

Teacher's Pet



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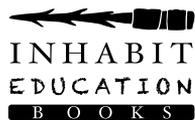
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Teacher's Pet



WRITTEN BY

Shawna Thomson

ILLUSTRATED BY

Tindur Peturs



What are you reading?

Um, a chapter book.

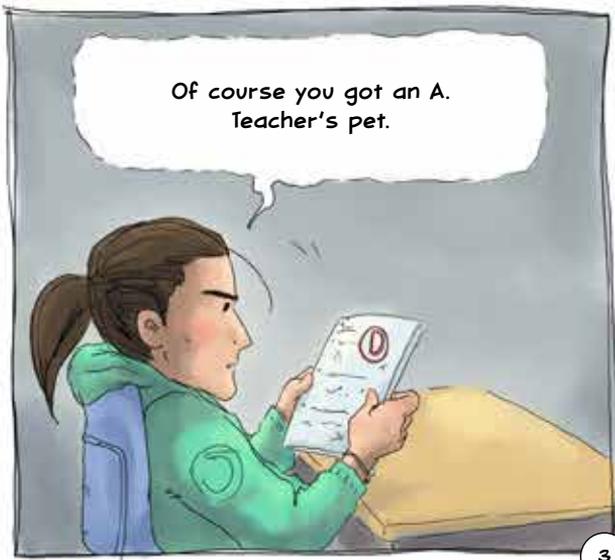
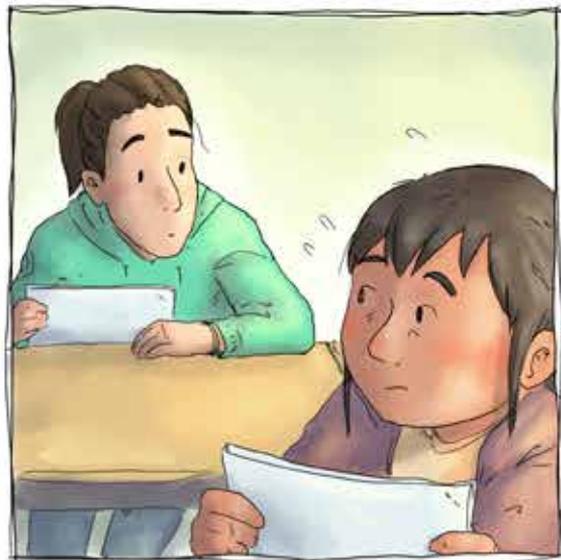
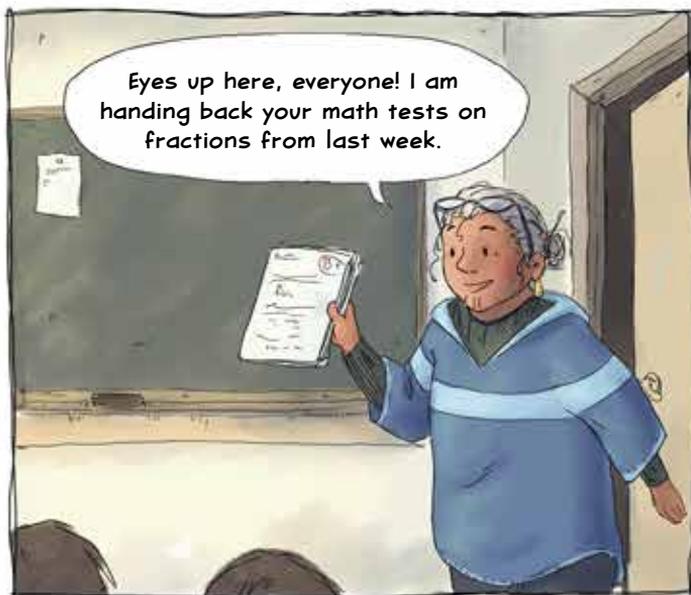
Is it that one we're reading in class?

