

## **The School Project Makes the Difference**

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### **RILEY**

As you walk to school, you're listening to Miles complain, "I can't believe she expects us to 'enjoy' this project! Why would I like to go out of my way to make a big difference, I mean, I make a difference every day when I feed my dog. Why would I want to make a special one just to get a good mark? Plus, this mark is for Science, SCIENCE!"

"Maybe this could be good for you Miles "you say.

Miles replies "What! Are you kidding? Did Mr. Rellonds get in your head? There is NO way this could be 'good for me'. All this is is a waste of time! Also, why do you care if I like my project or not?"

You slowly answer "Well, maybe you could try really hard on this project and maybe....learn to be nicer."

Miles yells "NO, NO, NO, no way!"

You're suddenly more confident "YES, YES, YES, yes way, you need to understand integrity, you can't just do the right thing for a good mark or any other reason. You have to do the right thing just to do the right thing!"

Miles starts laughing and then says "Oh, Riley I get it, you're practicing your 'Do Right' monologue for Drama. Can you believe I almost believed you?"

You sigh and continue walking. After a while you ask "So, what are you going to do for your project?"

Miles answers "I don't know, probably just help my grandma cross the street or something easy."

You think to yourself “Why am I friends with him?” Finally you arrive at your house and say bye to Miles.

All night the only thing you can think of is what Miles said. You wonder if it really is just Mr. Rellonds getting to your head or if you really care about Miles and want him to be a good person. You think maybe you care a little too much, but you turn yourself away and remind yourself that you have been friends with Miles since you were young and that is the way it will stay, nothing more.....ZZZZZZZZZZ.

## **MILES**

You yell, “MOM! I found the keys! Let’s go!”

Your mother replies “Okay, thanks honey, meet you in the car”

You meet your parents in the car. Your father asks if you are ready. You and your siblings Maverick, and Malie reply “READY! “. You are so excited! It is the first time you have ever been allowed to go to the ‘Nia Fest’. The ‘Nia Fest is a festival your town throws every four years, because of this you have never been able to go. Your brother went last festival and said it was awesome, so you can’t wait!

You are finally almost there and all the roads are empty because everyone is at the fest. You see a car in a parking lot, but everything is closed because of the festival so you are confused. You try to look closer to see but instead of seeing a parked car with nobody in it, you see a woman shaking in the car. It looks like she is having a seizure.

You want to go help her but the thought of missing the festival seems so awful to you, it is the last day the fest is on and there are only a few hours left. If you went to save the woman you would miss the fest. There is no one around to see if you did save her or not which means you wouldn’t be famous or anyone people would talk about. You look around the inside of your family’s car to see if anyone else noticed the woman, but everyone else is looking towards the fest. This means no one could get mad at you if you didn’t save the woman. You also wouldn’t get a prize, so you don’t think you should do it.

You don’t know what to do!

Right before the car is about to turn the corner and leave the woman's view, Riley's words skim your brain. You remember what she said about integrity. Suddenly the words run out of your mouth.....You scream "STOP!" Your car screeches against the road as your father hits the breaks. You quickly explain why you wanted to stop and your whole family understands. You jump out of your car and lead your family to the woman. Your dad is a doctor so he takes a quick look at the woman and confirms your observation. The woman is having a seizure.

You have to get her out of the car. Your family splits up to look for a rock to break the window but you decide to search around the car. You realize the sunroof is open! You call your family over and Malie gets on Maverick's shoulders to get into the car. She's in! Your Mother directs Malie to the lock to unlock the car. The car is unlocked! Your Father rushes in to help the woman while you call an ambulance. Once the ambulance arrives your family escorts the woman to the hospital.

After a while the nurse comes out with news. The woman is okay thanks to you! If she was left any longer she could've died.

After many, many thank you's, you are finally back home. You missed the 'Nia Fest', but you feel amazing. The first person you text when you get home is Riley. You want to thank her for teaching you about integrity and you want to ask her..... on a date!

The next day when you walk to school with Riley, you can't thank her enough because now you and Riley both know how to make a difference. Even if all Riley did was teach you how to make a difference, she helped you and all you had to do is listen.

You think to yourself "Maybe this school project isn't so bad"!