

Years 3 & 4
3rd Place: Ava Brewer
Year 3, St. John Bosco College

Alpaca vs Llama

It all started when the Prime Minister of Canada declared that two new animals were moving into the country. The whole animal world was abuzz with the news! Canada was a very sought after location, with Niagara Falls and the Rocky Mountains, who wouldn't want to make that their new habitat?

The animals of Canada were also excited. They did not know what they were getting . . . could it be a panda, a python, a bobcat or a budgie? Meanwhile, the news spread to South America.

The President made the announcement, it would be the Alpaca and the Llama, his two most hated animals. He was happy to get rid of them. He hated the way they spat at people and he thought they smelled bad. He was also sick of the constant war they had between them. Alpaca despised Llama and vice versa. They were always pulling pranks on each other, both claiming to be the better animal! They hated the way everyone always said they looked the same! "*We are completely different*", they would both think to themselves.

The day soon came for their big move. Llama was excited to finally be rid of Alpaca. Finally, no one would be constantly mixing them up or comparing them, believing he was the superior animal. Little did he know Alpaca had also been chosen to make the move.

Alpaca was excited to see who would be joining him in his migration – could it be the piranha, or even the anaconda? "*At least it won't be Llama*", he thought to himself, smiling.

They finally got to see each other at the airport and the complaining began! Llama was straight on the phone to the Prime Minister.

"Why did you choose me? All I wanted to do was get away from him, now you've put us together!"

Two minutes later Alpaca did the same.

"What have you done? Send me back!" he pleaded. "I cannot live with him".

However, the Prime Minister would not budge.

Their flight was long, with them both stewing for hours in anger. An emergency meeting was called upon landing. The animal kingdom had to come up with a way for these two to live together, or risk sending their happy days grazing the pastures into chaos! They decided the best way was to let the two live together, side by side, for a week with no one else around.

They were placed in a beautiful field filled with grass and hay.

“Wow,” said Alpaca. “They have my favourite hay!”

“That’s my favourite too,” said Llama.

“*Humph*”, they both thought to themselves, “*it still doesn’t make us friends*”.

They ate separately and in silence and went to bed that night still huffing and puffing.

The next few days went by in much the same way, with them both avoiding each other and grumbling to themselves. By the end of the week, a group of small school children were brought into the field for an excursion. As they were getting off the bus, one child tripped and fell and began to cry. His classmates immediately ran to him, picked him up and helped him over to the field.

“Look, Llamas!” they all squealed, and the scraped knee was soon forgotten.

Alpaca’s feelings were hurt, as they did not recognise the difference between him and Llama. He went and sat under a tree, and began to cry. He missed his old friends, he missed his old country. Llama saw this, and went over to Alpaca with some of his favourite hay to cheer him up, and then walked away without a word. Alpaca was overwhelmed at this kind gesture from Llama.

Meanwhile, the children all rushed to them and immediately began stroking their fur and feeding them grass. They spent the day together, playing with the children, and for the first time actually laughed together!

Later that night, Alpaca approached Llama while he was getting ready to settle in for the night.

“Thank you for your kindness today. I am surprised you would care about my feelings. I thought you hated me.”

Llama replied, “I have never hated you. I thought you hated me. We always seemed to be compared to one another. But today when I saw the children help their friend, it reminded me that we all need to show kindness to help each other through hard days. So this is what I have done for you. I can see you are missing your old life.”

Alpaca was touched, and it brought a tear to his eye.

“You are right, I am sorry for the years of fighting between us. I guess we should have spoken to each other, and we would have realised how our similarities actually make us good friends.”

They both learnt that day, to talk to each other before judging each other, and showing a little bit of kindness can go a long way.

The End