I'm Sorry

Written by Julie Lee

Illustrated by Yun Lee

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By Julie Lee

Dedicated to
Yun, Jake, and Olivia

Olivia is creative, energetic, and bright.
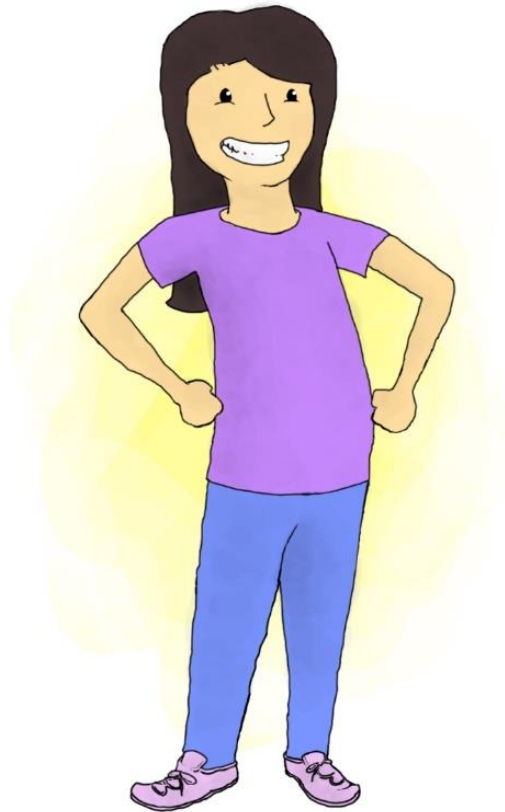
In class, she's almost always right.

Sometimes when it's not her turn,

she speaks without any concern.

Olivia has lots of friends who love her,

but sometimes bad things do occur.

Her family is one of a kind.

They always have what's best in mind.

So come with me, let's follow her day,

so we can see how things will play...

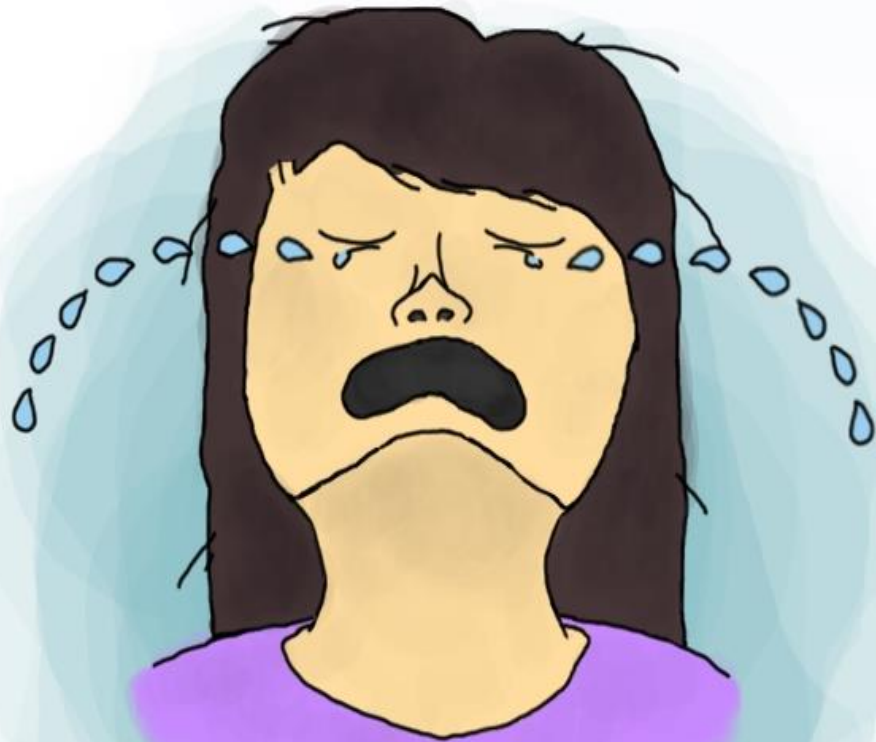"Olivia, you forgot your homework again? That's the third time in a row this week!" Ms. Penny sighed.