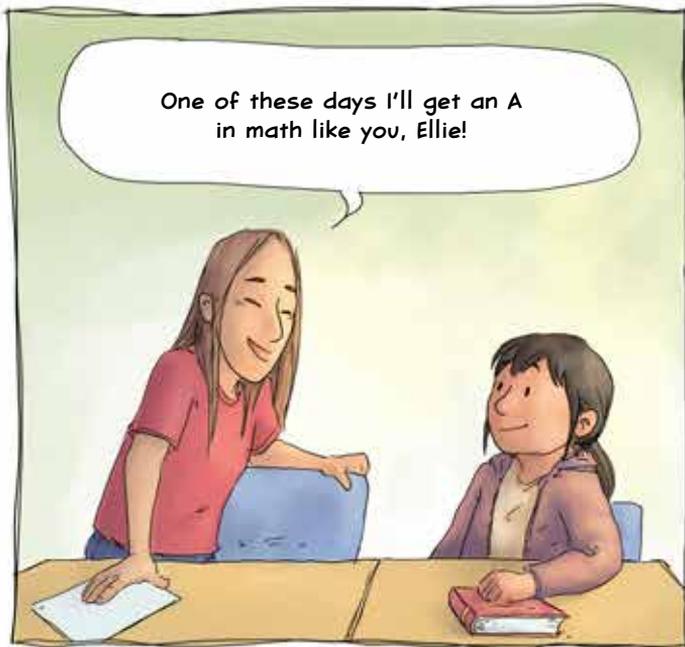
No, I finished that one. I got this one at the library.

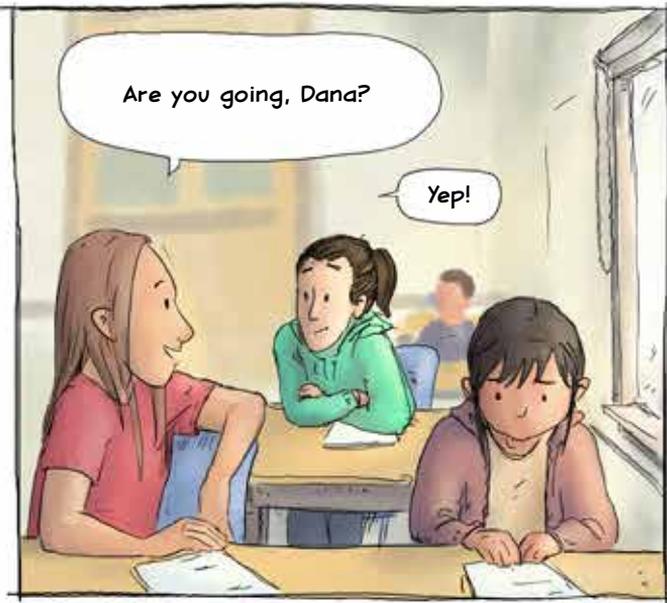
You finished it already?!

I'm not even going to read it. It's so boring.









LATER THAT NIGHT, AT ELLIE'S HOUSE

How was school today?

Um, it was okay. I got my fractions test back.

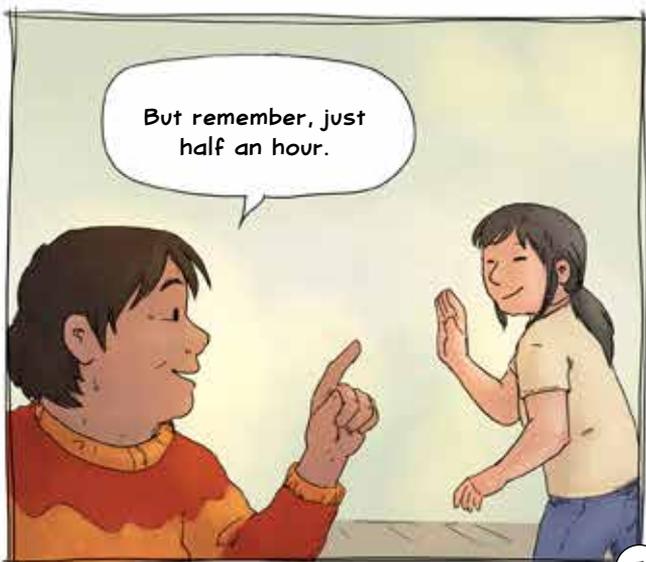
Oh yeah, how did you do?

I got an A.

Ellie, that's awesome! I know you studied hard for that test.

Thanks! Let's eat!

Atii.
DINNER'S READY!





DANA

SO SICK OF ALL THE NERDS AT MY SCHOOL, LIKE ELLIE! THEY GET AN A AND THINK THEY'RE BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE. NO WONDER SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS!



