



A Voice Against Bullying

Maya couldn't stay quiet any longer. She had seen kids make fun of the new student's lunch every day for a week. On Friday, she stood up in the cafeteria and denounced their behavior.

"I want to announce something," she said, her voice shaking but strong. "The way you're treating Alex is wrong. Making fun of someone's food from their culture is not funny. It's mean and it has to stop."

At first, the cafeteria went silent. Then her best friend Tony stood up. "Maya's right," he announced. "I denounce this bullying too. My dad packs me some weird lunches. I'd feel terrible if people made fun of them."

One by one, other students shared stories about special foods from their families. By the end of lunch, even the kids who had been doing the teasing renounced their mean behavior and apologized to Alex. Sometimes it just takes one person to denounce something wrong to make a real change.