"I'm sorry…" Olivia said feeling ashamed.

Later that day, Ms. Penny was teaching the class about the water cycle. "So class, water, like the Blanco River, evaporates..." Olivia burst out, "Oh! I've been there! My mom took my brother and I last summer and we..." "Olivia! That is the seventh time today you've interrupted. Go to the principal's office!" said a frustrated Ms. Penny. *"I'm sorry…"* said Olivia feeling embarrassed as she walked out of the classroom.

During recess, Olivia saw her friend on the other side of the playground. "Kelly!" she called out, but Kelly was too far away. Olivia began to sprint toward her as fast as she could, but Olivia was running too fast, causing her to not see Josh on the swing! **WHACK!** Olivia burst out in tears.
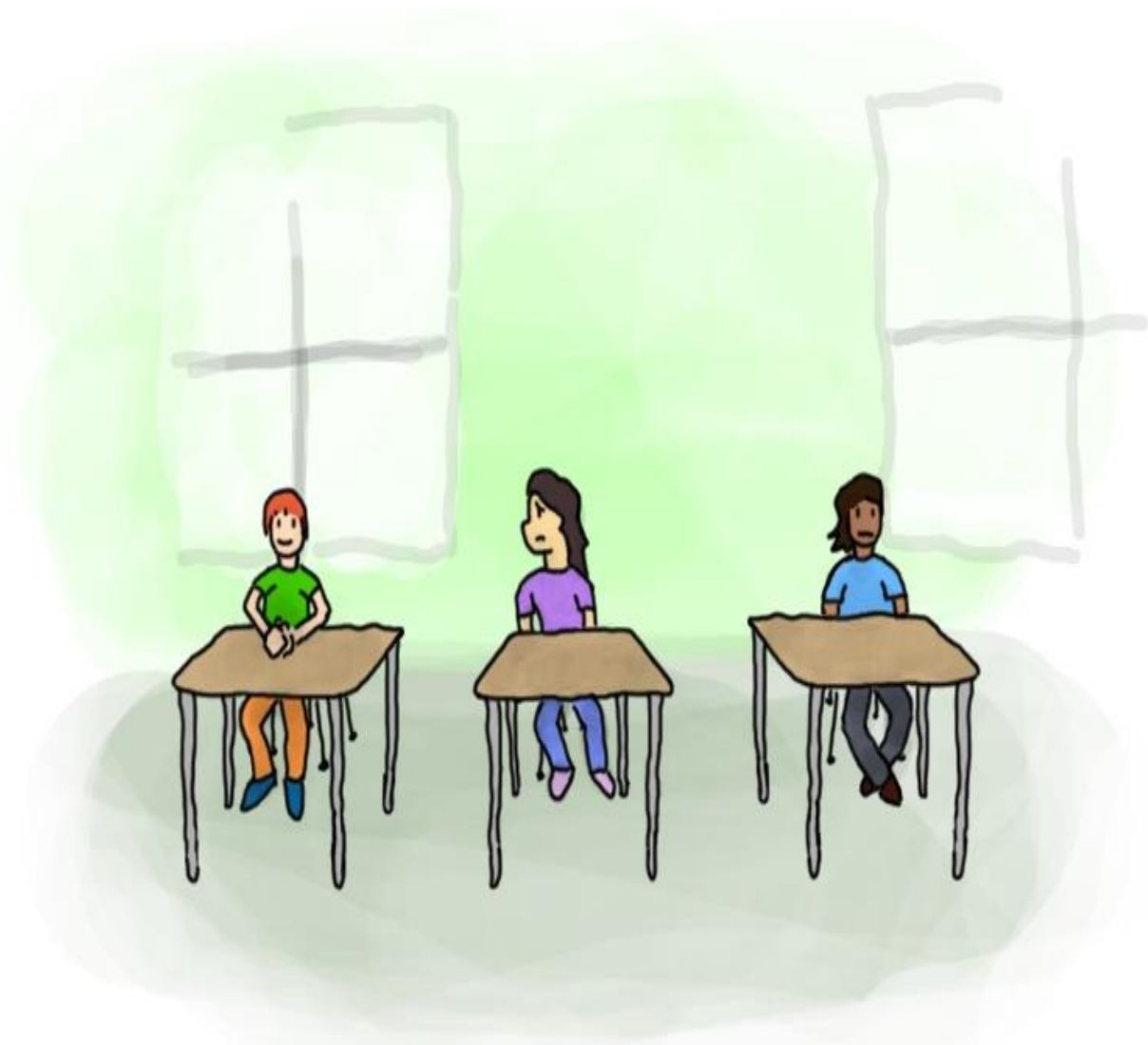
"*What in the world happened?!?!*" Ms. Penny shouted as she ran over to Olivia. "I'm *sniffle* sorry, I wasn't *sniffle* paying attention and I *sniffle* ran in front of *sniffle* the swing and Josh accidentally *sniffle* knocked me down." Olivia said trying her best to stop crying.