ALICE

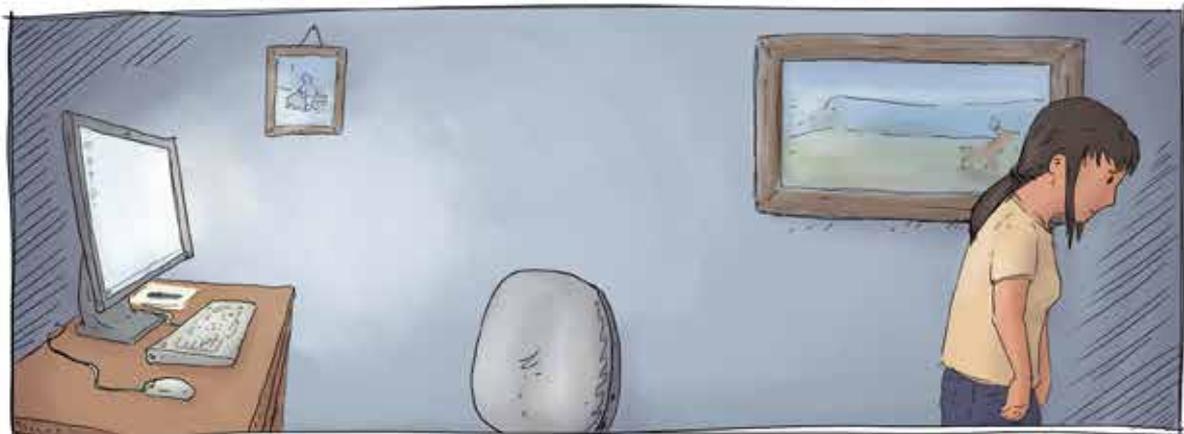
LOL SHE IS THE WORST!!! 😄



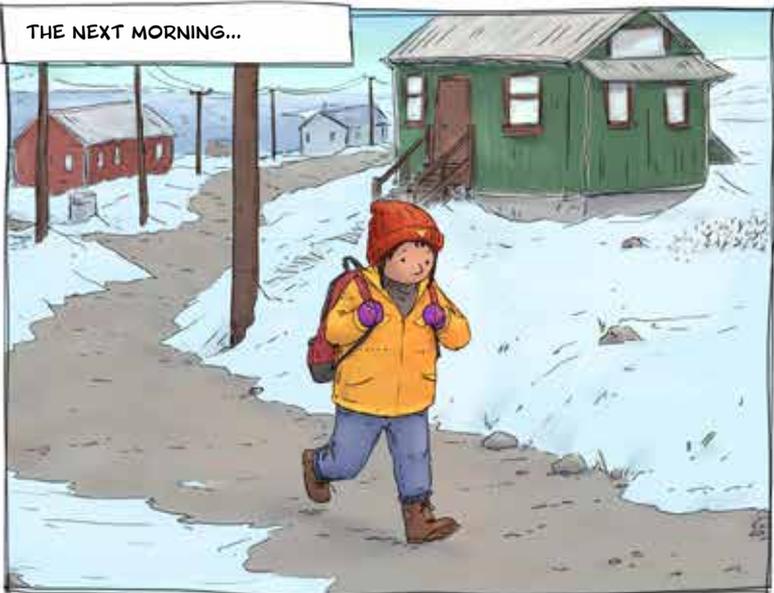
MIALI

SUCH A NERD. 😄
HOPE SHE'S READING THIS.





THE NEXT MORNING...



WHERE'S ALL YOUR FRIENDS, LOSER?
OH YA, FORGOT YOU
DON'T HAVE ANY...



THE NEXT DAY...



FRIDAY, THE DAY OF THE DANCE...



DANA

HOPE THE DANCE ISN'T FULL OF LOSERS LIKE ELLIE. THERE WILL BE ENOUGH TEACHERS THERE ALREADY. DON'T NEED SOMEONE ELSE TELLING US WHAT TO DO.

MIALI

UGH SHE'S SO ANNOYING. BET SHE WON'T EVEN SHOW UP.

ALICE

IF SHE DOES, SHE'LL JUST BE HANGING OUT WITH REBECCA. LOL

MIALI

LOL HER DREAM COME TRUE.

