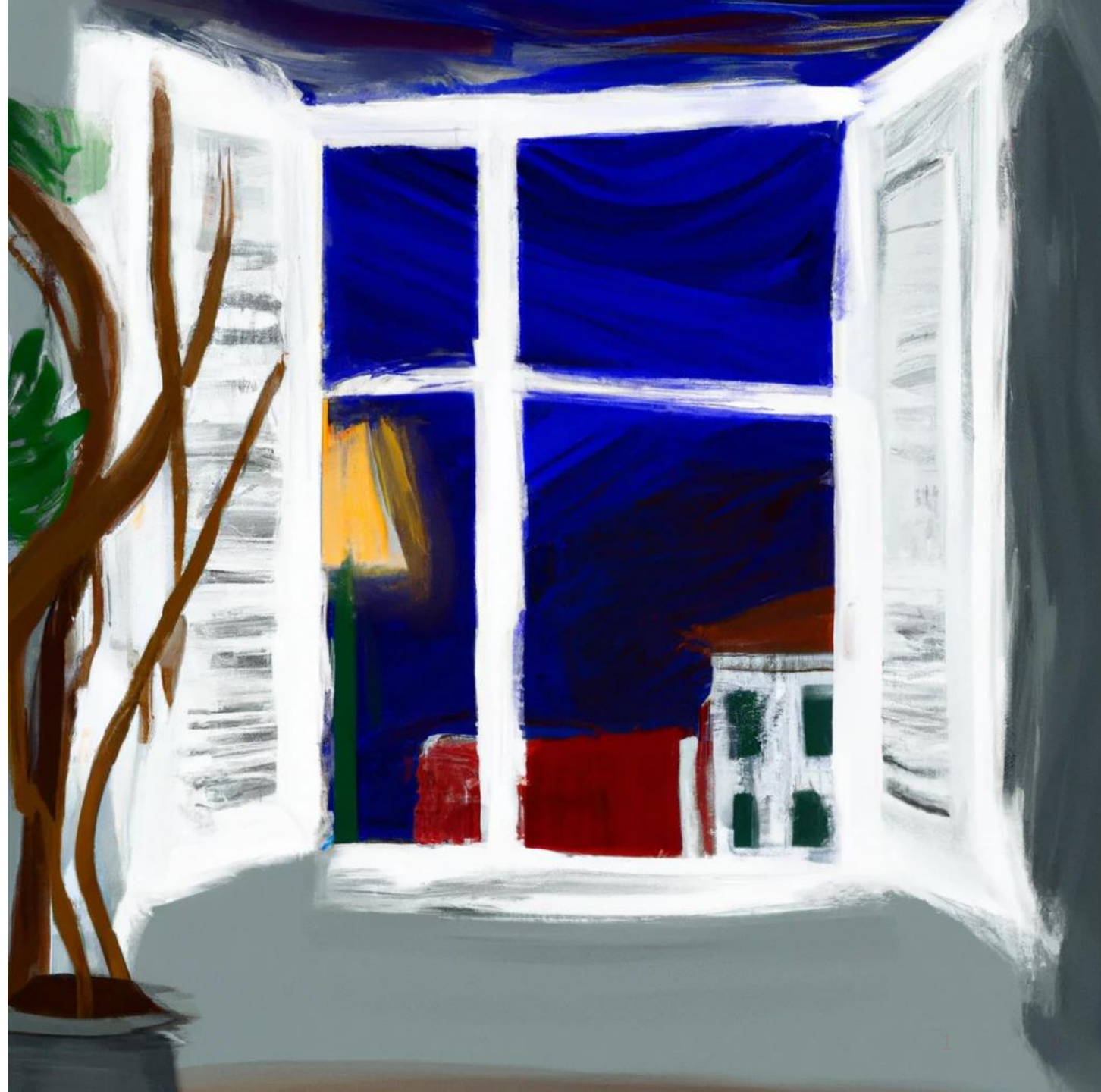




Story Changers: Enhancing Pupils' Social Skills and Enriching Teaching Methods Through Storytelling and Virtual Reality

# How can I say no to you?



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In a small town close to Athens, Dimitris Hionis lived with his family. His father, Pavlos, worked for a big company in downtown Athens, and his mother, Maria, worked for a clothing store. Dimitris was seven years old and went to the second grade of elementary school.

Despite that he loved his parents, he had a big complaint... They kept telling him "no" or "not now". Whenever he heard these words, he got upset. He did not like his parents denying him anything at all and he hated to wait! He was a very impatient child.



This is what happened recently. Dimitris had seen the bike of his dreams in a store in his neighborhood. It was crimson, shiny, with six different speeds, a leather sole and a gold lightning bolt. "As soon as my friends see me with this bike, they will not believe it!", he thought. This bike had to become his own.



He did not waste time and the same night, before dinner, he asked his parents. And their answer was...

“Yes, I remember this bike, when we passed the store, it was really very nice! Be sure that we will get it as a gift for your birthday!” his mom said happily. Dimitris' initial joy quickly turned into disappointment. The huge smile that had formed on his face slowly faded. His birthday was in two months. He wanted to get the bike right here, right now!



“What? At my birthday? But it is in two months. Two months is a long time! Why wait so long? Can't we get it now?”

