



# A COLOURFUL MIX-UP

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**H**annah woke up, snuggled under her red quilt, next to her dog, Red. She climbed out of bed and changed from her red pajamas into a red shirt, red pants, and red socks.

“Still wearing red every day, huh?” her older brother, Logan, asked when Hannah sat down for breakfast.

“Yup! It’s my still favourite colour in the whole world,” she said cheerfully.

But Hannah was worried. The washing machine had been broken for weeks. She was running out of clean red clothes! Just then, Red barked. A repairperson was at the door.

“Finally!” thought Hannah. She started planning tomorrow’s outfit as she got ready to leave for school.

That night, Hannah helped Dad fill the washing machine. She had

lots of dirty red clothes piled up! Dad added the soap, and Hannah pressed the start button.

While the washer did its job, Hannah wandered into the den and flopped on the floor beside Red. Then they practised all the tricks Red knew: sit, stay, roll over, fetch, and shake a paw. After that, Hannah brushed Red to keep his fur looking glossy.

When the dryer dinged, Hannah kissed Red’s head and went to help

Dad fold her clothes. She closed her eyes and buried her nose in the warm laundry. She loved the fresh, clean smell. But when Hannah opened her eyes, she screamed.

“My clothes!” Hannah shrieked. “They’re ... PURPLE!”

Mom and Logan ran in. Her parents glanced at each other. Logan burst out laughing.

“I guess purple is your new favourite colour,” he said.





Hannah slumped away, feeling sad. That night, she dreamed that her red clothes were dancing with blue clothes while Red ran around barking. Somehow Red was also purple!

The next day, Hannah picked out a purple outfit.

“But why did my clothes turn purple, not blue like Logan’s shirt?” Hannah asked Mom over breakfast. “At least blue is my *second*-favourite colour. Purple isn’t even on my list!”

“Uh-oh,” Mom said, as she plucked Logan’s new blue shirt out of the pile of clean laundry. “Here’s the problem.”

Logan stopped laughing. “Oops,” he said. “I spilled milk on my new shirt, so I tossed it in Hannah’s laundry basket.”

“But what *happened*!?” Hannah wailed.

“Sometimes when clothing is washed for the first time, a bit of the dye can leak out,” Mom explained.

Hannah started to cry. Red nuzzled her. His soft fur absorbed her tears.

“I’m sorry,” Logan said. “I didn’t know everything would turn purple.”



“The blue dye from Logan’s shirt mixed with the red dye in your clothes,” Mom said. “Blue, red, and yellow are primary colours. When you mix two primary colours together, you get a new colour. It’s called a secondary colour.”

Hannah thought about this. “So red and blue make purple?”

“Yep,” Mom said.

“Purple is a secondary colour?” Hannah asked.

“Yep,” Mom said.

“What are the other secondary colours?” asked Hannah.

“Orange and green,” said Mom. She grabbed her watercolour paints and showed Hannah how mixing red and blue made purple, red and yellow made orange, and yellow and blue made green.

Soon Hannah was so into mixing colours that she forgot to be sad. She painted a colourful picture of red roses, blue irises, yellow sunflowers, purple lilacs, orange marigolds, and green trees. As she painted, she decided that she now had *six* favourite colours in the whole world. She couldn’t wait to get dressed tomorrow!

