

THE GRADES

By
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1 The Tests

Hector was a kid like others. He was in fifth grade but he had a problem with his school grades. On spelling he scored a 58. On science he scores a 61. He was full of anger and bitterness.

Many times the counselor had called him to a short meeting, but Hector had a secret that he never told anybody, even the counselor.

On Tuesday Hector with Mrs. Williams in language arts class. Then the phone rings and Mrs. Williams answers the phone. "Hello." Mrs. Williams was quiet for a while hearing the principal on the phone. "Okay, have a good day, Mrs. Thomson. Bye," said Mrs. Williams.

Hector thought the counselor wanted a meeting again, but then Mrs. Williams told Hector, "Hector, the principal wants you to go to her office."

Hector was amazed. "Am I in trouble?" he said.

"No, the principal only wants to talk with you," said Mrs. Williams.

Then he headed to the principal's office. Once he was there, the principal said, "Good evening, Hector. Please take a seat." Then after a moment she said, "Why did you have low grades on those tests that you had last week?"

“Um, um because I...I am a little distracted,” said Hector nervously.

“Could you tell me what kind of distraction is that?” said the principal with less patience.

Hector was starting to feel intimidated. His legs were crumbling. He said, “Sometimes I ...I don’t study well.”

The principal was looking at Hector strangely and then the bell rang. “I guess tomorrow we will continue talking. Bye.”

Hector felt saved with that “discussion” interrupted.

2

The True

The next day they had a quiz. Hector couldn’t concentrate on the quiz because some kids were distracting him so he said, “Can I go to the restroom?”

Mrs. Jones turned around. “Okay, but quick. You have a quiz to do.”

Hector went in the restroom and he started crying. It was a lot of pressure, the tests, the kids bothering him, and the meetings and his parents divorce. “It’s enough!” he yelled to himself in the restroom.

Hector went to the classroom and told the teacher everything in private.

Mrs. Jones called the principal and the rest of Hector's teachers. Then Mrs. Jones told Hector, "Come with me. We have to talk a little."

Hector this time felt okay because he knew he was no longer in trouble. At the meeting room, there were all his teachers including the principal.

"Take a seat, please," said the principal. Then the principal said, "Are you sure you're okay because they reported to me that you have been going through a difficult time with your family? Is that true?"

Hector said, "Yes."

Then she said, "Could we support you in something you need?"

"No, thank you. You all have done plenty for me," said Hector.

Hector's teachers talked to the rest of the students and asked them to treat Hector the way they like others to treat them and to support him in anything he needs. After the teachers talked to them, things started changing and Hector started to raise his scores.

In sixth grade he wrote a note to his teachers:

Dear Teachers,
Thank you for all. I hope everybody has a good year.
Your student,
Hector Carson

Weeks later the principal received the note. When she was reading it, a tear fell from her eye. What happened to Hector happened to the principal

but the case of the principal was much harder. Her parents argued a lot. They argued because the principal's father didn't spend time with them and he was full of bitterness. He didn't care about them. One day his mom exploded. She wanted the divorce.

The principal passed on the note. She remembered Hector as a brilliant student and that was a reminder that if your parents mess up, you don't have to mess up your life by being full of bitterness.