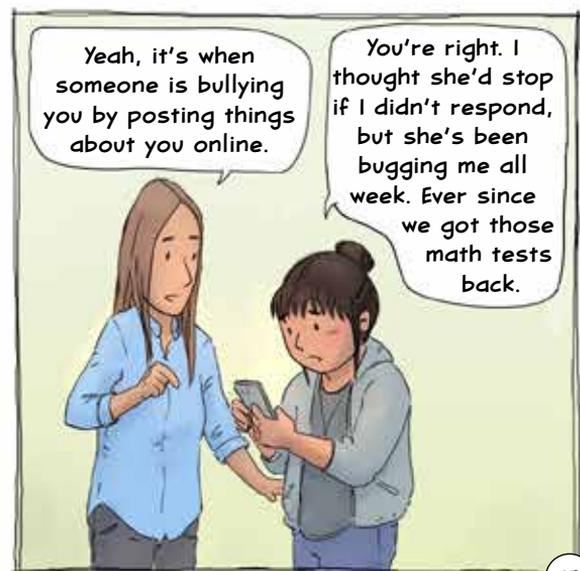
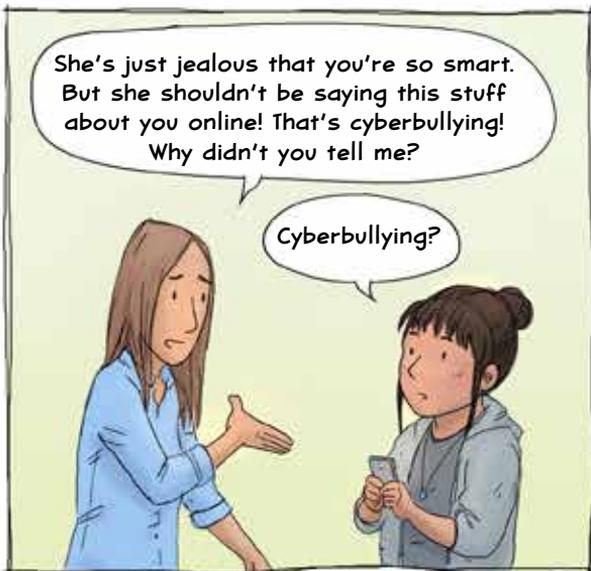
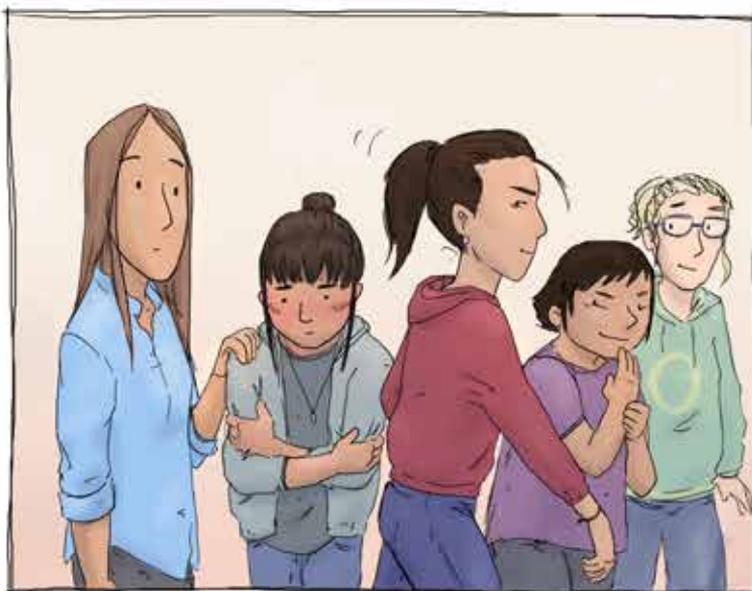


