## Ally and the Mermaid

By Yumna

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Ally. She was living with her mom, dad and little brother in a house near the forest. Her father works all day and gets home in the evening. Ally does not help her mom at all in house work. She is lazy and depends on her mom in everything. One day, her mom got very sick. Her dad said, Ally, you need to take care of your mom, little brother, and the house work. She said, I do not know how to do that. Her dad said, I will show you how to do it and I will write you a list of the things that you need to do every day. The next day, Ally woke up late. She looked at the list and panicked. She thought no way I can do all of this. Time passed and soon her dad came home. She welcomed him. He then asked her why the house is a mess, why your little brother is crying? She did not know what to answer. She started crying and said I woke up late and did not have the time to do anything. Her dad was very upset with her. She let him down. Ally promised her dad to wake up early next day and do everything. She woke up late again. When she looked at the time she knew that she will not be able to finish everything before her dad comes back, Ally did not know what to do. Then decided to take a walk by the lake. When she got there, she started to cry. Suddenly a mermaid showed up and asked her why are you crying. Ally said, my mom is sick and I need to take care of her, my little brother and all the house work every day. I cannot wake up early and cannot do the house work before my dad comes back. The mermaid gave Ally a magic power. She told her to sprinkle it on anything and it will be done. Ally took the powder and went home. She sprinkled it on the floor and it became clean. She then sprinkled it in the kitchen and food was cooked. Ally was happy because she was able to do what her dad asked her to do. In the evening, her dad came home and was surprised that she did everything he asked her to do. The next few days, Ally did the same thing, and her dad was happy with her. A week later, Ally did not have any magic powder left. She went to the lake and waited for the mermaid to show up. Ally waited but the mermaid did not show up. Ally was sad and went home. She decided to depend on myself and make my dad happy and proud. She cleaned the house, she gave her mom her medicine, fed her little brother, and prepared dinner for her dad. She knew she made a mistake when she did not tell her dad about the magic power. When he dad came back in the evening the house was clean and dinner was ready. He dad was very happy with her. After dinner, Ally told her dad about the mermaid and the magic powder. He was upset that Ally did not tell him before but at the same time was happy that she told him the truth and stated to depend on herself. The next day Ally went for a walk near the lake then the mermaid showed up. Ally asked her why she did not show up before. The mermaid said that she wanted her to depend on herself instead of magic and to be responsible. Ally learned her lesson and changed her behavior.