

## **Top of my school**

Genre: Slice of life, Melodrama

Theme: Burn out (educational crisis)

\*Green - Action or shots for the animation

### **Characters:**

Claire - Main MC (Clarissa)

Father - Claire's Father (Lawrence)

Nathan - Other MC (Nardo)

Teacher - (Darren)

Mikha - Best Friend (Maria)

(Name) -

\*blue - animatic style (moving picture?)

\*yellow - animation (with in between/movements)

## ACT 1

### **INT. KITCHEN/LIVING AREA**

Claire, an overachiever, comes home tired from her extracurricular activity. She sat on the sofa and turned on the television. Her tired eyes watched aimlessly as she switched the channels over and over again. She sighed softly, leaned back and rested her head. Claire almost fell asleep until she heard her father's aggravating voice from the kitchen.

The camera is angled below (worm's eye view) in the dimly lit living room as it goes through Claire's awards- a medal with a "1st place in quiz bee" engraved on it, multiple ribbons, certificates, and trophies hangs up high while the silver medals, the ones with 2nd or 3rd places on them were collecting dust in the corner.

The camera then cuts to Claire once she sits down. Her eyes slowly blinked whilst the bright light from the TV highlights the bags under her eyes. (The switching channels will be shown via audio). She blinks slower and slower before she is overcome with exhaustion. Her whole body jolts up when her father calls out to her.

### **Father**

(Concerned, playful)

Oh umuwi ka pa, akala ko | lalamunin ka na ng school na 'yan. 

Claire

(Tired)

Mano po 'pa. || May extracurricular lang po kaming ginawa kaya po natagalang. Sorry po ✓

## Father

(Worried)

Ano na naman 'nak? | Baka mapagod ka riyan ha, | mag pahinga rin 'pag  
may time. 

Claire chuckles sarcastically to her father's remark. She never imagines resting, not now. Not when the clock's ticking, not when finals are just around the corner.

Her father came out of the kitchen with an obnoxious grin on his face. Claire side-eyes him and slumps on the sofa, muttering different school activities under her breath. Her father plopped himself on the couch which almost made Claire bounce right off the couch but she didn't make any complaints.

They both watched the television together, he tried to make a conversion but it was clear that Claire is uninterested. Her exhaustion is catching up on her, her head's started to feel heavy and before she knew it, she fell asleep.

The camera is focused on Claire's eyes (side profile) slowly blinking until the background blinks to the classroom.

\\ \EXT. SCHOOL

INT. SCHOOL

Her eyes full of exhaustion when the day's not even starting, blinks slowly. She can feel her eyes getting heavier every time she's blinking, a yawn escaping in her mouth. Suddenly, a loud thud came from the back door, Claire got spooked from the sound alone, Only then did she realize that she had arrived at the school already. She wonders how she got here but that's not the point right now. She cleans up her scattered notes at her table as her eyes try to scan the room. A silhouette caught her attention, she squinted her eyes to try to see the person clearly. Who could it be? Who's going to school this early besides her?

Claire's eyes uselessly scans her notes (Show her eyes are dull, refer to character sheet). She jumped from her sit when Nathan barges into the room making her drop her notes on the table. She looked around, startled that she's already in school. Frantically, she picked up her papers and notebook, careful to not crease them but she stopped when she noticed Nathan at the doorway.

**Nathan**

Ay puch- I-I mean shoot I | hehe. Take ang aga ko pala-- ay | hello!

Claire only gave him a confused look, she hesitantly made a small wave. She got back to what she was doing, fixing her notes but her focus kept shifting as Nathan settled his things loudly. She looks back at him only to see him giving her a smile.

She gave Nathan a confused (albeit groggy) look but waved absentmindedly after a short beat. She went back to awkwardly fixing her notes. She flinched every time Nathan placed his things (in the bg), she was slowly losing her patience (She started gripping her notes harder). (Front view): Claire snapped her head to Nathan to find him smiling back at her. (Side view): They stay like that for 2 seconds.