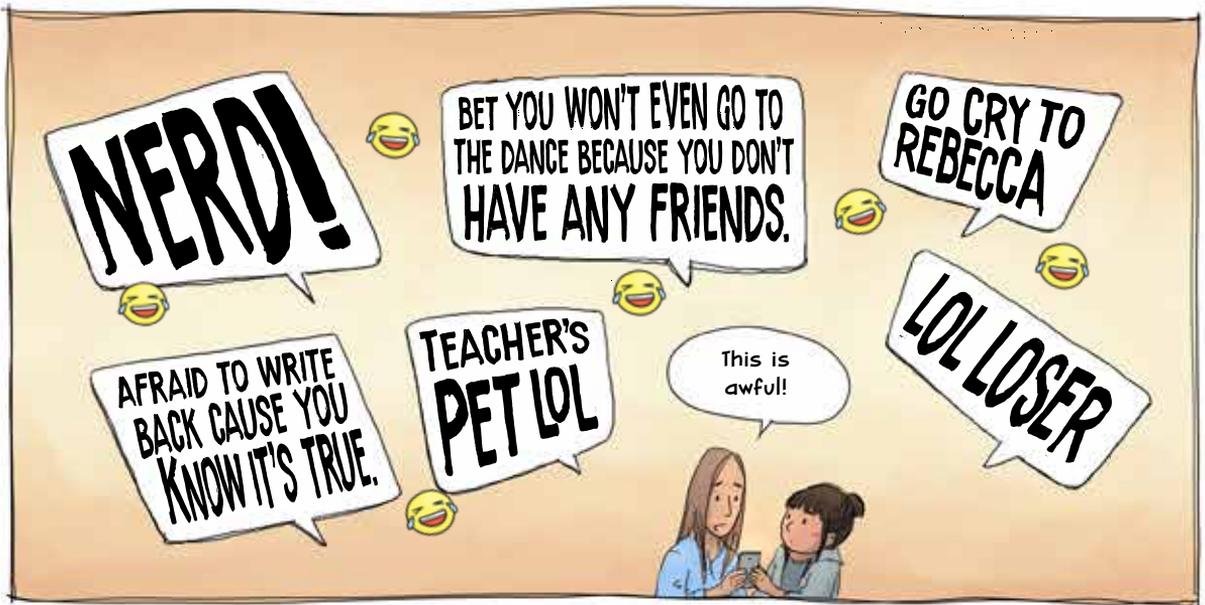












I'm so embarrassed. I didn't want you to know people were saying those things in case you didn't want to be my friend anymore.



Maybe I am just a nerd with no friends...

I'll always be your friend!



Come on, let's get out of here. We can go to my house and watch a movie.

Okay.

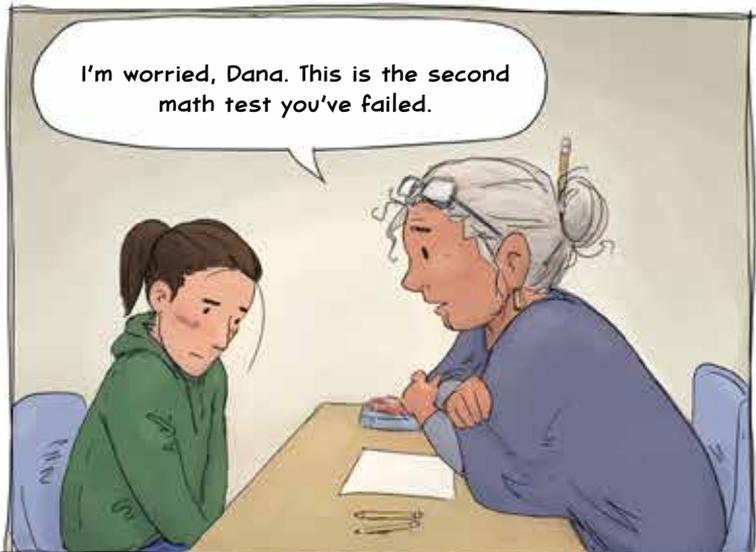


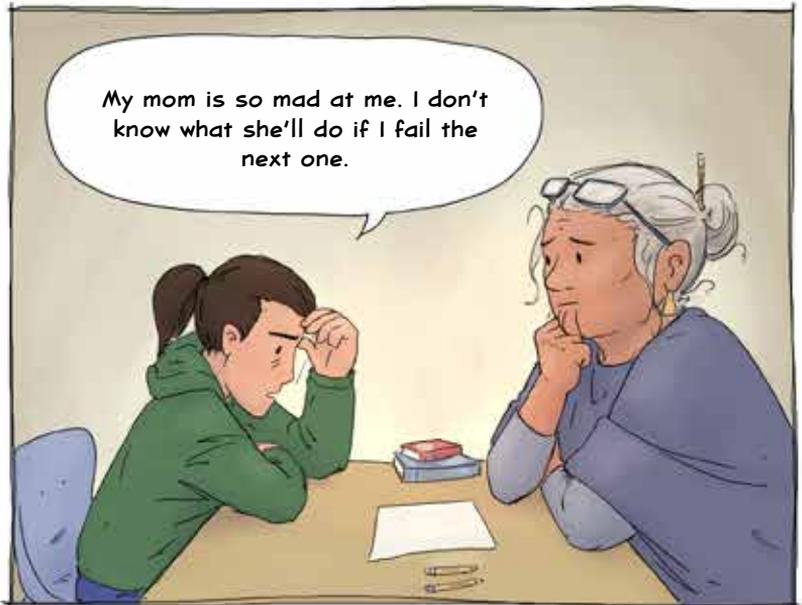
I just don't know why she's picking on me....I wish I knew how to make her stop.

