

A Story by Miranda Rahn

The Plagiarism Predicament



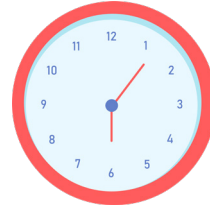
A Story of Ethics & Equality

Illustrations by Colorfuel Studio

The
Plagiarism Predicament:
A Story of Ethics and Equality

A Story by Miranda Rahn
Illustrations by Colorfuel Studio

One day, Nick and Nina



were discussing a very tough assignment...

I'm such a bad writer! I am going to have AI do this assignment for me.

Said Nick

Paper due tomorrow!

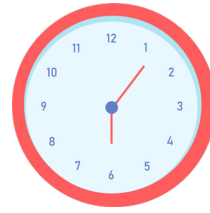
Why would you do that?

Asked Nina



Because Nina,
EVERYONE is doing it!
About half of all college
students use AI to
complete their work¹...
what's the harm?

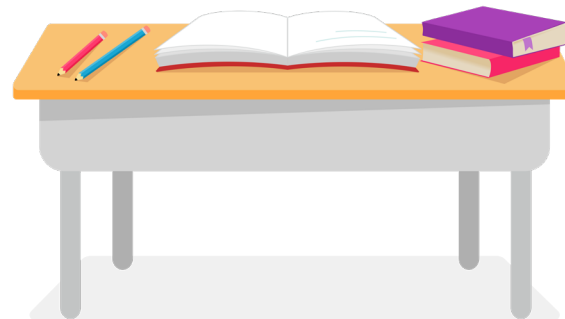
Said Nick



Paper due tomorrow

But I heard the teachers
are using Turnitin now to
detect AI in our work! And
Turnitin claims their false
positive rate is less than
1%²!

