**Classroom**

Afternoon classes go by as usual, and when we’re finally dismissed I quickly pack up my bags and head towards the door, ready to go home and relax.

Teacher (neutral stern): Pro.

I freeze, knowing full well what’s gonna happen next.

Teacher (neutral neutral): Wait here.

Teacher (exit):

Barely able to keep the sigh from escaping my mouth, I nod and return back to my desk, unsure of what exactly I did. I don’t think I fell asleep in class today, and if I did I definitely don’t remember it.

I watch as the rest of my classmates trickle out of the room, wishing that I was leaving with them. Hopefully I won’t have remedial classes tomorrow…

Teacher (neutral neutral): So…

Teacher (neutral disappointed):

I gulp and hold my breath, much to Ms. Tran’s disappointment.

Teacher (neutral curious): Relax, I’m not mad. Have you completed that career form?

Pro: Um…

Truth is, I totally forgot about it.

Teacher (neutral disappointed):

Pro: I haven’t really been able to come up with anything.

Teacher (neutral sigh):

She sighs.

Teacher (neutral disappointed): Try to get it done soon, alright? It’s not really urgent, but it would be in your best interest to finish it as soon as you can.

Pro: Yeah.

Teacher (neutral sincere): How’ve you been holding up recently? Doing okay?

Pro: Um, yeah.

Teacher (neutral smiling\_slightly): That’s good. Now, because you didn’t hand in your career form, you’re gonna help me carry these back to the library.

She gestures towards a box of books near the door.

Pro: Do I have to…?

Teacher (neutral annoyed): Is that even a question?

Pro: No ma’am…

Teacher (neutral smiling\_slightly): Well then, get to it. I’ll be in my office, so find me when you’re done.

**Hallway 2**

The boxes were heavier than I expected, and it took me three trips back and forth to the library to move them all. Half an hour later, my arms feel like they’re gonna fall off.

As I make my way to the office, I notice that even though classes ended a while ago, the school is still lively and packed, filled with students engaged in their club activities. It’s a little surprising, but I know that’s because I usually go straight home at the end of the day.

Teacher (neutral smiling): Finally finished, huh? Wait here.

She disappears inside and re-emerges with a popsicle which she hands to me.

Pro: Is this my payment…

Teacher (neutral neutral): Well, it’s half of your payment.

Pro: What’s the other half?

Teacher (neutral grinning): No remedial lessons tomorrow.

Teacher (neutral laughing):

She laughs after seeing the look on my face.

Teacher (neutral smiling): I’m just joking. Just make sure you don’t fail the next test.

Pro: I’ll do my best.

Teacher (neutral menacing): Actually, you’d better not fail the next one, especially if you’re going to the game tomorrow.

Teacher (laughing laughing):

I choke on my popsicle, and she starts laughing again.

Teacher (laughing recovering): Sorry, sorry…

Teacher (neutral smiling): It’s been a long week, and now that it’s over I’ve already started to unwind.

Pro: Oh yeah, you didn’t seem too happy today.

Teacher (neutral neutral):

Ms. Tran’s expression all of a sudden grows somber, and I find myself wishing that I didn’t mention anything.

Teacher (neutral sigh): Is that so…

Teacher (neutral disappointed):

I guess teachers have their own lives to deal with as well.

Teacher (neutral sincere): Well, it’s not a student’s job to worry about their teacher. Make sure to get some studying done this weekend even if you’re gonna go watch Lilith play baseball.

Teacher (neutral annoyed): Kids these days…

Teacher (neutral disappointed): Well, you better enjoy being young while you can, so have fun tomorrow.

Pro: Um… I will. Thanks.

Teacher (exit):

And with that, I awkwardly shuffle away, realizing that I’ve been staring into the abyss for the past few minutes. If that’s what adulthood has in store for me, then I want nothing to do with it.