Dana is being a bully. I'm glad you didn't reply. There's no point in fighting with someone online.



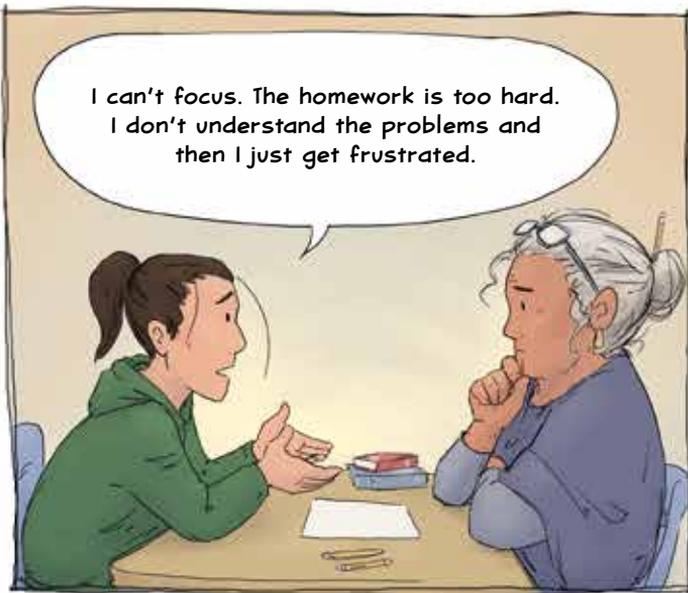
ON MONDAY, AT SCHOOL...







It's always so loud at my house. So many kids around.



I can't focus. The homework is too hard. I don't understand the problems and then I just get frustrated.



Don't worry. We're going to work together to find a way to improve your grades.



I hope so. My mom says if I'm no good at school, I might as well be home watching my siblings. I really don't want to have to quit school.



Let's get out of here.

Don't you want to talk to Rebecca?

I'll talk to her later...

THAT NIGHT AT ELLIE'S HOUSE...

Ellie, can you pass me the flour?

HeIIIIlooo?
Earth to Ellie!

Sorry, what?

I asked you to pass me the flour. Like, three times.

Oh right...

Is something wrong? Seems like you have something on your mind.

I actually kind of have a problem. And I don't know what to do about it.



I find it helps to talk our problems out with someone. It helps you think about them when you say them out loud.

Okay...



...well, the past couple of days Dana has been really mean to me. She has been posting really mean stuff online.



And she's been sending me these nasty text messages.



Oh, Ellie. This is awful. I can't believe she's been bullying you.

And all these other kids commenting... they've been bullying you, too.



Why didn't you tell me?

I didn't want to tell anyone. I was so embarrassed. I thought maybe I was being stuck up and didn't have any real friends...



Not at all, Ellie. Sometimes people say things online that they would never say in person. That's why so many people are commenting. They feel braver and more powerful because they don't have to say things to you in person and see how they are hurting you.



But bullying is still bullying, even if it's online.

I know. Ublu told me about cyberbullying. She was going to help me talk to Rebecca about it, but then...



What happened?



Well, we went to talk to her after lunch, but Dana was already in there. She was talking to Rebecca about how she is having trouble in school. She said that her mom gets really mad at her when she gets bad grades. And if she doesn't get better grades, her mom might even take her out of school.



Oh no...how did it make you feel hearing Dana say that?

I actually felt bad for her. Like...maybe she's not nice to me because no one is nice to her at home.



Bullying is never okay. A lot of times, the person doing the bullying is doing it to feel powerful because they feel unsure or uncomfortable with other parts of their life. They want to feel like they have control over something in their life.



Yeah, I guess so. Dana failed that math test last week. She saw that I got an A, and that's when she started picking on me.



I thought she was just jealous, but I guess it's more than that.



I'm glad you told me, Ellie. Even if Dana is having a hard time, it doesn't give her the right to treat other people badly.

Yeah, I wish I had told you sooner. I feel so much better talking about it.



You can tell me anything, Ellie!



So, are you still going to talk to Rebecca?



