

Keeping My Cool

It all started when I let my younger sister, Laura, wear and borrow my clothes, shoes, and other miscellaneous things from my closet. She'd wear a pair of my pants one day and my tennis shoes the next. I'd let Laura borrow most anything of mine. In turn, I'd wear her clothes, also. We were both fine with this arrangement. My sister has been known to get a little messy at times, but I never worried about it before, so I didn't expect what would happen next.

Not long after I had gotten a brand new outfit, Laura wanted to wear it. At first, I'd thought, "Well, maybe I shouldn't let her wear my new outfit since I had just recently got it." Then I decided that it would be okay, but she had to be especially careful with it. The next day when she got dressed, I saw she had not on just my outfit, but my shoes, and my favorite bracelet. As it turned out, Laura failed to tell me that she was having art class that day at school.

I went to school that day and came home as usual, but I thought it strange that Laura had changed into her own clothes and she was avoiding me. I finally cornered her and asked her why she had changed her clothes. Laura started crying as she tried to explain what happened. She told me that they had painted in art class that day. A little boy was taking paint to his desk to work, when he tripped and spilled non-washable paint all over her. Mom had to pick her up from school and take her home so she could change into clean clothes. I knew right away that my new outfit was ruined. After giving it some thought, I knew it wasn't Laura's fault that the outfit was trashed. I just let it go, even though deep down I wanted to cry.

After everything that happened, Laura still borrows clothes from me. I knew that she didn't ruin my new outfit on purpose. Accidents happen. It turns out that the little boy felt so bad that he gave me money to buy a new outfit. I guess I didn't lose anything that day; I just gained more self control and maturity.

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Content

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generous

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suspicious

confident

bittersweet

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forgiving

DETECT AND NAME THE VOICE

I'd Rather — I Don't Have Music

Have you ever had something you would rather do ~~that~~ than something you don't like? Well I do.

I would rather mow all of Asia than have music class. I would even mow every teeny, tiny little bit of grass on the continent.

I would go without eating my favorite food, which is chicken and noodles. I'd suffer rather than have music.

I would ^{rather} get punched in the stomach by a football player that is really really strong than have music.

There are a lot of other things I would rather do than have music. I really don't like music because we have to play recorders.

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I would rather mow all of Asia than have music class. I would even mow every teeny, tiny little bit of grass on the continent.

} *sarcastic*

I would go without eating my favorite food, which is chicken and noodles. I'd suffer rather than have music.

} *desperate*

I would ^{rather} get punched in the stomach by a football player that is really really strong than have music.

} *dramatic*

There are a lot of other things I would rather do than have music. I really don't like music because we have to play recorders.

My Worst Day Ever

My worst day ever is when my Grandpa Bob died. It was heart breaking to me. I cried for weeks and weeks until my dad and mom told me he wants to be happy and he's in a better place now. We watched videos of Grandpa Bob. He had a great life with a great family. He always called me Michelle because he had cancer and couldn't remember as well.

We picked a flower to keep for ever and ever. I still have it. And the family was there praying, while we watched them bury him on the coldest day, where nobody could see the sun. While the preacher was preaching, the sun popped out. The preacher said it was Grandpa Bob saying why are you down, you should be up. Everyone just cried, until I knew he was all right. I smiled and daddy pushed me up to the front to see everyone, and to say some stuff to let it out. So I did. I got a big reward, but nothing to hold or to spend or to play with. I got hugs and kisses from the family. And that's all I really needed after all was love and to know he's in a better place.

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*sad;
sorrowful*

hopeful

embarrassed

*grateful;
appreciative*

PROMPT: “Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.” This quotation by Mother Teresa of Calcutta demonstrates the positive effects of speaking kindly. Do you agree with Mother Teresa that kind words are easily spoken and long-lasting? Write about a time when you spoke kindly to someone, or someone offered words of encouragement to you. In your essay, describe the incident, provide specific details, and explain the impact that the person’s words had on you.

DETECT AND NAME THE VOICE

Kindness

Kindness is something that can be unexpected. When you’re having a bad day or things are just not going your way, kind words are always greatly appreciated. If a person takes the miniscule amount of time out of their day to utter a few caring words, it shows a great deal of their character. The two or three seconds it took for them to say that, can change the way they are perceived by the person they shed kindness upon. The point being made is that kind words are easily spoken, but long-lasting.

This previous September, our volleyball team was playing a game at Reitz High School. During the JV game I was positioned in the back row, and I couldn’t keep a ball in play for the life of me. I could tell my coach was fuming, and when she called one time out, I thought my playing time would be terminated. However, the varsity coach pulled me aside and sincerely told me, “Nicole relax. Take a deep breath and focus on what you’re doing. I’ve seen you pick up balls twice as hard as those. You’re a great player, you’ll be fine. Just have fun!” Something about her brief utterance of kind words got to me and when we went back out there, I still wasn’t perfect, but I was doing a lot better.

I was astounded when my coach pulled me aside and encouraged me, because she usually has steam coming out of her ears if someone isn’t playing well. I had been expecting to her to really buckle down and reprimand me, so it was shocking when she had something other than scolding in mind. It was a nice surprise though. The best part about it was that I saw a side of my coach that I had never even caught a glimpse of before. Also she was genuinely trying to make me feel better. I appreciated that, and my subsequent performance showed that it affected it immensely.

Those moments are some that I still reflect on when I find myself needing a boost. I replay those words in my head and it’s as if just those five sentences could get me through anything. Just the pure kindness intertwined within the syllables gave me the sensation of being on cloud nine. The words she uttered are some that I will take with me forever.

Kindness is one of those things that can just come out of the blue from the most random person. However, it’s also something that’s thrived upon by all human beings. Without kindness, our world would be a sad, lonely place to live. Just taking a moment out of the day to be kind to another person can change their life forever. This is the case because kindness is like a echo, you keep reviewing it in your mind and it makes you feel good all over again.

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*authoritative;
speaking from
experience*

*sarcastic;
frustrated*

encouraging

*satisfied;
content*

surprised

*grateful;
appreciative*

hopeful