I'm sorry...

When Olivia got home that day, her mother greeted her with her usual perky, "Hi honey! How was your day?" Olivia looked down and said, "Well, I forgot my homework, I got sent to the principal's office, and I got hurt because I wasn't paying attention…" Her mother sighed a big sigh, "Again, Olivia?" Olivia's eyes teared up as she said

"I'm sorry…"

"Why are you crying, Olivia?" her mother asked with concern. "I'm just tired of always getting in trouble and causing problems for other people. I'm tired of having to apologize ALL THE TIME. Why can't I just be like everyone else?" Olivia said feeling hopeless.
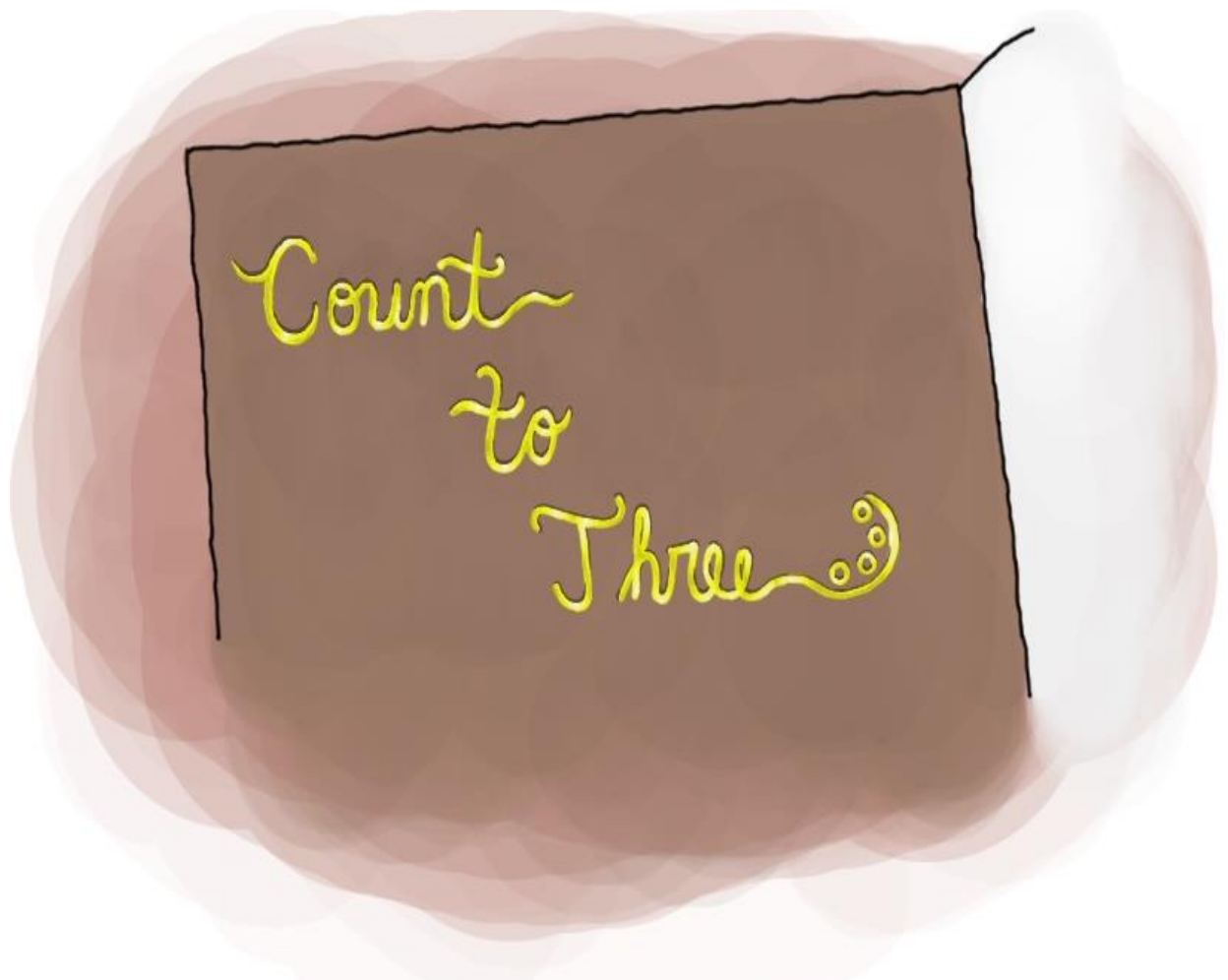
That night, Olivia's mother asked her to sit down. "I know you've been struggling lately and I think I have a few things that may help!" Olivia looked up at her mother intrigued.
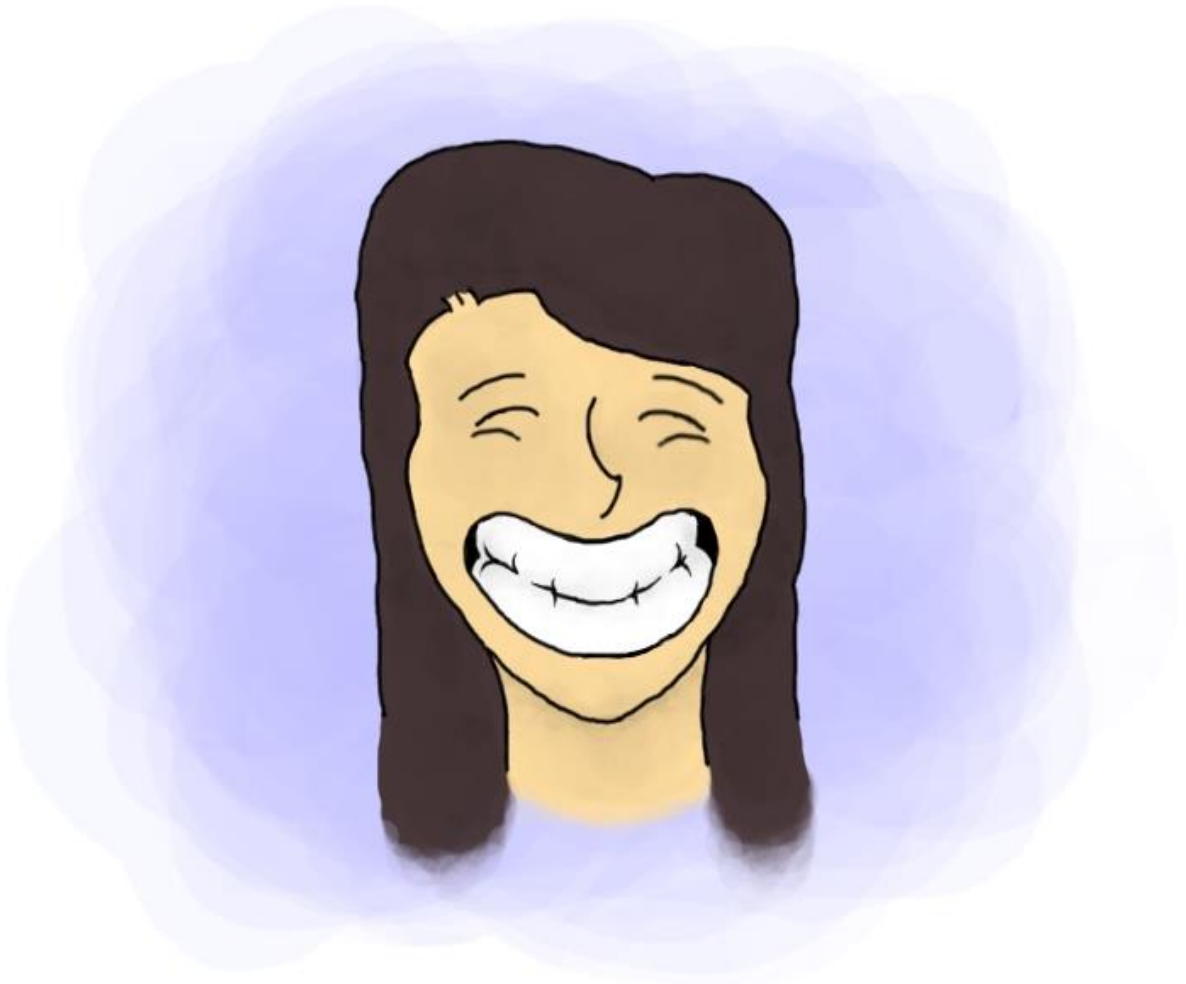
"Well, since you've been having trouble with interrupting, I thought I'd get you this journal to write down your thoughts. This way you can still share what you want to say without interrupting the speaker." Her mother said with enthusiasm. Olivia perked up thinking to herself, *"Maybe I'm not so hopeless after all!"*