**Mikha**

psst-- Claire. | Ayos ka lang?

Claire snapped her head to Mikha (Side).

**Claire**

(Shocked)

Nandito ka na pala, | hindi kita naramdaman. | Ang aga mo naman ngayon, anong meron? (Jokingly)

**Mikha**

Baliw nagbabagong buhay lang, | p'wede naman 'yun diba?

Both of them laugh at each other's comments. Mikha was about to sit besides Claire but she noticed Nathan at the back, playing with his phone. She looked at Claire, asking with her eyes "what the hell is he doing?" But she only shrugs, fixing her gaze to reread her notes

she was fixing earlier. But it was interrupted once again by Nathan, annoyingly shouting at his game.

Camera angle: front.

The Camera blurs when it comes to focus on Nathan on the back. The camera focuses back on them (Claire is sitting while Mikha is still half-standing) they look at each other comically. Claire shrugs and focused back on her notes-

**Nathan**

(Annoyed)

Bwiset! Cooperate , COO- OOH- PEH - RATE!! Hoy!!

Mag-cooperate naman kayo oh! Talo tuloy.

Nakakairitaaaa AGHHHHHH

-Claire quickly (use squash and stretch) snapped back at Nathan, ready to yell but Mikha beat her to it.

**Mikha**

ANO NA NAMANG PROBLEMA MO?!?! HAH?!?! ANG INGAY MO SA LIKOD!

**Nathan**

**(Apologetic)**

Ay ganun ba? | Sorry-sorry, my bad. Am pangit ng laro eh.

**Claire**

(Irritated)

Hindi lang po ikaw ang tao rito, be mindful sa paligid mo. Some of us are doing something important-- like studying.

Claire was gritting through her teeth when she got those words out. She tapped the papers on the desk for added effect and to organize them.

Nathan was stunned by Claire's harsh yet firm words. He only responded with a nod and played his game again. Mikha looked at her, shocked because of the way she spoke to him. Claire didn't mind at all.

Classmates started appearing one by one, chattering filled the room, Claire's once peaceful space became a buzzing bubble. She grunted to herself and got ready when the class began.

\\\EXT.CLASSROOM

## Act 2

**INT. CLASSROOM**

**Scene 1**

The class began and Claire attentively listened to the lesson that was being discussed but she was not in her best shape. Her mind seemed to fly somewhere else, the line between focus and distractions became invisible for her. And even worse, she keeps on hearing Nathan's loud yawn at the back.

Make an intense shot of Claire looking everywhere but the front of the classroom. The chatter of her seatmates, Nathan yawning at the back, and the teacher droning on at the front.

\*cue intro music

**Teacher**

(Playful)

Okay class, since malapit na ang finals hindi ko na kayo papahirapan.  
Mas lalo ko lang kayo papahirapan.

The class expressed their disbelief, some grunted in annoyance, some complained, and others whined loudly.

The camera pans to Claire slowly zooms into her face and into her tired eyes, her gaze falling at her phone screen beside her notebook as her reflection of her younger self stares back at her, transitioning into her jolly and hunger-filled eyes signifying her past self.

\\\ EXT. ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM

**INT. ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM**

**Scene 2**

## FIRST VERSE

*Some people live the life that was given*

The camera zooms out, presenting Claire's young face full of content. The camera shifted its perspective to what she's drawing, her father's cafe with him and her on it.

*Some people just get by*

The camera focuses on some of Claire's classmates, obviously not listening to their teacher (% right camera).

*Some people never learned how to be driven*

The camera shifts again to another kid staring out the window.

*Some people don't even try*

The camera will pan quickly at the kid that is sleeping (% left camera)

## PRE-CHORUS

*But some people know what their heart desires*

Shift the focus on young Claire's determined face, looking upwards on the honor roll, seeing her face on the top of the list.

*Some people lead with a passionate fire*

Her classmates surround young Claire as she teaches them about their romp project.

