“THE BEST IN HIS CLASS”

(HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR FORCED BEGGING PURPOSES.)
Lucía just arrived in town. She’s a teacher committed to the mission of educating boys and girls.

Boys and girls are excited to start the lessons.

Juan Andrés is very smart and mischievous too, but thanks to Lucía his school performance improved.

I know the answer teacher!
Juan Andrés is really good in math. Literature...

Sciences...

... and Art.

You are a great student. Have you thought about your future?

Time passes by...

It’s Juan Andrés’s birthday. His classmates have a surprise for him, but without reason, he doesn’t show up at the party.

Well, let’s cut the cake, we can save a piece for him for tomorrow.

But Juan Andrés doesn’t attend class the next day or the following days either.

Lucía explains the situation to the Principal.

I am very worried about him. Why doesn’t he come to class?

It’s very common here for children to leave school to go to work.

But it doesn’t make sense, he was determined to study.

My dream is to become a doctor.
The next day in class Lucía sees the empty desk again.

She decides to go visit him at his home.

Virginia and José are Juan Andrés's parents.

Good afternoon...

Please, come in Miss.

Please take a cup of coffee.

Please tell us, what brings you here?

Well, it’s just that I am worried about the absence of Andrés at school...

He is a very good student...

Please, don’t worry. Our neighbor came and he offered the boy a good opportunity to work with him.

He told us he’s going to learn about math, inventory and some business stuff, and also how to deal with clients.

He will pay him very well.

I understand, but he will miss school.
He is a smart boy. This is a very good opportunity for him so when he grows up he can have his own business.

We accepted the deal for the sake of Juan Andrés. We want him to be a hard-working man with a better future. Although, it hurts us that he has to leave school.

And he wants to work...

Please, don’t worry. I trust my neighbor. Maybe one day Juan Andrés will go back to school.

Ok, I see. I want the best for him too. Thanks for the coffee.

I have some paperwork to do in the city.

Lucía drives to the city.

Do as I say or things will get bad for you!
It's heartbreaking that these kids are not in school.

Ma'am, can you help me with a coin?

Buaa! I'm starving!

Miss Lucia...

What are you doing here? I thought you were working.

Sniff!

The man forces us to ask for money. He gives us a small amount of money and takes everything else. He threatens us so we don't tell anyone.
Who is this little girl?

Come on, let's go to eat some tacos!

She's the daughter of a woman who lives nearby.

Thank you!

mmmmm!!

Let me take you home...

Your classmates miss you a lot. Come back to school.

I've found these children downtown. Your neighbor deceived you. He forced the children to beg for money. He exploited them.

What?

It's true...

I can't believe it! How did it happen?

I feel so bad that he dropped out of school for that....
It's really important that we all know what the rights of children are. There are many people who take advantage of them to exploit them.

¿?

What happened to Juan Andrés is known as trafficking in persons for forced begging purposes.

When I was a little girl I went through a similar situation. Thanks to a relative that rescued me I can be the person I am now.

The best for the boy is to continue studying, and if you need help there are several organizations that can give you support. We can provide more information at school.

Ok!

I'll go back to school tomorrow!
Tonight Juan Andrés is dreaming with a wonderful future.

Next day...

I want to report a crime.

In her way to school, Lucía sees the police arresting the man. They are protecting the children that were with him.

Lucía gets to school. She feels hopeful and relieved.

Before the lesson begins...

Good morning!
May I come in?

Hello!

Juan Andrés... come in!
When the school year ends, the teacher hands out the diplomas for her students.

Congratulations on your dedication!

Lucía asks...

Well, kids. Have you thought what do you want to be when you grow up?

Juan Andrés answers:

I do, I want to be teacher!

Trafficking in persons for forced begging purposes is a reality. Spot the signs, and report any situation to the authorities at 800 55 33 00.

The End
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