“My dear Dimitris”, his father told him calmly, “the bicycle you are asking for is expensive and we cannot afford it now. After all, such a special gift is what you need for a birthday present.”

“But dad...”

“Do not insist, Dimitris”, his mom interrupted him, “your dad explained it to you. We will get you the bike you want... just not now... Come on, sit at the table with us, I have served the food.”

“I'm not hungry, I lost my appetite! May I go to my room?”

The parents looked at each other for a moment and then agreed.



Not now, not now, the words he could not hear. Why not now? What's wrong with now? It's a beautiful word, he learned it at school. Dimitris returned to his room disappointed and upset. He opened the window and sat on the windowsill. He loved his room very much because it had a view of the garden. Whenever he was upset, he would sit on the windowsill and think. The cool breeze pierced the room and caressed his face.



“Ahh”, he was thinking by himself, “can’t a miracle happen, can my parents stop saying no to me?”.

The wind became stronger, the rustling of the leaves became more intense and a strange sound made Dimitris turn his gaze to the big oak tree that was in the center of the garden. It was getting dark so he could not see very well, but it seemed to him that two golden eyes were watching him.



Before he could react, the creature sitting in the tree spread its wings wide and landed with great dexterity on the windowsill of the child's room.

Dimitris was watching the uninvited guest in surprise. It was not the first time he had seen an owl, but it was certainly the first time one had entered his room. Its wings were long and rounded, its head looked like a disc and its beak was convex and crooked. Most impressive, however, were its huge golden eyes, which now processed little Dimitris from top to bottom. Before the boy could react, something incredible happened...





The owl opened its mouth wide and said: "So you asked for a miracle to happen?". Dimitris lost his mind! "You can speak?" he asked the magical creature, puzzled. "Of course, I can," replied the owl complacently. "And I choose when I want a person to listen to me. My name is Wisdom and I have come here to make your wish come true".

"My wish come true?" the boy could not believe his ears.



"Indeed! You asked that your parents never say no to you. So, if this is what you want, then I will do it. Just be careful! You may regret the choice you make and then it may be too late. Are you sure you want your parents to never say no again?"

"If I am sure? Are you kidding my dear, magic owl? If you make this wish come true, I will be the happiest boy in the world! It is impossible for me to regret it!"

The owl spread its wings wide.

"Very well then! Listen to me:

Before the sun rises,

the word "no" will disappear from your parents' mouth.

Ask for whatever you want

because the time for the word "yes" has come.

And if you ever regret it,

hammer three times

and the bird of knowledge will appear in front of you."

And with a loud fluttering Wisdom disappeared into the night sky. Dimitris was left looking at her from the window as she flew away. He wanted to run to his parents to tell them what happened, but he hesitated. "They will say that I went crazy", he thought. He felt exhausted, his eyes closed. He lay down on his bed and before he knew it, he fell asleep.



The next morning looked like any other. Dimitris got up late, as he used to do every weekend, washed his face, and went down for breakfast. His mom was making pancakes and his father was drinking his coffee and reading about the news on his tablet. It seems that both weren't working on Saturday. "What a strange dream yesterday!" Dimitris thought, "an owl that speaks and grants magical wishes..."



His mother served him the pancakes with an unusually wide smile and sat down next to him. Dimitris took the bottle of syrup from the fridge and put a generous amount on top of his pancakes. "Oh," he said as soon as he realized, "sorry mom I put syrup... I know what you'll say... the dentist, to whom we have to go tomorrow, recommended that I cut out the sweets completely for a while, because of my tooth. I forgot, please don't scold me!"



Dimitris took on his saddest look, hoping that his apology would save him from another scolding of his mother. The truth is that she had warned him many times to pay attention to sweets. But it wasn't his fault that the syrup was so delicious! Why are sweets so harmful? Couldn't broccoli and peas be bad for us instead? He would happily avoid them! Surprisingly, mom still had her big smile. "Did she not understand what happened?" the boy thought. And before he could repeat his apology, she replied: "It does not matter honey, it is Saturday, you can put as much syrup as you want!".





This answer sounded like a melody to Dimitris's ears. "This can't be real" he thought "mom would never have answered me this way... the owl... the dream? No it can't be... But mom's answer is not explained otherwise... I have to make sure... and I know exactly how..."

"Dad, can you give me your tablet to play Roblox?", Dimitris asked hesitantly. "If the experiment does not succeed, a big fight awaits me", he thought. "My dad forbade me to take his tablet from the night I secretly took it to play and he discovered me. There is no way he would" ...

A 3D rendered scene displayed on a screen. The word "GAME" is written in large, metallic, 3D block letters. To the left of the letters is a blue splat, and to the right is a green splat. Below the letters is a brown, insect-like creature with a textured body and long legs. The scene is set against a dark, reflective background.