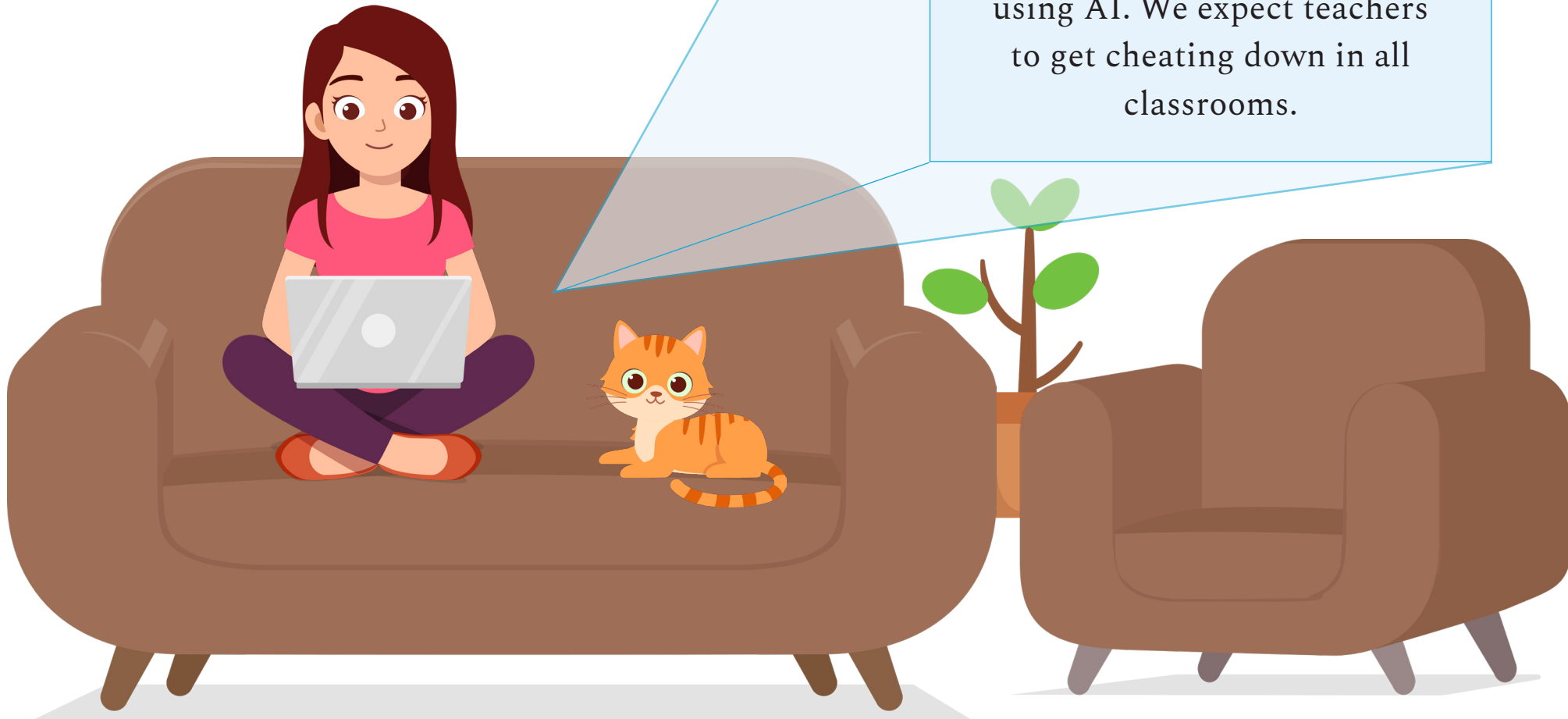
Said Nina



But Nick decided to use AI anyway...

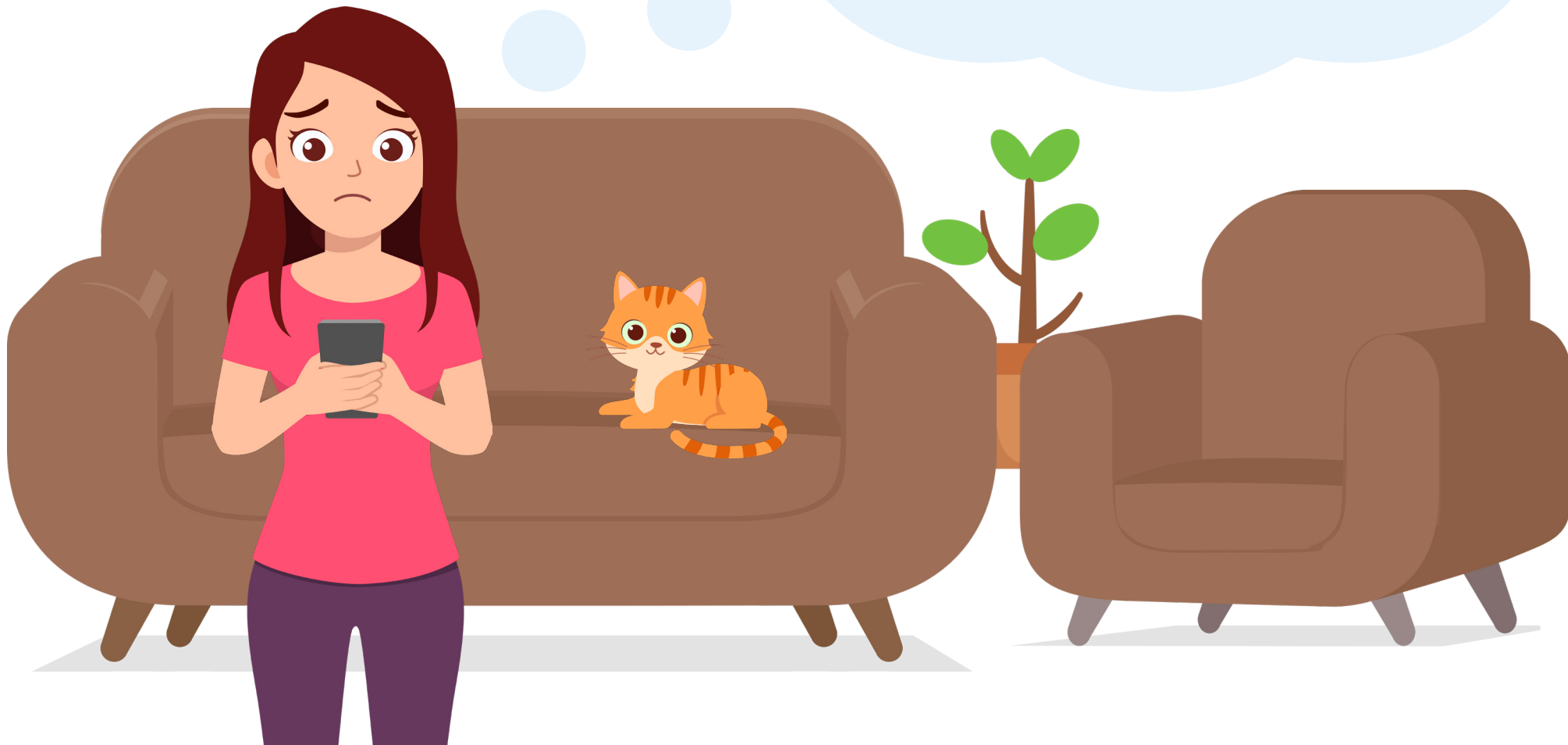
Meanwhile... Teacher Marissa
received an email from
The Administration

