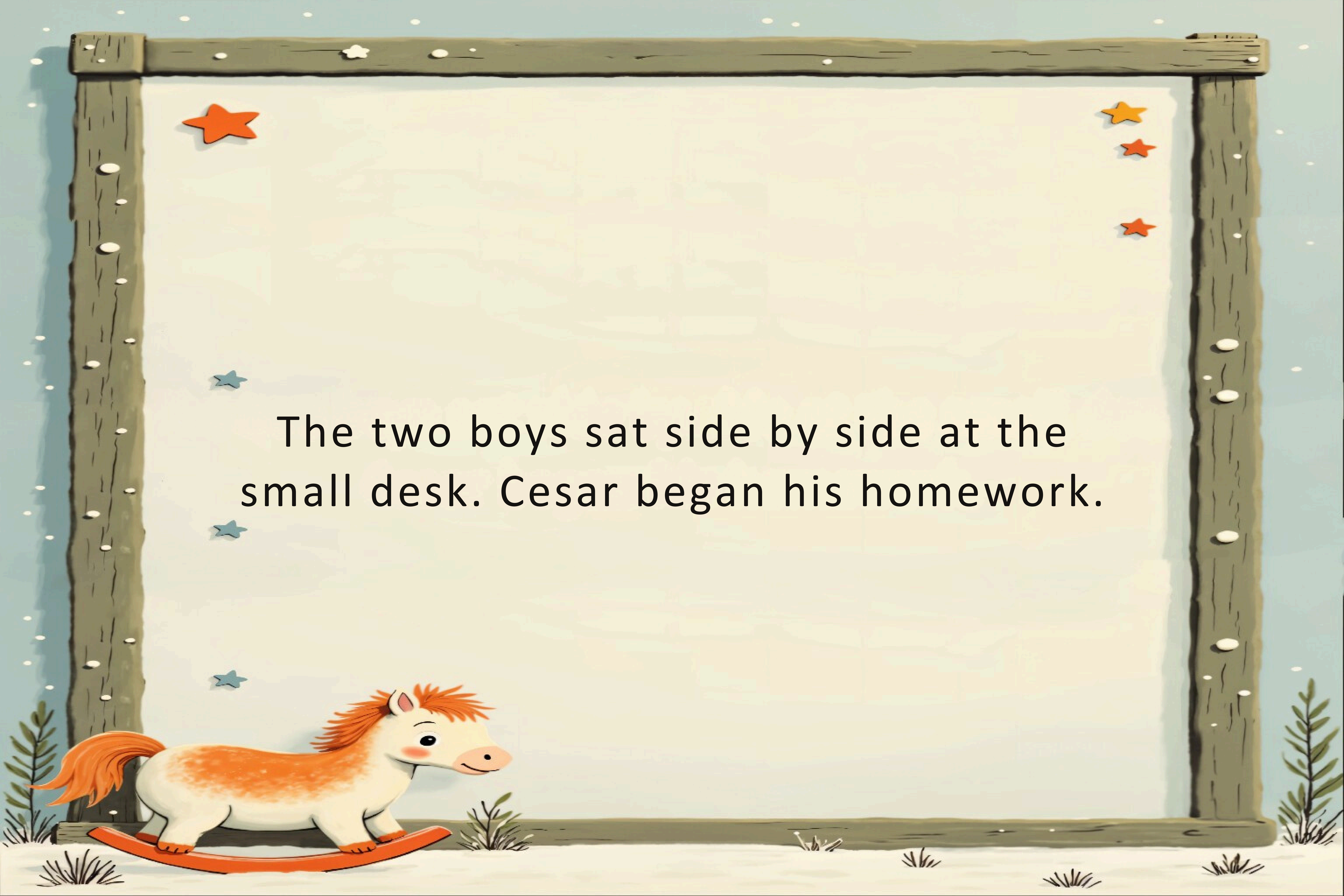




Cesar thought for a second, then  
noddled and agreed.






A whimsical illustration featuring a large wooden frame with a light blue background. The frame is decorated with several stars: a large orange star in the top left, a small orange star in the top right, and three small blue stars on the left side. In the bottom left corner, a small white horse with orange spots and a red mane is standing on a red rocking horse. The background is a soft, light blue sky with small white clouds. The ground is a light blue surface with small green plants and a few small white flowers.

The two boys sat side by side at the  
small desk. Cesar began his homework.





Amin helped by reading the instructions,  
making it easier for Cesar.






Cesar finished the last answer and  
cheered, "Done!"







