

## The Mysterious Mystery

“I had never felt so nervous, and tongue tied before in my entire life. I wasn’t sure why I was feeling this way, I don’t usually feel awkward talking to people. So why today? Nothing was making sense, there was this little voice in my head stopping me from doing what I most wanted to do,” Bella confidently finished sharing her writing.

Everyone applauded.

“Wow Bella, that was a pretty good example of a narrative. Just wondering where did you get the idea from? I would really love to know,” Mrs. Tan asked.

“Well, I got the idea from a book known as the... Treacherous Chip Wreck,” Bella answered hesitantly.

“That story was the best I’ve heard from you,” the teacher added.

“Except it wasn’t written by her!” Chloe interrupted. Looking accusingly at Bella and staring at the piece of paper in her hands.

It had all started earlier in the day, when Mrs. Tan was confused and couldn’t find Nora’s writing piece.

“Nora are you sure you brought your writing in today?” she questioned.

“Yes Miss, I’m certain that I did!” Replied Nora worriedly.

But the real question was ‘where was it?’

Chloe loved solving mysteries and had recently solved some too, so she had happily accepted the offer of attempting to solve this case. Her friend Emad, (who was pretty good at being a partner for mysteries) agreed to join her in the quest of finding the missing writing.

Chloe and Emad both went looking at lunchtime, but all they could find was another writing piece in the bin. It looked dull and wasn’t like the narratives which were done by Bella, nor was it like the narratives Nora always writes. The handwriting wasn’t familiar at all either. So, no one really thought it was necessary enough for solving the case.

Suddenly, Emad had started running to the boys toilets. It was surprising, but Kyle followed him. When they reached there Emad went into all the cubicles, dashing back and forth. When he finally stopped, “There it is!” Emad grinned.

“What are you grinning about?” asked Kyle excitedly. Staring in the same direction as Emad, his eyes caught a shimmering necklace. It had pink cheetah prints, a black background, and a beautiful golden chain. It obviously belonged to a girl as it also

had 'The Best Day Girl' written on it. When Kyle looked at Emad's face, he knew that he was up to something, but the thing was he had no idea what he was thinking. Kyle had always been the dumbest, but most active person in their friendship group. But when Emad went outside and showed the pendant to Chloe, the two friends were most certainly certain about what to do next.

They both ran inside. Interrupting the applause Chloe said, "But it isn't her work!"

"What do you mean it isn't mine? It is my own handwriting!" Bella stammered.

"Well, this is what happened, Bella brought in her writing piece and then saw the others while she was about to submit her own. Looking at the rest, Bella found hers to be the worst and the most undecorative. Panicking on the thought of failing, she quickly looked for the best one in the pile, while all of us were already out for PE. Taking a blank paper and pen she ran to the bathroom to copy off Nora's writing piece. Locking herself in one of the cubicles she started scribbling. After a while, which was nearly the end of PE, she was done. But that was when she realised that she was in the boys toilet. Bella stood still in astonishment. Realising what she had done she rushed out of the boys toilets, dropping her favourite pendant." Chloe spoke.

"How would you know that it is my pendant?" Bella questioned pointing at the neck accessory in Chloe's hands.

"Hey, you were wearing that yesterday while playing with us," someone yelled from the back.

"That's how!"

Emad also had a picture of her wearing that necklace in his hands. It was the yearly class photo which was taken recently. Mrs. Tan was shocked and amazed.

"But Bella you always have such neat and productive work, how could yours be the worse?" She spoke.

"They are lying Mrs. Tan, I never copied off anyone!" Bella added on.

"Wait... my story isn't finished yet!" Chloe stated.

"Go on dear," Mrs Tan really wanted to know what the truth was, so she let Cloe speak.

"When she was finished with her work, she had to hide the evidence. Running back to the classroom she threw her own paper in the bin down the corridor, and kept Nora's work in her black, shiny folder." she ended, opening Bella's black, shiny folder to show Mrs. Tan and the rest of the class Nora's writing piece, which was hidden in it. And giving Bella's original writing piece to Bella.

“But...” the poor girl stammered.

“Wait, I think I found more evidence,” Emad jumped in the conversation.

“Just hold on a minute, guys I love the fact of you figuring all of this out for Nora, but Bella, this is not how you do your work! What happened to it?” Mrs. Tan did look very confused, so Elly stepped in. “We’ll explain that bit to you later after Emad finishes explaining his bit. Won’t we Kyle? Kyle!” I guess Kyle was too busy watching the inter school cricket match on the oval. So, Emad continued with some of the other theories. “Look at the piece Nora has made; it doesn’t end with a ‘stopping me from doing what I most wanted to do.’ It ends more like an ending. And looking back at Bella’s unoriginal and original pieces, they all end like that!” Emad exclaimed

“That is evidence for proving that this is my work!” Bella said.

“Yes, Emad I don’t see a problem here either, what is it supposed to mean?” Mrs. Tan asked. Teachers are personally supposed to know more than students, but in this case, I think we all know that the pupils in this class are the mystery solvers. It was all making sense to Elly, Chloe, Emad, and a bit to Kyle as well.

“Well, you see Mrs. Tan, what happened here was that Bella wanted to finish her 2.0 writing piece like her own, so the last paragraph is written by Bella. Also, you need to take into consideration the story doesn’t match up to the same level of the last paragraph. That is because Bella had time to finish off her work yesterday, before she had to go to bed obviously. That is the reason her stories are both identically incomplete!” Emad had a long speech, but he wasn’t so sure if it was the right speech at this point of time with everyone staring at him.

“Emad, Chloe this was an exceptional job you guys have done for us. And thinking that you are both just 11... great job! But, on the other hand, Bella! Why did you do this to Nora? And why is your real work in the bin?” she smiled at the solvers but frowned over Bella.

“You’d know once you read the original writing piece I had made,” Bella sighed. She was speaking the truth. Her original writing piece was something which belonged in the bin, yes it was that bad. After reading it, Mrs Tan knew instantly that something was wrong. Bella’s previous assignments were way better than this one. She never did her homework like this; it was a mess. “What happened to your writing, Bella?”

The thing which happened here was that Bella’s parents did all her homework assignments for her. But as they were gone for a week, Bella was forced to do her work all by herself. Mrs Tan would’ve been ok with Bella doing not so good work, as you can always improve, but when she found out that Bella stole someone’s work and had been making her parents do all her recent assignments for her...she was furious!

“This is not what I expected from you. Students are not supposed to make parents do their work,” Mrs Tan said calmly or at least trying to be calm.

“I am very sorry Miss, but I don’t ask anyone to do the work for me, my parents just want to be super nice,” Bella looked very ashamed, and her best friend Elly knew what the truth was.

“Bella’s right if your parents show their affection in too many places, grades can be affected,” Elly was not a very talkative person, so you could say that it is very brave of her to say that.

“You might be right Elly. I will go have a chat with Bella’s parents about this,” Mrs Tan concluded.

So in the end it wasn’t that bad, Nora got to read her writing fair and square. And even though Mrs Tan didn’t show it, Nora was her favourite student. Well of course Bella had a punishment for all of this - she had to rewrite everything her parents had done for her within a week.

Nora read her writing to everyone in the class.

“Wow, Nora, your writing piece is excellent. You totally smashed the topic of including people in your class for the narrative. But is this story true! Bella making her parents do her work?” Mrs Tan asked suspiciously.

“No Mrs Tan, Bella is my best friend, she would never do such a thing.” You could tell she was joking, as giggles roamed around the classroom. And, as usual, Kyle came in, running late for class...crash! With a basketball in his hands of course.

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Grade 5