

Theme 4: Work-life Balance

Situation 2: Homework and Stress

Three secondary school students are feeling nervous and worried. Their English teacher, Mr Cheng, has told the boys to report to the counselling room after school. The boys know they are in trouble. They also know the Discipline Master, Mr Wong, will be there too.

Characters: John Woo Jason Chan Andrew Tang Mr Cheng Mr Wong

Notes: John, Jason and Andrew are secondary school students. They are 15 years old. Mr Cheng is the students' English teacher and Mr. Wong is the school Discipline master.

SCRIPT

John: I wonder why Mr Cheng wanted to see us after school?
Jason: I am sure he is going to tell us not to fall asleep in class.
Andrew: Or to tell us to hand in our homework on time. Oh well, here we are at the counselling room. John, knock on the door.
John: Ok. Here comes Mr Cheng. Mr Wong is standing beside him, look!
Mr Cheng: John, Jason, Andrew. . . come into the counselling room boys. Sit down.
Mr Wong: Boys, I want to talk to you very seriously. Mr Cheng has shown me the book reports that you handed in to him not long ago. There is something strange going on. All of your book reports are the same. What do you have to say about that?
Jason: I think we all wrote about the same book this time. That is why the book reports appear to be the same.
Andrew: We also talked about the book together.
Mr Cheng: Your book reports don't just appear the same, boys. They are *exactly* the same.
Mr Wong: So, we want you to explain why each word in your book reports matches exactly.
John: Well, we had really talked about the book a lot, you see and. . .
Jason: Don't say any more, John!
Mr. Cheng: Why not, John? We want you to tell the truth.
Mr Wong: So, who is going to tell us the truth?
Andrew: Mr Cheng did not give us a lot of time to write the book report. In fact, we had only four days to hand it in after he gave us this homework. So. . .
Mr Cheng: Four days is enough time to write a book report. You should learn to organise your time properly!
Mr Wong: Can you tell me what happened, Jason?
Jason: Well, we really didn't have enough time to write the book report, so I found a book report on the internet and I downloaded it. I changed a few of the words. Then I gave it to John and Andrew. We didn't think anyone would notice.
Mr Cheng: What! That is cheating!

Name: _____

Class: _____ ()

Andrew: If Mr Cheng had given us more time to write the book report, we would not have had to copy from the internet.

Mr Cheng: Don't blame me for your dishonest actions! You must take responsibility for your actions.

Mr Wong: Don't be rude to your teacher, Andrew. Copying from the internet and pretending that the work is your own work is wrong.

Jason: So what will happen now? It is the first time I have done this.

Mr Cheng: All of you will receive a 'zero' for this homework. In addition to this, you must write a book report. Make sure it is your own work this time!

John: When do we have to give you the new book report, Mr Cheng?

Mr Cheng: In two days' time.

Andrew: But we have a Chinese test in two days time. I can't write a book report so quickly. My English is not that good.

Jason: I have the same problem.

John: So do I.

Mr Cheng: Well, you are just going to have to work very hard in the next two days!

Jason: Mr Wong, if I have to write a book report so quickly, I will get low marks!

Mr Wong: Well, you should have thought about that before you copied your book report from the internet! Teachers can easily spot copied work, Jason! Now, you can all leave. Don't do this again!

Andrew: What are we going to do now?