

## A LITTLE STORY FOR LITTLE PEOPLE

# Mario and Chita

By GERVACIA GUARIN \*

MARIO and Chita are the best of friends. They live in a house near the school. They like each other very much, and play together under the trees and in the garden. Chita is much younger than Mario.

Mario does many things for Chita. He sees to it that she is not hurt, that she has a good bed at night, that she gets good food, and that she is kept clean. Mario does not forget what the teacher tells in class about the way to treat friends and companions.

Before Mario goes to school in the morning, he says, "Chita, I am going to school now. Stay in the house. Do not play in the street. If you do, you might be run over by an auto. I will get you something to eat when I come home. Goodbye." Chita does not say anything, but she always obeys what Mario tells her to do.

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When Mario comes home from school, Chita feels happy. She meets him at the stairs, and shows how happy she is. Then Mario says, "Here is your dinner, Chita." He watches her while she eats her food. Then he asks, "What did you do while I was away?"

With whom did you play? Did you have a bath?" Chita just looks at Mario in answer.

One day Mario and Chita were playing happily under a big acacia tree. A classmate said, "Mario, why do you do so much for Chita? You are too good to her."

Mario answered, "Don't you remember our lesson yesterday? Don't you remember what our teacher taught us about kindness to

friends and companions? I always try to do those things. Besides, Mother tells me the same things about kindness. She tells me to be kind to Chita, for Mother, too, likes my pet dog Chita.

