

The Eraser

“That’s the last spelling word,” Mrs. Rollins announced. “Make sure to look over your answers before you turn in your test.”

Ellie quickly scribbled the last word down on her paper. Ellie loved spelling. This test was just for practice, but she still wanted to do well. As she looked over her answers, she noticed that her friend David had spelled the last word differently. Ellie looked at her own paper and realized her word had an extra letter. She erased the extra letter, and went up to the front of the room to turn in her paper.

For the rest of the day, Ellie felt guilty. She hadn’t looked at David’s answers on purpose, but she knew she shouldn’t have copied what he wrote. Ellie didn’t say anything about the spelling test. Maybe if Ellie didn’t tell anyone, she could forget about her mistake.

But no matter what she did, Ellie couldn’t stop thinking about the test. At lunch, Ellie had a sick feeling in her stomach, and she only ate a few bites of her sandwich.

After school was over, Mom came to walk Ellie home. Ellie quietly took Mom’s hand and hoped she wouldn’t ask about the spelling test.

“How did your spelling test go?” Mom asked as they walked away from the school.

Ellie felt tears start to well up in her eyes, and she started to snifle. “I-I cheated,” Ellie whispered. “I didn’t mean to, and now I feel really bad.”

Mom leaned down and gave Ellie a hug. “It’s okay, sweetie,” Mom said. “Everybody makes mistakes. The important part is that we repent.”

“How do I do that?” Ellie asked. Ellie’s primary class had talked about repentance the week before. Sister Clines had drawn a picture on the whiteboard and erased it to show how Heavenly Father erases sins when people repent. But Ellie wasn’t sure how to repent for cheating.

“Well,” Mom said, “you start by telling Heavenly Father that you’re sorry for what you did and promise you’ll never do it again. Then, you try to fix whatever you did wrong.”

“How can I fix it?” Ellie asked. “I already took the spelling test.”

“You could apologize to Mrs. Rollins tomorrow,” Mom suggested.

“That’s a good idea,” Ellie said with a smile. She skipped the rest of the way home. She already felt so much lighter.

The next morning, Ellie got to her classroom early and walked up to Mrs. Rollins’s desk.

“Hi, Ellie,” Mrs. Rollins said. “What can I help you with?”

Ellie looked down at the ground. “I copied David’s answer to the last word on my spelling test yesterday. I’m sorry, and I won’t do it again.”

“Thank you for being honest, Ellie,” Mrs. Rollins smiled. “I’ll regrade your test.”

Ellie smiled back. She was happy she had told the truth. She knew that Heavenly Father was proud of her and that her sins had been erased.