GAME





GAME

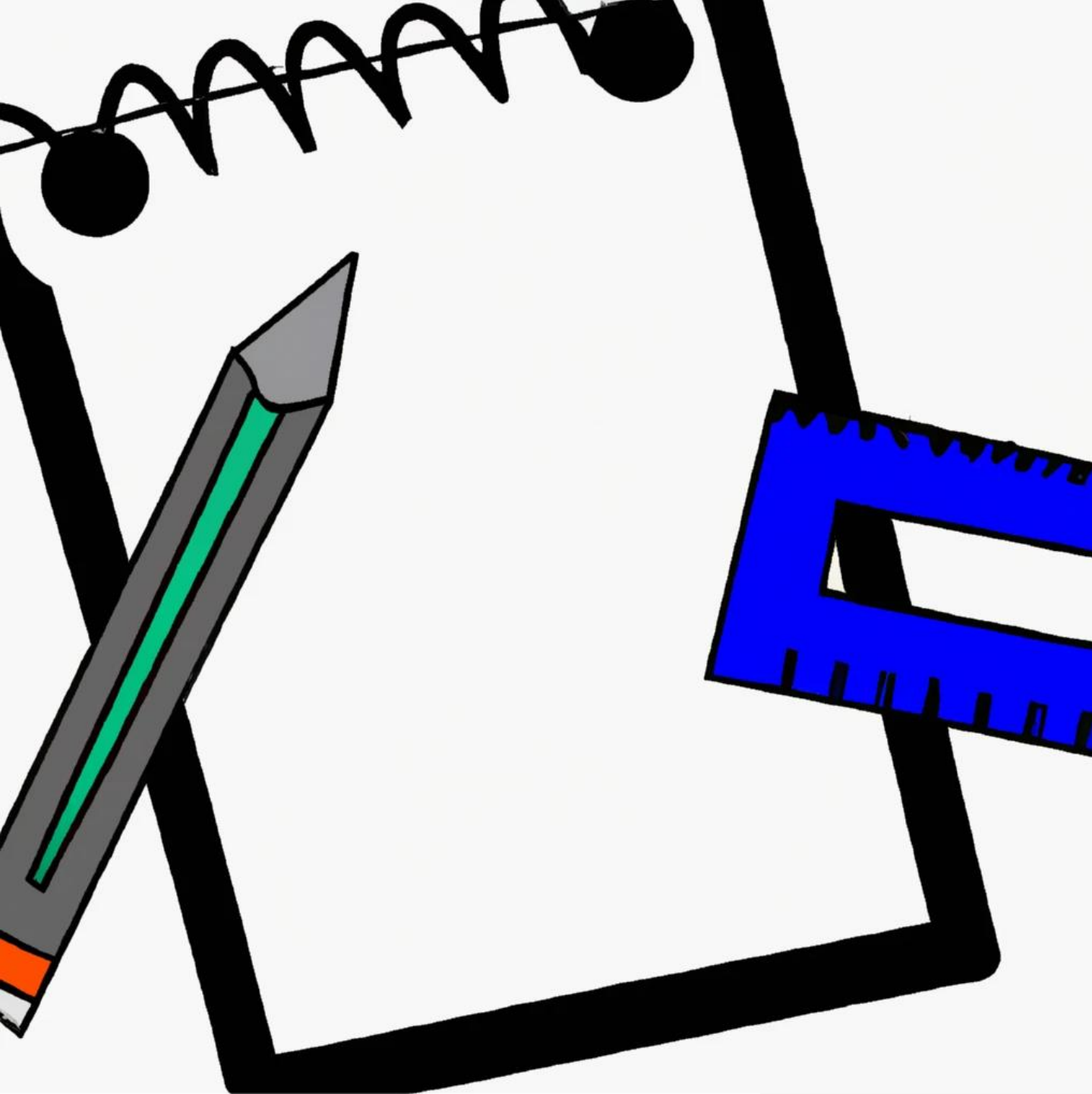
"Of course my boy, come and get it," his father replied with the utmost naturalness. Dimitris's eyes rolled and a smile of absolute satisfaction formed on his face as he extended his hand to take the tablet from his father. He felt as if he had suddenly risen, he felt powerful! The owl had fulfilled his wish! The miracle had happened! Nothing stood in the way between him and his happiness. As long as he asked for it...