According to ACM Code of Ethics rule 1.3, all student's work must be honest and trustworthy³, therefore we are implementing a new rule. All teachers must use the Turnitin AI detection software to check if students are cheating using AI. We expect teachers to get cheating down in all classrooms.

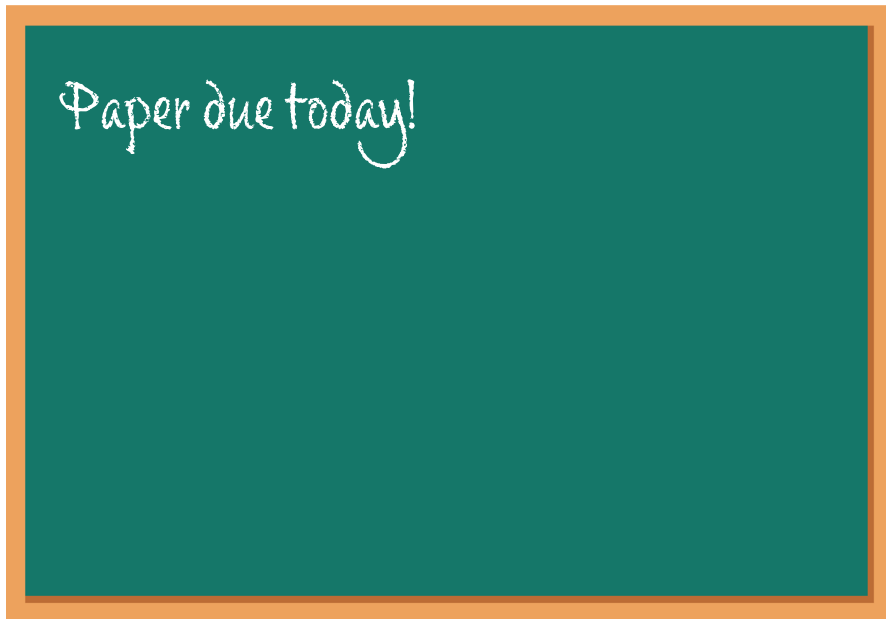


This made Teacher
Marissa wonder...

Should the Indiana University
administration implement Turnitin's AI
writing detector into Canvas for faculty
use to check student work, thereby
upholding academic integrity, despite
the potential for false positives and
creating concerns regarding fairness?

