**Library**

We spend the rest of our lunch break studying, and thankfully by the time we finish up Prim seems to have a more solid grasp on the material. Guess I wasn’t totally useless after all.

Hopefully.

Prim (shy down): …

Prim (shy smiling\_eyes\_closed): Thank you. I feel a lot more confident now.

Prim (shy surprise):

Pro: I’m a little embarrassed to say this, but same.

Prim (shy smiling): That’s good.

Prim (shy shy): Studying with someone else does really help. Now I’ll be able to play piano tonight.

Pro: Um…

Pro: You’re still gonna study, right?

Prim (shy hehe): Heh…

Prim (shy smiling\_eyes\_closed): I’ll study a bit.

Pro: Just a bit…?

Prim (shy shy): ...

Prim: More than a bit.

Pro: Alright…

Is she really gonna be okay…?

Prim (shy earnest): After today I feel like I’ll be able to do pretty well. Before I wasn’t able to do some of these questions…

Prim (hiding book):

She holds up her notebook for me to see.

Prim: ...but now they’re no problem.

I note the happiness that surges in me at her success, and I can’t help but wonder if this is how Prim feels when she learns a music piece after hours of practicing.

This isn’t bad.

Prim (arms\_behind shy):

Pro: Well, I guess I’m in no position to lecture you about studying…

Pro: Do your best tomorrow though, okay?

Prim (arms\_behind earnest):

She nods emphatically.

Prim (arms\_behind smiling\_eyes\_closed): Thank you.

Pro: No problem, no problem.

Prim (arms\_behind surprise):

Pro: Oh shoot, classes are gonna start soon. We’d better get going.

Prim: Oh, yeah.

Prim (exit):

We hastily pack up our things and throw away our trash, and after bidding each other a quick goodbye we both head back to our own classrooms.

**Hallway**

My journey, however, encounters an obstacle in the form of Mick, who stops me as I pass by his classroom.

Mick (arms\_crossed skeptical): …

Pro: Um…

He stares at me for a little longer, causing me to wonder if it really was me he wanted to talk to.

Pro: If there’s nothing…

Mick (arms\_crossed neutral): How was practice?

Pro: Hm?

Pro: Oh, it was pretty good. We got there early and got back without any issues.

Mick (neutral indifferent): I see. That’s good to hear.

Mick (embarrassed neutral): Um…

Mick (embarrassed embarrassed): Thanks. For going with her.

…

Huh?

Mick (embarrassed away): I quit playing an instrument this year to join a club, so I feel a little bad about getting you to replace me.

Pro: Oh, uh…

Mick (neutral sigh):

Pro: Don’t worry about it. It’s not like I have anything better to do.

Mick (neutral neutral):

He nods slowly, and I start to get the feeling that he’s as awkward as Prim.

Pro: Well, we should probably both get ready for class. It’s about to start.

Mick (neutral curious): Oh, right.

Mick (neutral neutral): I’ll see you around, I guess.

Pro: Yeah.

Mick (exit):

Mick ducks back into his classroom as I start to head back, hoping that Ms. Tran won’t give me too much trouble if I show up late.

That was certainly unexpected, though.