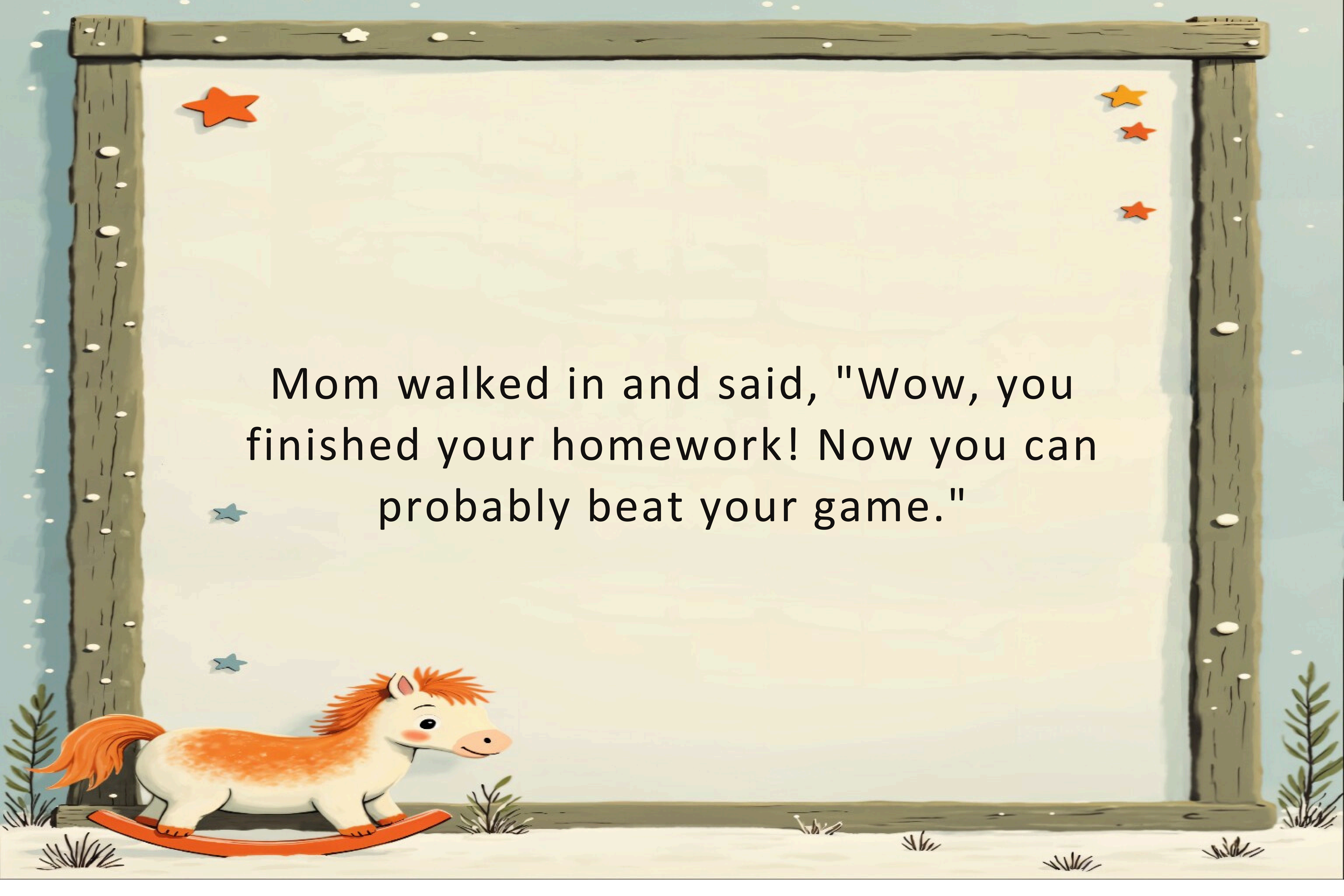


Amin smiled back. "Now it's time to play!"










Mom walked in and said, "Wow, you finished your homework! Now you can probably beat your game."






The boys started playing their game together, laughing and enjoying it more than before.








Cesar said, "I'm glad I finished first.  
It feels good to play without worry."








Gold Bear chuckled and said, "That's  
the smart way to do things!"




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Amin added, "When we make a plan  
and get things done, we feel proud!"








Cesar gave Gold Bear a high five.  
"Thanks for the help!" he said.








The boys tidied up the workspace,  
still chatting and smiling happily.







Both shouted together: "Hooray!  
When you put work before play  
each day!"



# What happens when it's time to choose between play and responsibility?



Meet Amin and Cesar—two fun-loving five-year-olds who learn that putting effort into schoolwork first, helps Cesar understand why finishing homework matters.

At first, Cesar just wants to keep playing games. But with a little encouragement, he discovers how good it feels to make a plan,

This joyful story shows that:

- Responsibility means making smart choices—even when it's hard.

Hard work builds confidence and freedom. Planning ahead helps make time for both work and play.