**Classroom**

Having caught a mild case of Mara’s optimism, I arrive to class late, hopeful that Ms. Tran will let me off the hook like yesterday. However, I have no such luck, and after a scolding, I find out that I’ll be visiting her office at lunch.

I manage to stay up throughout all my morning classes out of fear for my life, and when the lunch bell rings a knot forms in my stomach. I gulp and mentally prepare myself for what’s coming.

?Petra: Hey.

Petra (neutral neutral):

A feminine voice catches my attention, and it turns out to be Petra’s.

Pro: What’s up?

Petra (neutral neutral): Where’s Asher?

Petra (neutral annoyed):

Asher (neutral nervous): Oh, Petra. Hey there…

Petra (neutral indignant):

Asher (neutral smiling\_nervous):

I watch in amusement as Petra starts to half-jokingly tell off Asher for not telling her about my invitation. It’s nice to be on this side of things for once.

Asher: Yeah, sorry…

Asher (neutral playful): I thought it’d be pretty funny though, having you ask him.

Pro: It was pretty funny.

Petra (neutral embarrassment): It was embarrassing…

Petra (neutral sigh):

Asher (neutral laughing):

Petra sighs while Asher and I laugh.

Asher (neutral smiling):

Petra (neutral drained): Well, the numbers have finally evened out, so I can rest easy now.

Asher (neutral curious): How many people did you manage to get?

Petra (neutral nervous): Um…

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous): Four guys and four girls…

Asher (neutral smiling\_nervous): Ah…

For a reason I don’t understand, they both let out a nervous laugh.

Petra (neutral expressionless):

Asher (neutral smiling): Well, you did your best I guess.

Pro: Four and four? Isn’t that a lot?

Asher (neutral thinking): Well…

Asher (neutral surprise):

Petra (neutral surprise):

Teacher (arms\_crossed menacing):

Before Asher can explain, Ms. Tran gives me the death glare from the door. After sheepishly excusing myself I follow after her, hoping that all my bodily functions will remain intact by the time I get back.

**Teacher’s Office**

However, as soon as we enter the office she deflates, turning to me with a half-disappointed half-worried expression.

Teacher (neutral concerned): So? Why were you late?

Pro: I, uh…

Pro: I slept in.

Teacher (neutral disappointed): You know…

Teacher: In the past month you’ve been late more times than all of your first year. I know your body’s changing and you may need more sleep, but try to do so in a way that doesn’t affect your studies.

Teacher (neutral expressionless): But I get wanting to sleep in. If I could sleep in every day, I would…

Pro: I see.

That was unexpected.

Teacher (neutral neutral): Well, that’s it.

Pro: That’s it?

Teacher (neutral smiling\_slightly): Yup, yup.

Teacher (arms\_crossed smug): Oh, I heard from Asher that he’s dragging you along to a mixer or something?

Pro: Yeah…

Teacher (neutral grinning): That’s punishment enough for you. Try not to make a fool of yourself.

Pro: Thank you for your vote of confidence.

Teacher (neutral laughing): No problem.

Teacher (neutral smiling): Now get back to class, I wanna eat.