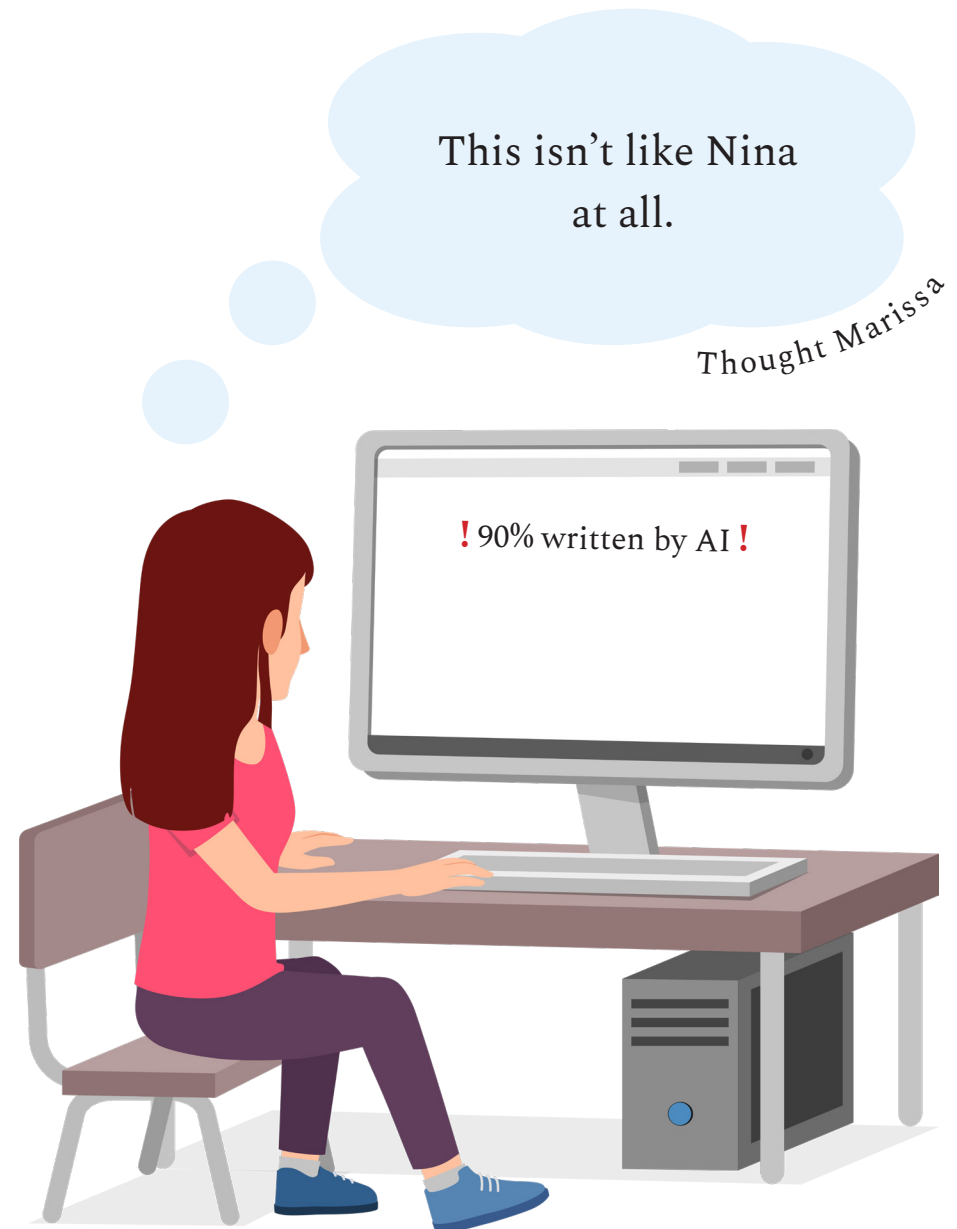


When it was time to grade all the student's papers, Teacher Marissa ran each paper through the new Turnitin software like she was told to do.



