

MENTOR TEXT – BOOKLET 23

The day was buzzing with excitement, and the weather was perfect for a beach day. Yet, I was at school and planned to make the best of this good weather during recess. When the bell for recess rang, I skipped out of my classroom, excited to tell Maya about my new puppy. We always told each other everything. She was my best friend. We did everything together. We played catch, shared our snacks, and whispered secrets during silent reading.

As I got to the playground, something felt weird. Other students were whispering and looking at me. Sarah giggled when I walked past, and even Mark, who usually never pays attention to anything, pointed. I felt a little confused. Then, during our game of hopscotch, Emily came up to me. “Is it true?” she asked, her eyes wide. “Did you really say Miss Lily farted in class?”

My mouth dropped open. Miss Lily was our librarian, and she’s super polite. I would never say anything like that! “No!” I said. “Where did you hear that?” “Maya told me,” Emily said quickly, then she skipped away. My stomach did a flip-flop. Maya? My best friend? I couldn’t believe she started the rumour! My eyes started to sting. Why would she do that? I felt really, really sad and a little bit mad.

I found Maya sitting by the swings. “Did you tell everyone I said Miss Lily farted in class?” I asked, trying to keep my voice from shaking. Maya looked down at her shoes. “Um... I might have said something,” she mumbled. “But it was just a joke!” “It wasn’t funny!” I told her. “Now everyone thinks I’m making fun of Miss Lily!” Maya stayed quiet for a bit. Then she looked up, and her eyes looked a little sad too. “I’m really sorry,” she said. “I thought it was just a silly joke, and then everyone kept asking, and I didn’t know what to do. I didn’t mean to spread a rumour.”

I still felt hurt, but seeing her look so sorry made me feel a tiny bit better. “You have to tell everyone it’s not true,” I told her. “And tell Miss Lily too, if she heard.” Maya nodded quickly. “I will! I promise.” The next day, Maya went around telling everyone that she had made up the rumour and that I never said anything about Miss Lily. She even went to Miss Lily after school and apologised. Miss Lily smiled and said it was brave of Maya to tell the truth.

It took a little while, but soon, no one was whispering anymore. Maya and I talked about it, and she promised never to start a rumour again, especially not about her best friend. It was a tough lesson, but our friendship got stronger because we talked about it and she fixed her mistake.