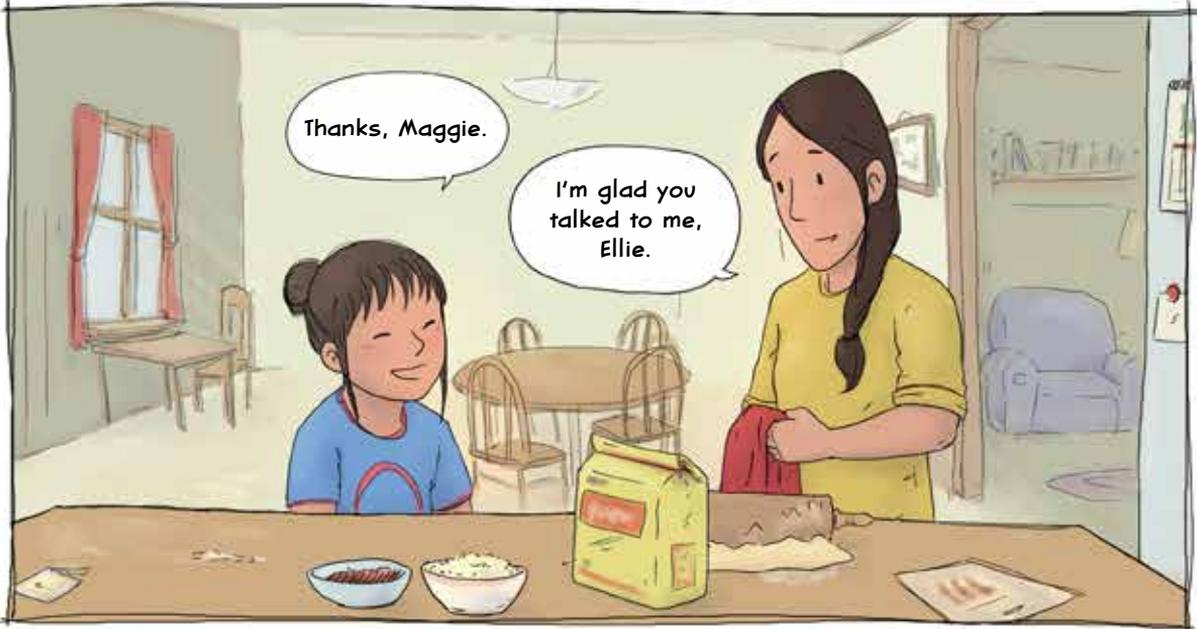
No...I think I want to talk to Dana. Maybe I'll send her a message...



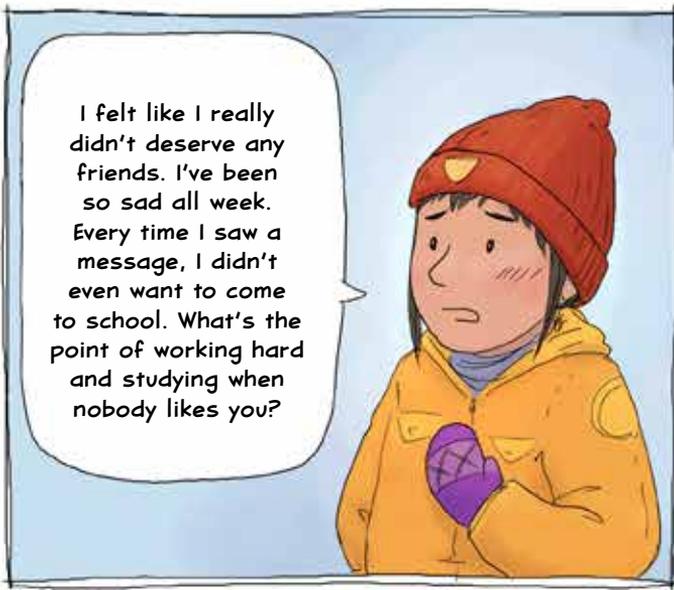
Maybe you should speak to her in person? Sometimes people feel like they can say things that they don't really mean online because they can't actually see who they are talking to.



Do you know what I mean?







I felt like I really didn't deserve any friends. I've been so sad all week. Every time I saw a message, I didn't even want to come to school. What's the point of working hard and studying when nobody likes you?



I was just kidding around. I didn't think you'd take it so seriously.



It didn't seem like you were kidding.



Or those other kids commenting on your posts. I don't get why you decided to pick on me.

You wouldn't get it.



You don't know what I have going on.

No, I don't.



