

STD 3 NATIONAL LEARNING ASSESSMENT
MENTOR TEXT – BOOKLET 3

CAUGHT CHEATING

What do you think is the worst day of the week? If you don't think its Friday, you're probably not a child. Friday mornings are the worst. It is the day weekly test is held to torture all students, and yesterday turned out to be a total disaster, the worst of them all.

Everyone was working hard, and my classroom was really quiet. I was shocked to see how easy the first page of the test paper looked. I smiled and began whizzing through the questions like a rocket. Just as sir always told us, when I got to any questions I wasn't sure about, I left them out and planned to go back after I had completed all the questions I could answer. This didn't take too long. When I checked, I only had four questions that I wasn't too sure about. As I started to reread those questions, I heard my teacher say, "Five more minutes."

I stared at my test paper, but I didn't know the answer to those four questions. I bit the end of my pencil and tried to think really hard. I started to panic a little. As I looked around, I saw everyone else writing quickly. I really didn't want to fail the test. Then, I remembered that I had written the formulas on a small piece of paper and put it in my pencil case just in case I forgot.

I slowly opened my pencil case and slid the paper out. My heart was beating super fast! I knew it was wrong to cheat, but I was so scared of getting a bad grade. I glanced at the paper and started copying down the formula to find my answer. Just then, I heard footsteps. I quickly looked up and saw Mr. Thomas, my teacher, walking down the aisle between the desks. He was heading right toward me! I froze. I tried to hide the paper with my arm, but it was too late.

Mr. Thomas saw the paper and gave me a disappointed look. He asked me to hand over the paper. I felt so ashamed. I knew I had made a big mistake. Mr. Thomas took me outside the classroom and talked to me in a calm but serious voice. He said it was better to try my best and get some answers wrong than to cheat. He then told me that he was going to give me zero for my dishonesty and tell my mother what I did. At that point, I knew that my Saturday and Sunday would be even worst than Fridays. Now here I am, severing the time for my crime.