\ \ \ EXT. STREET

## INT. STREET

*And some people know that they're destined to fly*

Show young Claire walking on the street, clutching the straps of her backpack in worm's eye view. In the word "fly", include a bird flying over her in the sky.

\ \ \ EXT. ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM

## INT. ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM

### Scene 3

#### CHORUS

*I'll go out, ace every test*

In this shot, show young Claire taking a test with a serious look on her face, her tongue almost escaping her mouth. Shoot this at the side view.

\ \ \ EXT. CLAIRE'S ROOM

**INT. CLAIRE'S ROOM**

*No doubt, out do all the rest*

Claire just finished what she's doing (schoolwork) on her chair, deep sighed

$\frac{3}{4}$  camera view

*Don't pout or settle for second best*

"Don't pout" whole frame focuses on her name at the paper she wrote (she's staring at it)

"Settle for second best"

Claire pov: The teacher's hand gets her paper (that she was staring at) and replaced it with another empty paper, she's about to do another test

*So I won't stop, and won't lose my cool*

Young Claire is reporting in front of her class. Make an intense shot on Claire's face, showing her nervous yet firm face as she was speaking.

*Don't flop 'cause UP's no fool*

*And who'll love me if I'm not the top of my school*

Claire looks even more determined, with one goal in mind, UP. She stares at the score of her test that she holds, with the highest mark on it. She then stares outside the window (back view, focus on the scenery outside the window). The sole focus outside are the birds flying on the blue sky. Zoom in on one particular bird who flies the highest among its group.

Post-Chorus

*She's the top (she's the top)....*

As she (Claire as a kid) walks toward the camera between the school hallway, people are talking about her, (gossiping) on both sides. With each beat of the song, she gets older (to present appearance)

\ \ \ EXT. CLASSROOM

**INT. CLASSROOM**

## **Scene 4**

SECOND VERSE

*Maybe my friends will say I'm overzealous*

Camera focuses on Nathan (Claire's perspective, laughing and talking probably with their other classmates)

*Maybe I try too hard*

Camera switches to Claire, Claire side-eyes Nathan as she fidgets to something

\ \ \ EXT. GYMNASIUM

## **INT. GYMNASIUM**

*Maybe they'll just have to learn to be jealous*

Medium close shot (slightly high perspective) of Claire feeling disappointed as she watched Nathan on the stage receive his award. Nathan (switched the camera to a slightly low angle to simulate Claire's perspective) then saw Claire in the crowd and waved his hands to her.

*Watching me shine like a star*

Claire was stunned softly and waved back (back to a slightly high perspective).

## **Scene 5**

PRE-CHORUS

*'Cause maybe I know what my heart desires*

Claire's now walking back to her classroom, her gaze glued to the floor, footsteps echoing in the hollowed hallway (use wide camera angle, shot at side view).

*Maybe I'll lead with a passionate fire*

Close up shot of Claire's side of face, it was obvious that she felt angry at herself, thinking it could be her. She stopped when Nathan and his friends walked past her, celebrating. Claire watched Nathan walk away while she was stuck there (show the back view of Claire's head, blurring it a little to emphasize Nathan and his friends).

*'Cause baby I know that I'm destined to fly*

Switch to Claire's perspective, watching Nathan gleefully walk but another thing caught her attention (shift to Claire's eyes going to the side, in the word "fly", show the birds flying from afar).

\ \ \ EXT.

## Act 3

**INT.**

**Scene 1**

BRIDGE

*But if I hadn't earned a dollar*

A quick shot of her looking at her Father as he held the little money they only had. (Father's expression looks worried)

*What would you think of your dear daughter*

Father looks at Claire with reassurance but his eyes expressed anxiousness.

*Would it be pity or dishonor to ensue*

Claire's perspective shifts from her Father to Nathan. Whereas Nathan looks at Claire with a proud smile. Shift again to Claire's face, it was as if her thoughts were plastered on her face, she thought that Nathan's just pitying her.