But she noticed something weird...

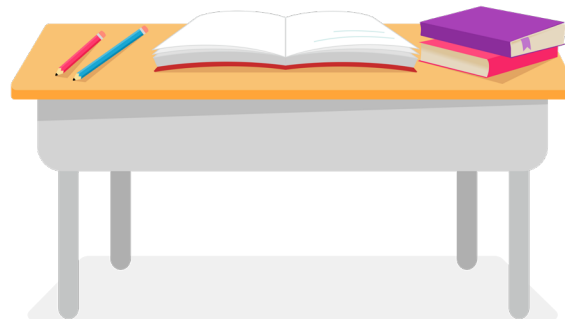
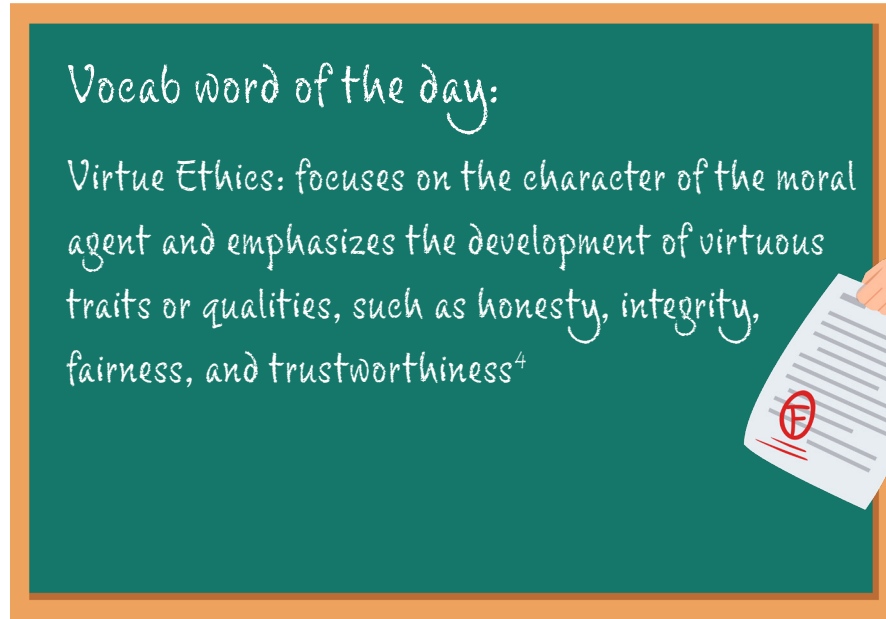
Nina's paper had come back as being 90% written by AI!



Nina told Teacher Marissa that she didn't use AI to write her paper. She didn't want to tell on Nick, he could get expelled after all.



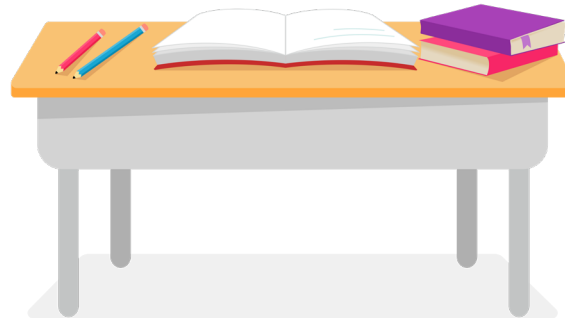
But Teacher Marissa was feeling pressure from The Administration, so she gave Nina a failing grade.



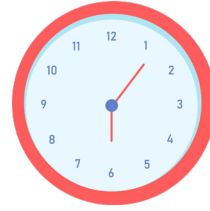
Nick saw how upset Nina was, she had worked so hard on this paper, and it wasn't fair. So he decided to come clean about cheating.