# What should Dimitris ask for?

A) To not do his homework. pg. 19

B) To buy whatever he wants. pg. 48

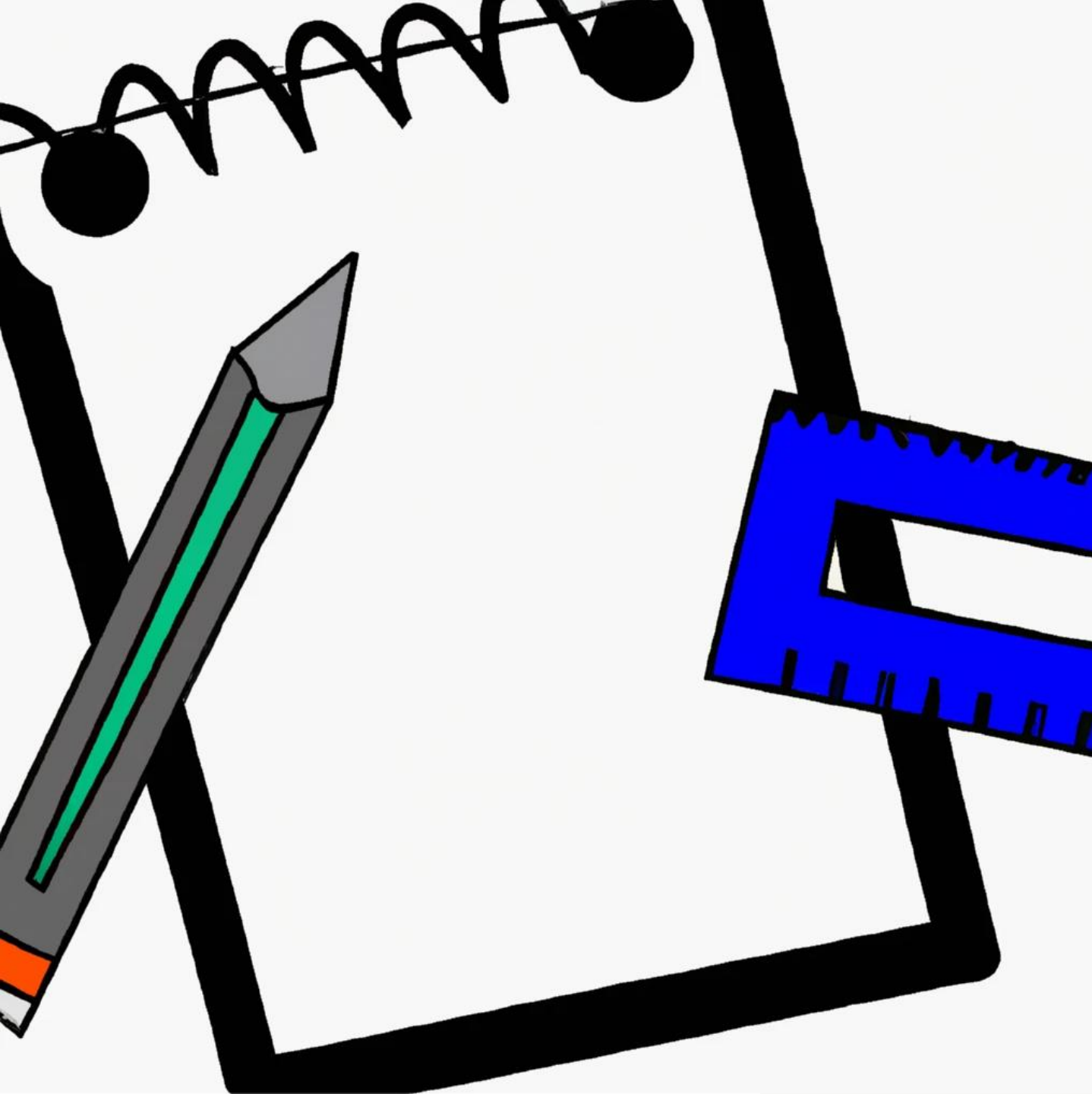
C) To not go to the dentist. pg. 63



## A) To not do his homework

He wanted to jump and start shouting of joy! No more "no", no more "**we will see**". Now he could ask for whatever his soul longed for and his parents would not deny him anything. In other words, he had the best parents in the world. Honestly, who wouldn't want to be in his place? Who wouldn't be jealous of his fate?

Dimitris didn't waste any time and started making plans for his new life. "Think", he told to himself, "what should I ask them first? Hm... what is the most tedious job I must do every day? To tidy up my room? No, no it's very easy. To practice my guitar? No, that's something I enjoy. To do my school homework?... Yes that's it! My school homework! Every afternoon the same thing... my mom will say: Dimitris, eat quickly and go do your homework. So, from now on, homework is over!"



## A) To not do his homework

Dimitris opened his notebooks and books, sharpened his pencils, sat down in his chair, looked at the exercises he had for Monday and raised his voice: "Mom, can you come and help me with my homework?. Less than a minute later, his mother entered his room. "Of course, my boy, how can I help you?" "Yeah, you see mom today I prefer to play with my computer... will you write the exercises instead of me please?". "You want to play with your computer?" his mother asked in surprise. "Oops, perhaps I overdid it? Have the spells been solved?" Dimitris wondered in fear.

"You are right, it is such a beautiful day! You go play and I will complete the exercises." His mother approached him, stroked his hair, kissed him on the cheek and added: "How can I say not to you?".

Yeahhhh!! Dimitris cheered. He spent the whole weekend in front of his screen. His eyes were starting to get tired, his body was gripped but he did not care! He played again and again and finished all the levels! "I'm in children's paradise", he thought, while devouring a bag of chips instead of Sunday lunch (who eats bean soup for lunch?).

