



HELPING HAND




Okay, everyone.
Hand in your assignments from
yesterday.



Is that
everyone?



I'm
missing...



Dan, did you
do the
homework
I assigned
yesterday?

What
work?

Your English
assignment.

Oh, that
work.
I forgot
again.

I don't know how
long we can keep
this up, Dan.
You're falling
behind again.



I can't keep after you when I've got so many other students that need help.

So I've asked for some extra help for you.



Come in, please.



WROCK WROCK

Dan, this is Miss Pine - one of our teacher's aides.



Good morning, Mrs. Rose. I was told you might need my assistance.



Yes, very much so. This is Dan. He's been having trouble keeping up in class, as well as not completing his homework.



I see. I think I can help.

Hi, Dan. How are you doing?



Pretty good, I guess. I mean, yeah, I wish I was outside and stuff.



Well, I can understand that. I think I can help you get your work done so you can go outside and play.

Really?

Well, I hope so. Wanna take a little walk with me?

Sure, I guess.



I noticed you like to draw. They're pretty impressive. What was that? An elf?

Yeah.



I've got a whole bunch of them back home.

Really? Can you bring them to school?

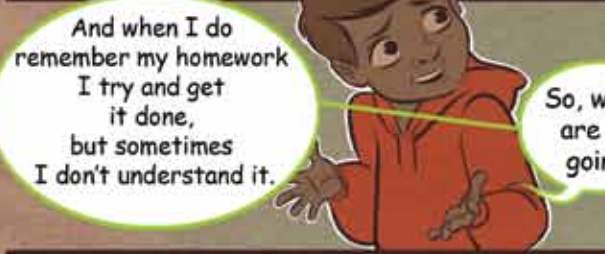
I'd like to see them.

Sure.



So, can you tell me why it's been so hard to get your work done?

I just forget when I get home. We've got a huge backyard. I like playing out there after school since I don't get a chance during recess.



And when I do remember my homework I try and get it done, but sometimes I don't understand it.

So, where are we going?



Just around this corner to my office.



Well, it's easy to see that you've got a lot of energy. What we need to work on is your concentration. And I'm going to help you as best I can.



Really?

You know it.



We're going to go over some lessons you missed in your work book.

Okay, sure.



Back on task, please.



Are you having a problem with the question?

Um... Yeah, a little.

It's okay to be stuck.

And it's even okay to ask for help. That's why I'm here.

I feel stupid sometimes when I don't know it.

Yeah, I know. It's just... well, it's just embarrassing.



You're not stupid and don't be afraid to ask questions.



Okay. Well, I'm having a hard time with this one...

LATER

Good work today, Dan. I'm going to give you a little tip to help you remember important things.

Since you like to draw, how about this; draw a picture of your school books and write homework underneath it.

Do as many questions as you can. Then what ever you don't get, we'll go over the next day. Sound like a plan?

Since this is something new, I'm going to give you a little reminder.

Tape it to your door. That way, when you get home, it will remind you to do your work.

Yeah. I'll do my best.

AFTER SCHOOL



Oh, yeah!



A MONTH LATER





THE END

DENE'S STORY

ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY.
PUT YOUR BOOKS ASIDE.
I SHOULD ONLY SEE
PENCILS ON YOUR DESKS.

MATH TEST DAY !!

GOOD LUCK, DENE.

YOU CAN START NOW.
YOU HAVE 30 MINUTES
TO COMPLETE THE TEST.

WHAT THE--?

HOW CAN A NUMBER
PLUS A LETTER
EQUAL A NUMBER?
I DON'T GET IT.

DID EVERYONE DO THEIR READING ASSIGNMENT LAST NIGHT?

GOOD. LET'S DISCUSS IT. IN THE THIRD CHAPTER, WHEN MR. MORRISON SAYS, "EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING," WHAT EVENT IS HE ACTUALLY REFERRING TO?

HOW CAN A CLOUD HAVE A SILVER LINING?

IT'S JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH, DENE. IT MEANS THAT SOMETHING GOOD CAME OUT OF SOMETHING BAD.

OH. THEY SHOULD JUST SAY THAT THEN.

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. THEY COULD HAVE. BUT NOT EVERYTHING IN ENGLISH CLASS IS AS IT APPEARS.

LATER..

HELLO? YES, THIS IS DENE'S MOM.
OH... I UNDERSTAND. TOMORROW'S FINE.
THANK YOU.

HEY. HOW WAS SCHOOL TODAY?

OKAY. I GUESS.

WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?

I DUNNO.
SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE
I DON'T BELONG
IN MY CLASS, YOU
KNOW?

I KEEP TRYING BUT I
JUST DON'T GET SOME STUFF.
I WISH I KNEW WHAT
I WAS DOIN' WRONG!

YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING WRONG.
SCHOOL IS GETTING HARDER FOR YOU.

MAYBE WE CAN FIGURE
OUT ANOTHER WAY.

YOUR TEACHER MADE AN APPOINTMENT
FOR US TO CHECK OUT ANOTHER
SCHOOL TOMORROW--
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.



DO YOU THINK IT WILL HELP ME?



WE SHOULD SEE WHAT THEY HAVE TO OFFER AND GO FROM THERE.



OKAY, AWESOME. UM, MOM?

YES, SON.



THANKS FOR LISTENING.



I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE FOR YOU.



GOOD MORNING, DENE. I'M GLAD YOU AND YOUR MOM WERE ABLE TO MAKE IT.



THANK YOU.



I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE HAVING A TOUGH TIME WITH SOME OF YOUR CLASSES.

UH, A LITTLE. WELL, A LOT, ACTUALLY.



TELL ME MORE.



I'M CONFUSED ALL THE TIME. I TRY, BUT THERE'S SOME STUFF I JUST DON'T GET.

AND SOMETIMES THE TEACHER TALKS TOO MUCH. BY THE TIME SHE FINISHES, I FORGET WHAT SHE SAID AT THE BEGINNING.



OKAY, I UNDERSTAND. WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT WE HAVE A PROGRAM HERE THAT CAN HELP YOU DO BETTER IN SCHOOL?



UH, I GUESS THAT SOUNDS GOOD.



WELL, WE WOULD BE HONORED IF YOU WOULD JOIN US.



DO YOU THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO GET BETTER AT MATH?

OF COURSE!



REALLY?



YOU WON'T REGRET IT.



MY MOM SAID YOU GUYS OFFER MUSIC CLASSES?

THAT'S SWEET.

YOU THINK MAYBE I CAN BRING MY KEYBOARD?



OF COURSE YOU CAN. MAYBE WE CAN EVEN GET YOU TO SHARE YOUR TALENT WITH THE OTHERS.

SHARE? LIKE TEACH?



AND MENTOR.
YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE
OUR CIRCLE STRONGER.



I'M THERE!

DRAWING HOPE

IF YOU LIKE THE STORY SO FAR AND
WANT TO SEE THE REST, PLEASE
SEND AN EMAIL TO

SEAN@THEHEALTHYABORIGINAL.NET

TO ORDER COPIES