Teacher Marissa was shocked!
Maybe the AI detection software isn't as accurate as people think...



The next day, Nick and Nina were talking about the situation. Nina recalled learning about virtue ethics a few days prior, and brought it up to Nick.

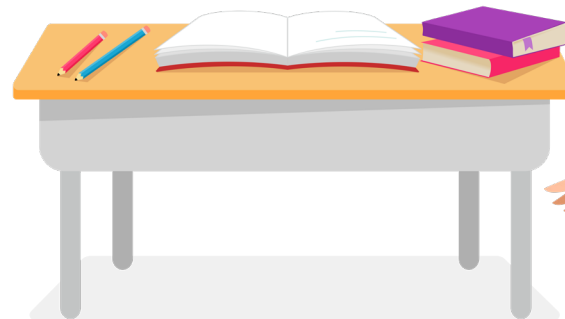
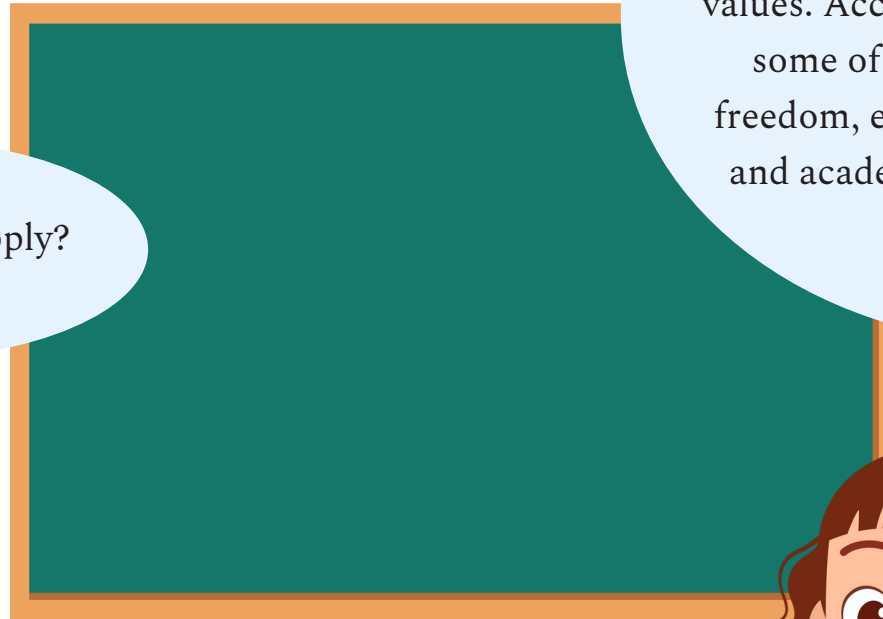


How does that apply?

Asked Nick

Well, Nick, Indiana University would need to consider whether adopting AI detection software aligns with their core values. According to Indiana University, some of their values are: academic freedom, ethical conduct and integrity, and academic and personal integrity⁵ to name a few.

Said Nina.



Meanwhile, Teacher Marissa spoke to The Administration about what to do.

Maybe we shouldn't use this software until there can be a guarantee of no false positives.

Said Marissa

But that will never happen. We can't risk losing donors if we become a school full of cheaters.

