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Advanced English Writing (Tuesday 8-9:50)

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N/D story 1

Thinking Highly of Myself, I Fell Down

Introduction: Background of the story.

I. A special task was given by my teacher.

II. My arbitrary behavior caused trouble.

III. I had been alienated from my classmates since the event.

Conclusion: Although I am still confused about whether to be low-key

or active sometimes, I decide to become more modest.

Thinking Highly of Myself, I Fell Down

“What’s the dumbest thing you’ve ever done? Getting on the wrong bus, losing your wallet or forgetting to preparing for an examination?” The worst thing I’ve done was because of my arrogance and ignorance. It had a great influence on me so that I still have a deep memory of it, although it occurred many years ago when I was in primary school, about 11 years old. At that time my ability in math was shown much higher than children around me, which made me proud of my ability and like to show off. For example, I was always raising my hand in math class and answered my teacher’s questions, using methods that other students often didn’t know.

Then one day, my math teacher gave me a special task. Not only did I need to collect the homework, but I had also to grade the homework. When she told me it was an important work, my eyes lit up because I enjoyed grading homework, which made me feel that I had become a teacher. I graded the homework very carefully, but to be honest, I graded it in a strict and even outrageous way. For instance, when there was just a minor mistake, I gave the problem 0. If one’s method of solving the problem was different from mine, I also graded it 0. Every time when I recalled this behavior, I regarded it abominable, but I was too young to realize the severity that time.

By our rules for homework assignments, if a classmate’s homework was not done well, he needed to do it again, no matter how heavy the work was. Huge as the amounts of the problems were, it was impossible to finish them in three hours. But so many classmates who might have done a good job needed to do the homework again just because of my outrageous way of grading. I still remember that, classmates had to go to the copy room to print the homework again, and a girl with tears and desperate in her eyes kicked me very hard, since she had probably done really well but now needed to do it again.

“You mean guy!” This was the last sentence I remember on that day, and I cannot recall how that day ended, but it must have been quite hard for me. Afterward, I felt very depressed, because I had become an enemy of my classmates. Even my friends did not want to talk to me anymore, and until graduating from primary school, it seemed that my classmates did not forgive me. I found that I could not get involved in the class, dejectedly, like walking on the ice sheet alone. Thus, honestly speaking, my primary school had an unsatisfactory ending.

Things changed after I went to middle school. I realized it was wrong to show off my ability and I needed to be modest. I never pretended to be superior to my classmates though I was still a top student, instead, I always answered their questions patiently and kindly. This made me much more welcomed. However, I must admit that I sometimes feel puzzled about whether I should be low-key or active even after I entered the university. Others may feel better if I am more modest, but I may miss some chances that should have belonged to me if I am too low-key. However, most of the time, especially when I recall the adventure in primary school, I am convinced that it is more important to respect others, which makes them feel much more comfortable. After all, “Silence and modesty are social virtues.”