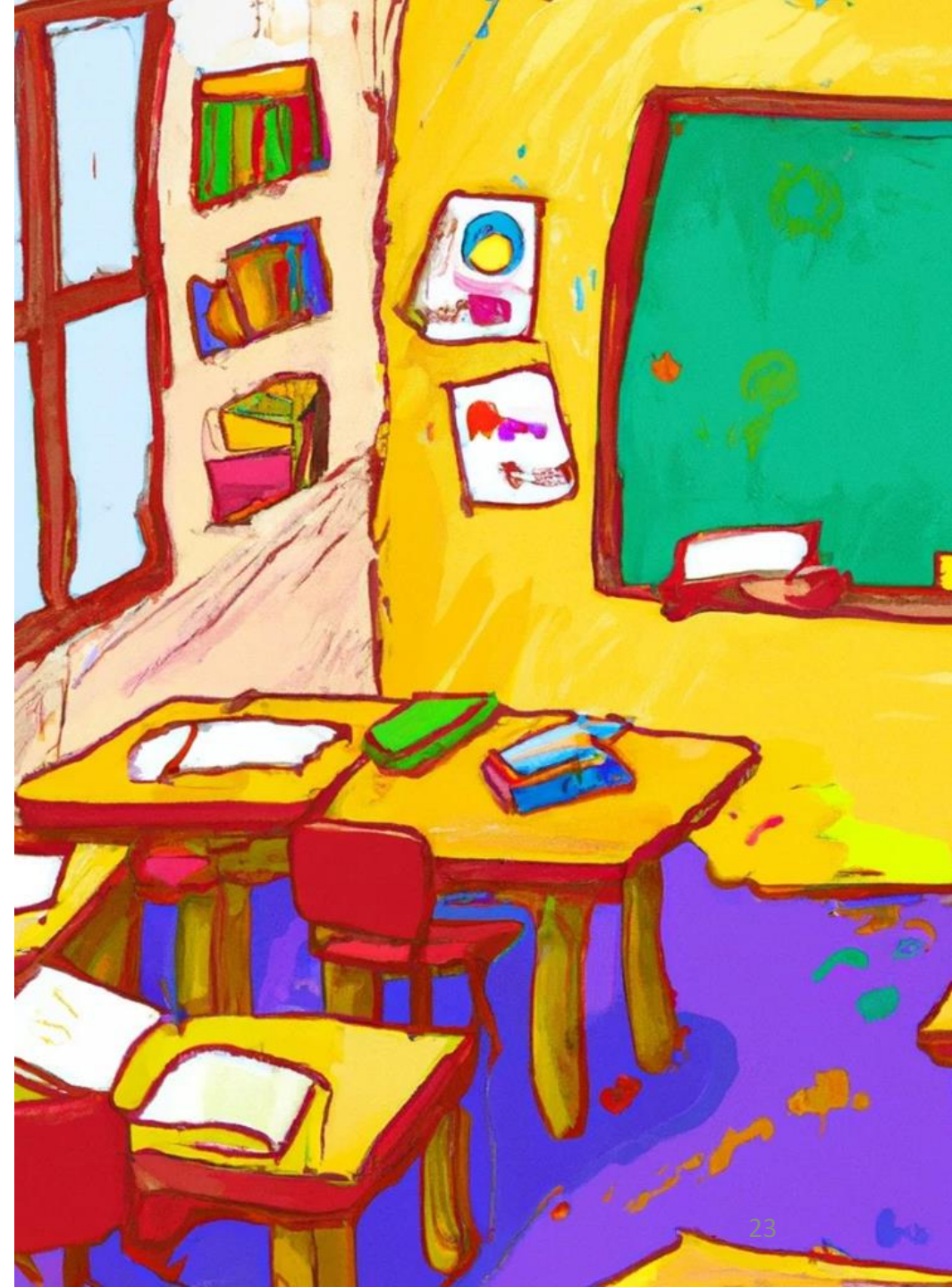




The perfect weekend was followed by Monday morning. Dimitris couldn't wake up, as he was watching TV until late. He saw a movie inappropriate for his age, a thriller, although his parents used to tell him he was too young to watch such movies. The truth is that he was very scared and after he could not sleep, but all this did not matter. What mattered was that he was able to do another forbidden act.

Tired, Dimitris arrived at school late, as he didn't manage to get ready on time. The lesson had already begun, their teacher Mrs. Julia was dictating. Dimitris entered the room as quietly as he could, sat down at the desk, quickly opened his notebook and began to write.

He was trying to think the correct spelling oh each word but nothing came to his mind. His eyes were closing, he felt sleepy. He had not studied at all. If I had studied by myself, I would now know the spelling. The teacher will definitely scold me, what a shame, he thought. So it happened. The teacher scolded him for a long time, until he was saved the bell. It sounded in his ears like a sweet melody, all the children got up from their seats to take a break. "Do not hurry Dimitris", Mrs. Julia told him. His legs froze. "You will stay inside until you write the dictation correctly". He didn't take any break that day. No matter how many times the teacher explained the spelling rules, his fatigue and nerves did not let him understand anything.





"Dimitris! Wait," shouted his friend Nikolas, who found him as he was leaving class. A smile formed on Dimitris's face: "I played all weekend and I managed to finish all the game's levels". "Oh you are so lucky!" his friend replied "Yes! And I did very well on the game too, I almost finished in first place". "And you got to play all weekend?" "Indeed, my dad's tablet was mine all weekend!" "Lucky you! I wish my parents let me play all weekend. My dad is coming, see you tomorrow champ!".





The next day at school was again a torture. Dimitris did not remember his history lesson, he confused all the spelling rules, he made mistakes in his math exercises. The teacher kept him at breaks to revise but it was all in vain. Another day came to an end with Dimitris returning skeptical to his home. "Hey Dimitris" shouted his friend Nikolas from afar "You should have seen us playing football today, we are a great team we will be terrific in the local matches". Dimitris looked skeptical. "But when did you play football?", he asked him. "During the lesson breaks, Mrs. Hara (the school coach) takes us and prepares us".



