ALL THINGS ARE ONE









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I walk into the house, early again as I had skipped my last class. And I am greeted with a familiar disappointed face. My mother, sitting at a small coffee table that no one ever uses, probably in an attempt to make it less obvious that she was waiting for me to show up."

"You're home early today, school finish early?"

"Y-yeah, finished early."

I had just came home from school, ready for mother to berate me with life lessons yet again. It had always been like this, it's just gotten worse since I started skipping classes.

"Then what are these calls I've been getting about you not being in class? You know you are going to need the credits right, you don't want to end up like your brother."

"Michael's doing fine, I don't know why you keep telling me this when it's not like it would be that bad if I did, as if skipping one class is going to get me working in retail for the rest of my life.

" She always brings up Michael, even though he's doing fine for himself. Just because he doesn't have a wife and kids and a house yet doesn't mean his life is in shambles.

"You'd be surprised, a lot of places don't want people working there if they can't pass level one math. You have no reason not to try in school, yet you choose not to. But don't worry, McDonalds will always accept you!" She said in a clearly sarcastic tone.

Ah, of course. The 'you're going to end up working at McDonalds' argument. As if skipping a class is going to ruin my chances at all career paths besides customer service.

Maybe if I was given a reason to try I would, maybe if I didn't come home to be screamed at every day over school I wouldn't resent it so much, maybe if I could learn something interesting that could help me in the future instead of calculus then I might be more motivated.







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I had begun to walk into the living room, but she followed me to continue arguing.

"Believe it or not, you do have the ability to stay in class for more than ten minutes. You just don't pay attention."

As if I should care about some of the stuff I'm being taught, it's not as if I'm going to be working out the length of a specific side of a triangle outside of a maths classroom.

"Okay. So I got bored again. It isn't easy being me."

"Yeah, but you've got choices."

I sat down on the rugged grey sofa in our living room, may as well be comfortable as I'm insulted.

"What do you mean I've got choices? Don't you?"

The moment those last two words came out of my mouth my mother's face seemed to almost click, as if I had fallen into her trap card.

"Do you think that I can realistically look for another job when I already get close to no time to myself every day? I would be putting not only myself, but my house, your education, your place to stay, and so much more at risk."

I froze up, I didn't even know where to begin to respond to that. The room remained silent for a sufficiently awkward 20 seconds, as if someone just muted the entire neighbourhood.

I sighed, partly to break the silence, but mostly because I've realised she's right.

"Fine ... Maybe I should start taking school more seriously, I haven't thought about it like that."







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She smiled at me, realising her victory. A little childish, but it's hard to be mad at her when I know she's only doing this for the better of my future. "I've wizened with age, at least one of my children is listening to the advice I give."

"Maybe I won't skip class then. Give you a little more from your investment in me."

"It would mean the world to me."







Feedback

Grade Score: Achievement with Merit

Marker Commentary:

You have written a compelling narrative that effectively explores the tension between a student and their mother over the issue of skipping classes. Your use of dialogue is particularly strong, capturing the frustration and concern of both characters. The narrative flows well, and you have managed to create a believable and relatable scenario that many readers can connect with.

Your vocabulary and syntax are appropriate for your age group, and you have shown a good understanding of how to structure your writing to advance the story. The internal monologue of the protagonist adds depth to the character and helps the reader understand their perspective. Additionally, your use of sarcasm and irony through the mother's dialogue adds a layer of realism to the conversation.

However, there are a few areas where you could improve. Some sentences are a bit long and could benefit from being broken up to improve readability. For example, "Maybe if I was given a reason to try I would, maybe if I didn't come home to be screamed at every day over school I wouldn't resent it so much, maybe if I could learn something interesting that could help me in the future instead of calculus then I might be more motivated," could be split into shorter sentences for better clarity.

Additionally, while your narrative is engaging, it could benefit from more descriptive language to create a vivid picture of the setting and characters. This would help to immerse the reader further into the story.

Target:

Work on breaking up longer sentences to improve readability and clarity. Also, try to incorporate more descriptive language to create a vivid picture of the setting and characters. This will help to engage your audience even more and make your narrative more compelling.