"AND! I also got you this planner so you can write down important dates and reminders. This way you won't forget your homework again!" her mother said with an encouraging smile.

"And lastly, I wrote in your journal, on the very first page, something *very important* that you can practice. Instead of acting before thinking, you can try counting to 3 before you act. During that time, you can try to think about the possible rewards and consequences of the action you want to do. If after the 3 seconds, you still think it's a good idea, then go for it!"

Olivia looked at her mother with such appreciation.

"Thank you Mom! This might be just what I needed! I can't wait to test this out at school tomorrow!"

Report Card

English	A
Math	A
Science	A
History	A
PE	A
Art	A
Music	A

Day after day, Olivia practiced her mom's

suggestions.

She always followed Ms. Penny's directions,

and only spoke with permission.

She became a straight "A" student, in addition.

Ever since then, she always counted to three

so she could wait and see if her mind and body

agree.

She didn't even get sent to the principal's office,

not even once for the rest of the year!

Never again did she

have to fear,

having to apologize,

so let's give her three

cheers!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hi! My name is Julie. I was born in Taegu, South Korea in 1994. My parents are the best, most loving, generous parents I could have asked for. I have one very talented and incredibly bright younger brother, Yun. My family means the world to me. When I was 6 years old, my family and I came to America and settled in Houston, Texas. Currently, I reside in San Marcos, Texas with my loving boyfriend, Jake, and my adorable dachshund, Toby. I visit Houston often, though, to see my family and my best friend, Olivia. I'm in my third year at Texas State University for my bachelor's degree in education. I hope to become an elementary teacher when I graduate. I love to hike, cook, disc golf, paint, dance, and go to parks with Toby. I also enjoy volunteering to serve my community.