Great, not only was he sitting in the classroom but he was also missing training now. When he got home Dimitris was frustrated. "Would you like something honey?" his mom asked him "You don't look so well". Of course, he wanted something. The only thing that would calm him down right now would be to play, Roblox, his favorite game on the tablet. Of course, his mother did not object to him, fortunately the owl's wish is still working.

Another day at school when the children arrived holding huge papercrafts in their hands. "What are they doing?" Dimitris wondered "Why has everyone brought a craft?". "Hey Nikolas", Dimitris addressed his friend who was also holding a huge volcano "What are you carrying?". "Don't you remember? We have to deliver today our environmental projects". "Oh no, I completely forgot" Dimitrakis monologued. With so much playing on the tablet he had completely taken the project out of his mind.



All the children presented the volcanoes, lakes and mountains they had built. He remembered last year a similar project they had built with his dad, a huge truck. They made it with wires and wood, put wheels on it, painted it and at the end they put a motor for it to move. How nice that day was. This year not only did he not make his project, a cloud, with his dad but he was also the only one in the class who did not present anything.



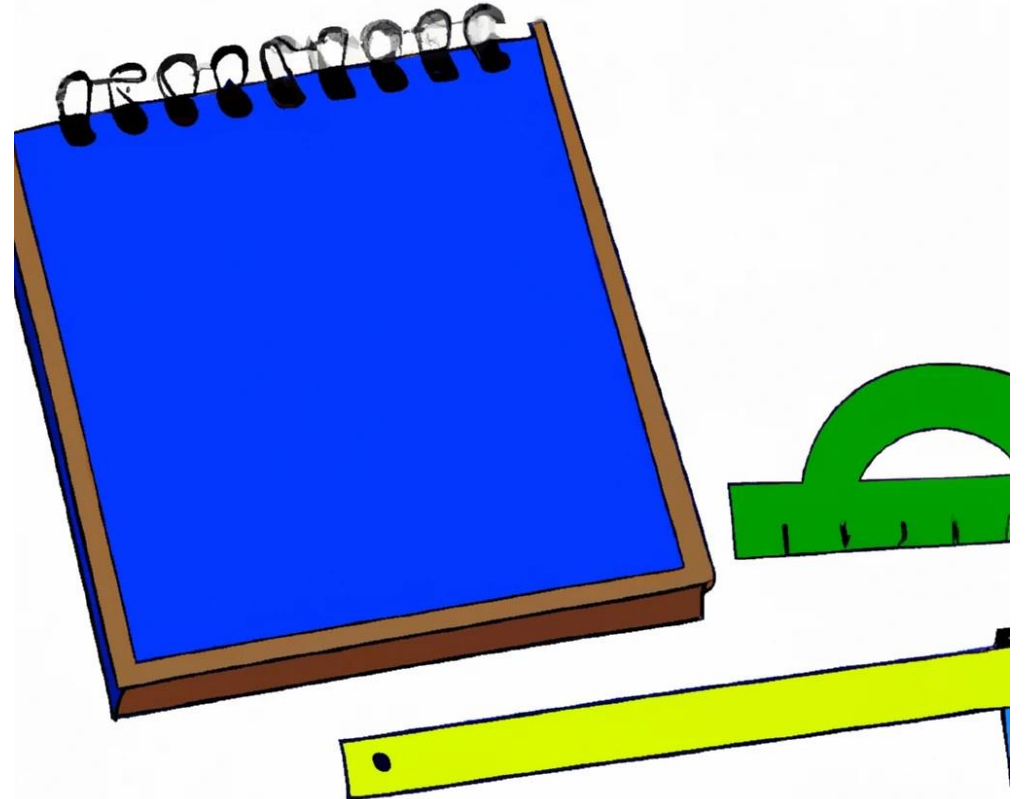
When he entered the house, his mother was waiting for him. She looked worried. "Hello mom," he told her. "The teacher called me from school" she replied, entering directly into the subject "She told me that you haven't been studying for the last few days and that you keep forgetting your homework". "The spell is solved" thought Dimitrakis "For what reason does the teacher have to get involved, I was doing fine for so many days". The truth is that he should study more if he doesn't want to have problems. A ring interrupted his thoughts.





It was a notice from Roblox on the tablet, just installed the new game that had been waiting for so many months! School can wait. "Yes mom, I will do everything but can I play the new game first?". "Of course, my boy, play as much as you want". "Perfect! The spell works just fine" he turned to his mom "Mom, I have some homework for tomorrow can you do it for me while I play?" "Of course my boy", his mom responded.

"Good morning guys" said the teacher "before I see your exercises we will write a small very easy test". Everyone took out a piece of paper and started writing. Dimitris was looking at the exercises without even touching his pencil. "Dimitris, are you unprepared again? Please bring me your homework, I want to see your exercises". Dimitris happily opened his notebooks with the written exercises that his mom had solved. A huge smile formed on his face, the teacher would not scold him now that she would see the exercises.