*And if I failed to earn blue ribbon*

Show Claire's collection of award then shift to the time where Nathan received his award on stage (same perspective)

*How could I ever be forgiven?*

Claire's staring at her reflection in the mirror, flickering with her younger self in the mirror staring at her with a sad expression. (¾ right camera angle).

*Tell me what love would still be given from you*

Switching to Claire's point of view, still staring in the mirror, she lowered her gaze and stared at the sink instead, slowly blinking. (Transition into the dialogue).

\\\EXT. KITCHEN

**INT. KITCHEN**

**Scene 2**

\*stop music

Claire sobbed quietly, she finally gave up. She let her tears flow down her face, Claire admits defeat, she's no longer at the top. As

she thought of ending things, someone patted her back. She looks at her side, it's her Father. her father hugged her softly as she burst even louder than it can be heard outside.

Focus the camera first on Claire's face as she's crying. Then zoom out when her father patted her at the back (upper body).

**Father**

(Concern)

1. Kaya pa ba 'nak?

**Claire**

(Sobbing)

1. Pa, hindi ko na po alam, hindi ko talaga alam

**Father**

(Concern)

2 Sabi ko naman sa'yo hinayin mo lang, pahinga rin. Tao ka lang din, Claire.

**Claire**

(Sobbing)

3. Paano na po yung cafe? Yung mga babayaran natin? Paano na po yung UP?

**Father**

(Assuring)

4. 'Nu ka ba, 'wag mo nang intindihin 'yun, okay? Trabaho ko 'yun bilang papa mo.

5 'Nak, gusto ko na malaman mo bilang papa mo, proud na proud ako sa'yo. Biruin mo, hindi naman ako katalinuhan pero biniyayaan ako ng anak na katulad mo.

6. Kaya ayoko na nakikita kang pagod o nagpapakapagod dahil lang diyan. 7. Yung studies mo, na sa tabi lang yan pero yung sarili mo, alagaan mo 'yan. 8. Iisa ka lang kaya mahirap na kung mawala mo sarili mo.

9. Pahinga ka lang 'nak

**Claire**

(Calm, still sniffing)

10. Thank you 'pa sa lahat. Para sa'yo 'to

**Father**

11. Para sa'tin.

\ \ \ EXT.

**INT.**

**Scene 3**

\*cue music but more soft

CHORUS

*I'll go all out, ace every test*

Show the side view of Claire taking a deep breath before taking an exam.

*No doubt, outdo all the rest*

Claire reports in front of her peers with confidence. She then makes eye contact with Nathan, blending with the crowd. Nathan gave her a smile, she smiled back.

*Don't pout or settle for second best*

Show Claire giving a speech as the class valedictorian.

*So i won't stop and won't lose my cool*

She stared at the PC nervously looking for her name at the list of exam passers. Her Father standing over her, reassures her as he sip his cup of coffee. Claire screams happily making her Father spit out his coffee.

*Don't flop 'cause UP'S no fool*

Claire and her Father hugged (show Claire first and her Father next), he shed a tear as he tightly hugged her, feeling a sense of pride and joy.

**Scene 4**

*And who'll love me if I'm not the top of my school?*

Flashback: Claire approached Nathan in the crowd right after the graduation ceremony. They both smiled softly right when they saw each other.

**Claire**

Psst, congratulations

**Nathan**

Congrats Valedictorian! Ang galing mo talaga!

**Claire**

No need to compliment me. Magaling ka rin

**Nathan**

Edi wow, wala naman akong ginawang magaling.

**Claire**

But in all seriousness, I just want to thank you. If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have learned how to take it easy.

**Nathan**

Petiks-petiks lang haha

Nathan only laughs as he doesn't know what else to say to Claire's sudden gratitude.

**Nathan**

But in all seriousness din hehe, ease up huy, college na rin tayo, even though ibang level na 'yun, continue to ano- uhm basta relax ka lang, kaya mo 'yan. Thank you rin

They greeted their goodbyes as they parted ways.

End of flashback

Claire walked at the entrance of UP (showing her back walking towards it). The camera slowly pans to the sky, signifying the end.