**Classroom**

Teacher (neutral neutral): Well, that’s enough for today. You’re dismissed.

Teacher (exit):

The class lets out a collective sigh. Today’s lessons were particularly brutal, which, surprisingly enough, made them a bit more interesting.

I put my head down on my desk, trying to momentarily drown out my classmates discussing their plans for after school. However, I’m interrupted by the one that sits next to me.

Asher (neutral cheerful): So, how’d you find it today?

Pro: It was a tough battle, but I managed to survive.

Asher (laughing sarcastic): How heroic.

Asher (laughing recovering):

Despite the fact that he’s smarter, more athletic, and more popular than I am, Asher’s been my friend since we started high school. I guess anybody would grow on you if you sat next to them for over a year.

Asher (neutral smiling):

Pro: Time goes by so slowly in school. Seconds turn into minutes…

Asher (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): …and minutes into hours. Yep, I know.

Asher (neutral curious): Oh, by the way, are you free now?

Pro: Why?

Asher (neutral smiling\_nervous): Sorry to ask you this, but I’m on cleaning duty, but I have to do something in a bit, so could you help out?

Pro: Ah, sorry…

Asher (neutral neutral):

Pro: I’m actually supposed to meet a friend now.

Asher (neutral smiling): Ah, okay. Well, have fun then. I’ll manage, I guess.

Pro: Thanks, and sorry again. I’ll see you later then.

Asher (waving smiling) : See you!

Asher (exit):

I get up, stretch, and head out, feeling a little guilty about leaving Asher to fend for himself, but not guilty enough to stay behind and help. Maybe next time.

**Front of School**

Mara (neutral neutral):

As I go outside, I see Mara waiting for me, as usual. Her classes finish a little earlier than mine, so whenever we decide to do something she meets me here.

Mara (waving smiling\_eyes\_closed):

Mara looks around as I approach and beckons me over when she spots me.

Mara (neutral hehe): Hey, Pro. You fall asleep in class again today?

Pro: Almost, but no.

Mara (surprise feigning\_surprise): Huh? For real???

Pro: Why do you look so surprised…

Mara (neutral smiling): Well, I mean…

Mara (neutral hehe): Hehe.

Mara (neutral ouch):

I sigh and flick her on the forehead.

Mara: Ow…

Pro: Where are we going again? I may have forgotten.

Mara (neutral disappointment): Already? We’re going to that store, remember? The new one?

Pro: Oh, right.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: Well, no point in standing around. Let’s get going.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Yes sir!