The teacher not only scolded him, because he came unprepared, but as soon as she saw that the grammar and math exercises had been completed by an adult and not himself, she also punished him... not to play in the school football match. "It is unfair!" he thought, "I was waiting for this match! Dad and I did so many practices in the garden. I would score and everyone would applaud me! Now I missed my chance."



# What should Dimitris decide now?

A) To be even more stubborn and decide to drop out of school. pg. 34

B) To regret his act and try to make amends. pg. 43

**A) To be even more stubborn and decide to drop out of school.**



Disappointed, Dimitris returned home. School is the worst! I hate it! I wish I never went back there! And then he came up with an amazing idea... Why should I go again? After all I can ask my parents to stay home. After all, who needs school? Whatever I want, I will go online and learn it. For a moment he seemed to regret it... Of course, at school are all my friends ... And we play a lot of games during the breaks... And we have a good time in class... but he decides quickly... Okay it does not matter, my mom will arrange for me to ask them whenever I want to come at my house.

He entered the living room with determination, found his parents and announced to them: "Mom, dad, I made a very important decision. I need rest and I cannot wait until the summer holidays. Can I miss school for a few months?" In his excitement the boy did not listen well to his parents's answer, which must have been a combination of the phrases "Of course", "whatever you want" and "are we spoiling you?" and so began the great period of Dimitris's endless vacation.





The first weeks passed like water. Sleep and snooze in bed until noon, then TV or electronic games until late at night. He only stopped for food, the food he asked his mom to make him; all kinds of pasta and many, many sweets. No need for legumes or vegetables! At school they were starting to worry. The teacher and the principal often called home to see how their young student was doing and Dimitris asked his mom or dad to lie to them about his absence. He had become very good in excuses, child's illnesses, accidents, visits from relatives from Australia, even a termite attack on the house... he thought of everything!

"It's a nice day today" thought Dimitris as he looked at the sun outside his window. His thoughts were interrupted by some familiar voices heard outside on the street. Dimitris approached to hear better. "Today the trip was fantastic", it was his friend Nikolas, "I do not remember having had such a good time again" replied the other voice that belonged to Sotiris. "It would probably be the one-day trip that the school arranged in Nafplio" Dimitrakis thought while his stomach tightened with melancholy. He was waiting for this trip for a long time, he was thinking if they would go up to the castle of Palamidi or if they would take a boat to go to the little island Bourtzi.



He wanted so much to have a conversation with his friends and ask them. He ran to the window to talk to his friends but they were far away. He watched them from a distance laughing and kicking a ball at each other. "Ball! The school games are approaching, I will lose the championship!"

He knew very well what he had to do if he wanted to play in the league "But are you sure?" "Yes mom! I want you to tell the principal that I want to play in football matches" "Well ok, let me call him". After three rings the principal picked up the phone.



Dimitris was flying with joy thinking about the goals he would score, to raise the cup, everyone to shout his name but at this moment the voice of the principal could be heard from the phone. "What are you saying, ms Hionis? Just three days ago you told me that Dimitris fell from his bike very badly and has broken his leg, not to mention the other excuses, and today you are asking me that your son comes and play in the games? You are not being serious; you have to be kidding."



His mother lost her words, she had nothing to say. "How foolish have I been," Dimitris thought, "I missed the trip, I stayed at home for so long, I lost the football match and at worst I embarrassed my mother in front of the principal. I'm ashamed." Dimitris ran to his room while his mother continued to talk to the principal. He was not interested in hearing anything else anyway. But things were about to get even worse.







The door to his room opened and his mother came in with tears in her eyes. "You know honey, I have bad news for you" "Yes I heard it, I will not go to the games" "There is also something else ..." "What else?" "The principal told me that you had too many absences this year and you are far behind in all the lessons and with so many gaps you will not be able to go to the third grade... You have to repeat the class from the beginning". Dimitris felt that the house was being demolished. "I'm to blame for all this," his mother continued, but now she was talking to herself "how did I let it all happen, I'm very confused" and more tears rolled down her face.

He got up and left the room. "What have I done? I ruined everything, my mother feels guilty and confused and I will have to repeat second grade!"

If you want to choose a different ending, please go to page 43.

If you wish for Dimitris to ask to buy whatever he wants, please go to page 48.

If you wish for Dimitris to ask not to go at the dentist, please go to page 63.

If you have read all three stories, please go to the end on page 80.

## B. To regret his act and try to make amends



In the way back home Dimitris was thinking about the games, he could not stand that he would not play. Maybe a game on the tablet would make him forget but that didn't help either. Looking for a game to play, he saw online football, reminding him of the real match he would lose. He could not allow that, he had to do something. His gaze fell on the school bag "Dimitris, do you want me to do the exercises for you today as well?" his mom asked "No mom, I will do them myself" Dimitris replied without taking his eyes off the bag.



Day by day Dimitris was getting better and better in his lessons. His teacher congratulated him on his change and his tremendous effort. Even at home, on the weekend alone, his parents let him play a little with the tablet. The days passed and Dimitris took one A after another. He was thinking of asking the teacher to let him play in the school games. "Do not forget about the trip to Nafplio" the teacher told them as if answering his thoughts "That's it" he thought "I will ask for it when we go on an excursion!" He had completely forgotten about the trip.

