**Front of School**

I end up bringing an umbrella anyways, but by the time I get to school all the clouds have cleared out. A little bummed that I carried it all the way here for basically nothing, I head over to the umbrella rack and leave it there, finding that other students and even a teacher are doing the same.

Ms. Tran: …

Ms. Tran: What?

Pro: Um, nothing at all…

Ms. Tran stares at me with what I can only describe as extreme apprehension, the uncomfortable tension between us making my muscles go stiff. I have no idea why she’s so on edge, and, wanting to avoid a catastrophic conflict if possible, I back away as slowly as possible and try to defuse the situation.

Pro: Kind of rare, seeing you arrive this late. I thought teacher’s were supposed to come earl-

Ms. Tran: Right, right, right, I get it so you don’t need to go on. Teachers are supposed to set an example for the students, and being late is a failure as both a professional and an adult…

Pro: Um, I wasn’t gonna say that…

Ms. Tran: But don’t you think it’s unfair? If a student sleeps in because of a sleepless night then nobody cares, but if I do the same thing all of a sudden my bonu-

She cuts herself off and looks around alarmedly, realizing that people are watching her with piqued curiosities.

Ms. Tran: …

Ms. Tran: Well, I’m *technically* not late, and I did my prep last night so I should *technically* be in the clear.

Ms. Tran: All I’ll have to do is sit through a lecture from the head teacher, and then I should be able to make it through unscathed.

Ms. Tran: Hmm…

Ms. Tran: It would help to have a witness though. Someone from my class who could vouch for me would be nice…

Pro: Huh…?

Pro: Why are you looking at me? Your problems are your own.

Ms. Tran: Oh? I guess you must really like your remedial lessons.

Pro: Geh…

For a “working adult”, she’s actually pretty childish…

Pro: Alright, alright.

Pro: Is it really that bad, though? Being late.

Ms. Tran: Well, it’s probably not as bad as I made it seem, but the head teacher can be pretty strict. Especially with repeat offenses.

Pro: I see.

Ms. Tran: Oh, and for the record I was joking about needing a witness. I thought your reaction would be funny, and you didn’t disappoint.

Pro: I see…

I let out a sigh, unsure of whether I should be relieved or annoyed.

Ms. Tran: Well, I need to drop by the office before going to class, so I’ll be going now.

Ms. Tran: You’d better not be late, so get a move on.

Pro: Yes ma’am.

And with that she briskly walks away.