

# **The FunZen Kid**



**A Worrier to Warrior Life Lesson**

**by**

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# The FunZen Kid

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**Ryan woke up in her comfy bed.**

**The sun was shining brightly through her open window.**



**It was the first day of summer vacation and she couldn't wait to go play with her friends.**

**She hopped out of bed and ran downstairs.**



**Her mother was busy in the kitchen.**

**"Good morning Ryan," her mother said.  
"You're up early."**



**"I'm just so excited, I couldn't sleep!" said Ryan.  
"I can't wait to go swimming."**



**Her mother frowned, "Oh I'm so sorry honey. We can't go swimming this morning...."**



**"But mom!" Ryan interrupted. "Everyone is meeting at the pool."**



**"You know we have to drive to Grandma's house in a few hours," her mother said. "She needs help around the house and we promised to drive up today."**



**Ryan crossed her arms and pouted her lips in disappointment.  
"Just for a little while?" she begged.**



**"Not today," her mother said. "Besides, before we go, I  
need you to run down to Benny's Bakery and pick up a  
dozen cupcakes to take with us."**







**Ryan could be fiesty and quite determined for an 11 year old, but she knew better than to argue with her mother.**

**"Fine," she said with a sigh.**





**As Ryan stomped her way down to the bakery, she saw her friends across the street. They were on their way to the pool, laughing happily and carrying their towels and floaties.**

**"Hey Ryan," they called.  
"Aren't you coming to the pool?"**



**"I can't," Ryan replied sadly.  
"My mom won't let me."**

**"Too bad. You're going to miss all the fun,"  
her friends said as they skipped away.**





**That didn't make Ryan feel any better.**

**By the time that she got to the bakery,  
Ryan was just about ready to cry.**

**As she walked in, even the sweet smells of  
the delicious treats couldn't cheer her up.**





**Ryan sadly approached the counter with her head down, not even looking at what the bakery had to offer that day.**



**The man behind the counter asked,  
"What can I get you?"**

**"I need a dozen cupcakes," Ryan said, absentmindedly.  
"Just an assortment. I don't care what flavors."**



**"Well in that case," said the baker.  
"How about a few chocolate with  
sprinkles?"**



**"Sure," Ryan said without  
interest.**

**"You also have to get our classic  
red velvet cupcakes," the baker  
suggested.**

**"Okay," said a distracted Ryan.**



**"And a few of our special motor oil and  
vinegar?" he said looking at Ryan for a  
response.**

**Ryan just looked down and said,  
"Fine with me."**



**"Alright," the baker said as he stopped what he was doing.  
"You seem upset. What's on your mind?"**



**Ryan looked up for the first time,  
seeing the man behind the counter  
and noticing his name tag.**

**"Well Benny," she said in a sad voice.  
"It's the first day of summer vacation  
and all my friends are at the pool  
having fun, but I'm not, because I have  
to go visit my grandma today."**



**"You probably see your grandmother all the time?"  
Benny guessed.**

**"Well not really..." Ryan said. "She lives kind of far away  
so we only get to visit her every once in a while."**





**"So then, you must not like her?" Benny guessed again.**

**"No, I love my Grandma," Ryan said. "It's just that all my friends are at the pool."**



**"Oh I see. Your grandma is not much fun to be with." Benny said.**

**"Actually," Ryan countered. "She is really fun. She tells great stories and lets me help her in the kitchen."**



**Benny gave a little chuckle and said,  
"It looks like your Attitude needs a little bit of Altitude."**



**Ryan looked at him quizically,  
"What do you mean?"**





**"Well," Benny said. "Right now, you can only see part of the situation. You see not being able to go to the pool with your friends as a big problem. You also see visiting your grandmother as a big obstacle."**



**Ryan nodded in agreement.**



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