

Jordan's Story  
By Emerson Grunwald  
5th grade

"Ew...Jordan is a boy name... Jordan is your name, that's got to hurt." As Jordan walked through the hall all of these comments hit her in the face, she was used to this kind of thing by now, but yet it still hurt her feelings. "It's not my fault my parents named me Jordan, why don't they understand?" Jordan thought as she continued to walk through the hallway.

As she walked into class a few minutes later the principal was introducing the new student Lilla who came from Rhode Island. Lilla went right up to Jordan and said "I'm Lilla, and your name is Jordan right? Well, I think your name is really cool. I think it would be awesome to have a name like yours." Jordan was amazed by Lilla, she was so kind to have said that. And just to meet a person good enough to understand was so great to her. Jordan thought they would become best friends, it was that, or Lilla was being sarcastic. Jordan sure hoped not, because it felt like this was the best thing that happened to Jordan in her entire life. Well not actually, but it was pretty close to her 6th birthday party. Just to be sure, Jordan just said "thanks" as casually as she could and waited till lunch to see if Lilla would sit by her, at her lonely lunch table. Jordan went and sat at her desk and waited. One hour...two hours...three hours...One more hour until Jordan would find out if she actually had just made a new friend. Finally, it was lunch. Jordan sat down at her table, it felt like Jordan had swallowed a ton of bats and now they were beating their wings against her chest. Lilla sat down with Jordan! Jordan was so relieved. All of the bats disappeared. "So do you want to be friends?" Lilla asked with a hopeful smile. "Yeah!" Jordan blurted, "I mean, sure." Lilla giggled, Jordan laughed, soon both of them were cracking up.

It had been a month since Lilla and Jordan became friends, but nothing had changed. Everyone was ignoring Jordan and Lilla as per usual. But then a girl named Olivia, who had actually made fun of Jordan before, went up and said "I'm sorry for what I said about your name. I don't know why I thought it was weird, but I hope you understand." Jordan was glad that Olivia said that, because some other people must have been listening because the next day everyone started apologizing to Jordan! Jordan noticed that people stopped making faces at her in the hall, and stopped practically throwing a temper tantrum when the teacher chose her to be their partner for a school project. Jordan realized that this was all because of one person, and that was Lilla. When Jordan realized this she said "thank you so, so much Lilla, you inspired everyone in school to realize that names really don't matter, thank you for even wanting to be my friend in the first place." to Lilla. Lilla felt great that people were being so much nicer to Jordan than they had been. Jordan and Lilla agreed that no matter what, they would be best friends forever and ever.