Said The Administration



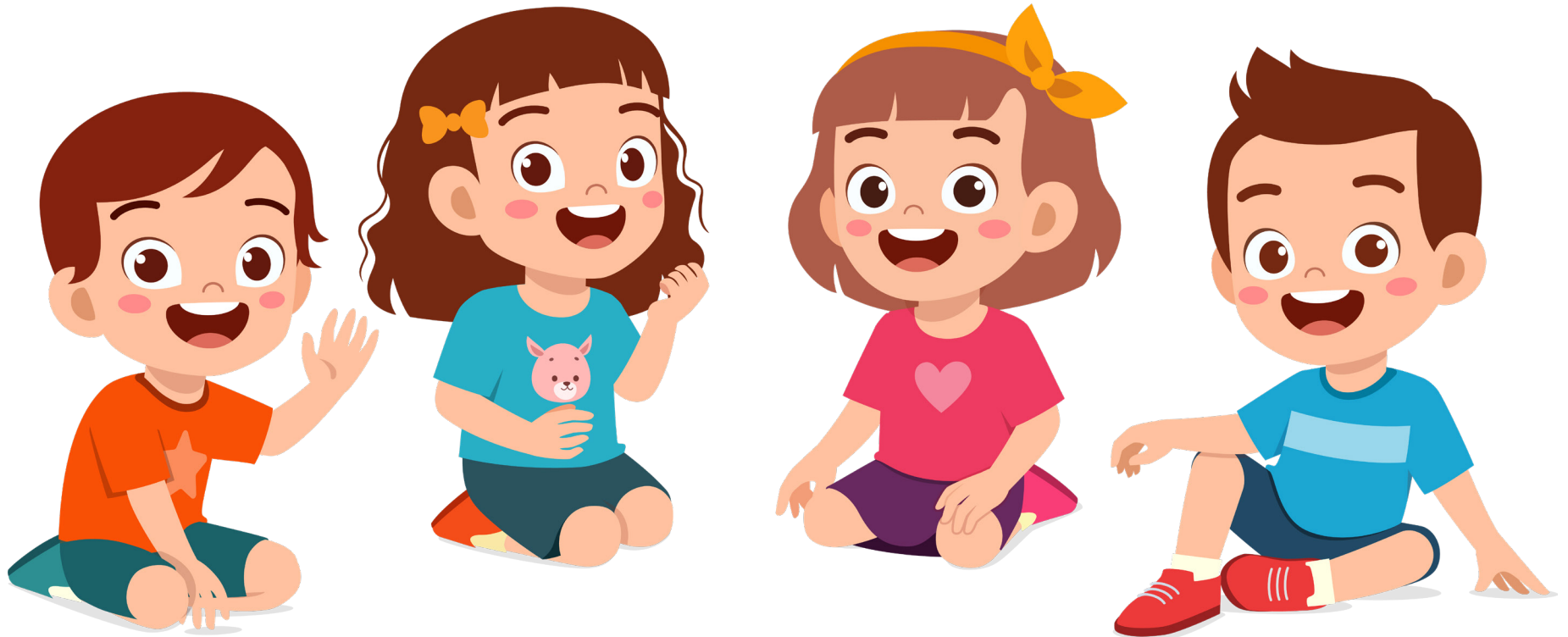
I think there are 3 options. We could continue doing what we are doing, when something like this happens, or we could give teachers the option to use the AI detection, or we could get rid of this system entirely.

Said Marissa



After thinking about it, The Administration weighed all the options and decided to get rid of the AI detection software to prevent any further false accusations. The Administration wanted every student to be treated fairly, while promoting academic integrity for all.

Nina was given an A on her paper, while Nick learned a very valuable lesson about cheating and plagiarizing using AI.



Notes

1. Welding, Lyss. 2023. "Half of College Students Say Using AI Is Cheating: BestColleges." BestColleges.com, November 27. <https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/college-students-ai-tools-survey/>.

2. Adamson, David. 2023. "New Research: Turnitin's AI Detector Shows No Statistically Significant Bias against English Language Learners." Accessed March 21, 2024. <https://www.turnitin.com/blog/new-research-turnitin-s-ai-detector-shows-no-statistically-significant-bias-against-english-language-learners>.

3. Association for Computing Machinery. n.d. "ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct." Accessed April 21, 2024. <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics>.

4. Hursthouse, Rosalind, and Glen Pettigrove. 2022. "Virtue Ethics." Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-virtue/>.

5. Indiana University. n.d. "About Indiana University." Accessed April 22, 2024. <https://www.iu.edu/about/index.html>.

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