But you don't know what I have going on either. I'm lucky. I have a good sister and friend who helped me remember that I am loved. But if I didn't... I would still be sitting at home, believing everything you said. And I might think that for the rest of my life.



No. I can help you study so you can get a better grade on the next test and stay in school.

Do you really think so?



For sure. My sister taught me a bunch of tricks that make math easier to understand. I can show you, too. I wouldn't get such good grades without help or somewhere quiet to study.



It's okay to ask for help, you know...



Ellie, I'm really sorry about what I posted online. I was angry and...I made a mistake. My words really must have hurt you. You're actually pretty cool, and way nicer than a lot of people I know.



Thanks, Dana.



What are you doing with that?

I'm taking those posts down. And...I'm going to write an apology, too.



Thanks, Dana. I'll see you later?

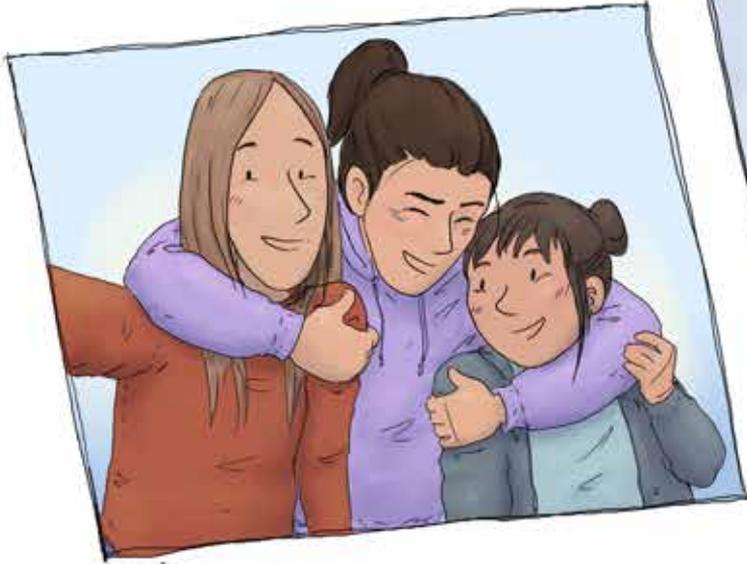
Sounds good!





Dana

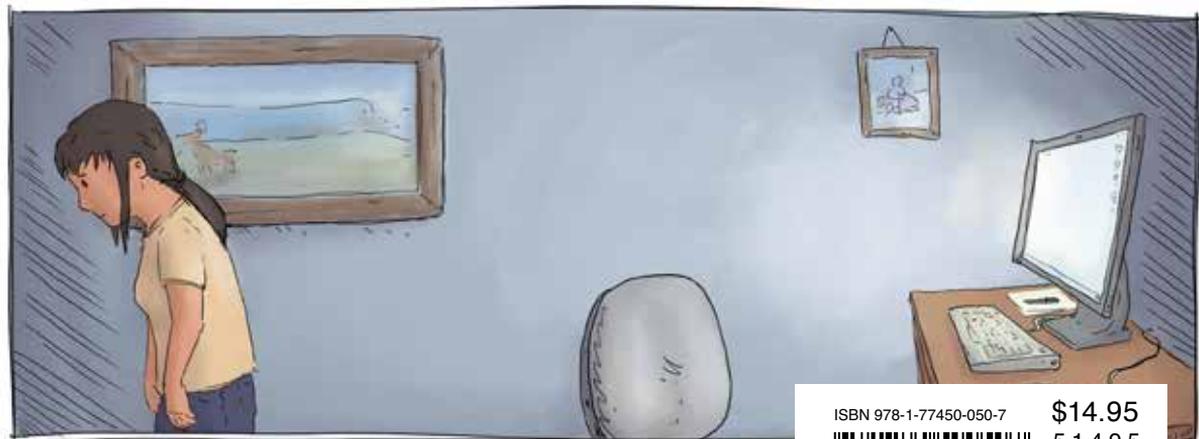
Pretty glad Ellie asked me to study. Got a B on my math test and some new friends 😊



10 🔄



Things are going great for Ellie—she’s acing her math tests and is looking forward to the school dance. But when a classmate starts posting mean messages about her online, Ellie feels embarrassed and isolated. Before long, even more kids at school have joined in on cyberbullying Ellie. How will she regain her confidence and confront her bully without losing her friends?

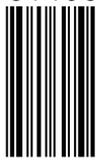



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