The trip to Nafplio was the best. They went up to the castle of Palamidi then all together they took a boat and it went to the little island of Bourtzi, they walked in the alleys of Nafplio and ate a lot of ice cream. Dimitris hesitantly approached his teacher to talk to her. " Mrs. Julia ..." "Dimitris, I was looking for you" she interrupted him "I wanted to tell you that you have made a great effort lately and well done. You deserve to go to the football match" Dimitris went crazy with joy, he could not believe his ears that the teacher said something like that.



Another pleasant surprise awaited him at home. "The teacher called us today," his dad told him, "and she brought us some very good news. We are very glad that you are trying so hard" continued his mother while at the same time she offered him a bag from a sports shop "and we wanted to make you a small gift" Dimitris opened the bag and found two shiny football shoes inside. "They are amazing! Thank you very much," he told them with a huge smile on his face. "I hope you score a lot of goals with them," his father told him.

And indeed he scored many goals in the school games.



The school team managed to reach the finals where Dimitris scored the winning goal, thus winning the cup of the games. It was one of the best moments of his life, he felt so happy.



If you want to choose a different ending, please go to page 34.

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## B) To buy whatever he wants



Dimitris, while playing with the tablet, thought that he should try the owl's wish once more. "Dad could you buy me a new tablet?" "Yes, why not," his father replied "Unbelievable!" he thought "It's really happening, I'll ask for something more" "But the tablet should be a newest model than yours, the one with the stylus" "Done" "I would like to have it if you can on Monday after school" continued Dimitris "Of course, of course" his father naturally replied.







On Monday at school he could think of nothing but the tablet. "Maybe my father was making fun of me and he didn't buy me a tablet" As soon as he got home he rushed in, he did not even have time to take off his shoes. He headed to his room, opened the door and looked at his desk. He could not believe his eyes! The tablet he had requested was waiting for him in a gift box. Dimitris opened it with lightning speed and started looking for the menu, its new features, taking pictures, listening to songs and of course playing games.



The next day at school, Dimitris told his friends about his new tablet and how good it was. Everyone was impressed by the tablet and told him how lucky he was to have it. "Was it your birthday?" his friend Sotiris asked "No, it wasn't" replied Dimitris "I'm asking because my parents give me a camera as a gift for my birthday on Saturday" everyone turned to Sotiris "Look how clear the moon came out" Sotiris took out of his bag a wonderful photo with the moon and everyone went crazy, as if they had forgotten Dimitris's tablet. "So I will get a better camera than Sotiris" he thought.



First the tablet, then the camera, then some video games and as the days went by the shopping list grew. Everything he asked of his parents they bought with great ease. As he was enjoying his gifts, his appetite was aroused, he had spent the night and had not yet eaten dinner. "Mom, what time will we eat" "In a little while because dad has not returned from work yet" "Again?" Dimitris asked puzzled "Why is he so late lately?" "We did a lot of shopping during this time and we have to work harder to cover our expenses," she replied as she wrote down some numbers on a piece of paper. You do not need to be a mathematician to figure out how to calculate house expenses. Dimitris approached and recognized some items from the list, these were the purchases he had requested from his parents.



"Maybe if we returned some of these things would be better," his mother told him "But it is possible that our economics have been affected so much by me?" Dimitris wondered. At that moment the door opened and his father entered. "Dad! You are finally back," Dimitris said in joy, but his father was so tired and distressed that he could barely walk "You are very tired!" "These were very difficult days," he said "Yes indeed" his mother continued "and I worked all day and I did not even manage to buy spaghetti. Can you please go to the supermarket to get some?"



As they were walking towards the supermarket with his dad they passed by the bicycle shop. First in line was the crimson bike he had in mind. Dimitris stood and looked at it in astonishment. With just one request it could become his own and he would get the best bike. He hesitated because he thought about the expenses of the house, but on the other hand, how much this bike could affect him. He looked at his tired father.

# What should Dimitris decide now?

A) To ask his dad to buy him a bicycle. pg. 55

B) To make amends by returning the purchases back. pg. 59

## A) To ask his dad to buy him a bicycle.

"Shall we go, my boy?" his father asked him "We have to cook" "Dad?" Dimitris asked him "Will you buy me this bike?" "Yes, I will," he replied. Any remorse of Dimitris disappeared when he climbed on the saddle of the bicycle. The feeling was awesome, the gears changed so easily, the steering wheel was like it was designed for his hands. He was so happy on his bike!





The days passed and he had hardly seen his parents at all. His father worked late on weekdays while his mother even worked a few weekends. "Are we going to the park this weekend?" Dimitris asked, hoping to finally take a ride on his new bike that he had not used since the day he got it. "Unfortunately, we have work" replied his mother "We are dealing with enough financial problems lately" Dimitris sadly went to his room to play with a new Lego that had been added to the shopping list.



The next day Dimitris woke up hearing voices from the living room, it was his parents. "It's not possible" it was his mother who spoke to his father "It is the only solution right now" "What's going on?" Dimitris interrupted them "What happened to you?" "With so many expenses we have to move elsewhere my boy" his mother replied "The expenses are too many and we can no longer stay here" " We have to move from here?" Dimitris asked in astonishment but did not get an answer. The tired looks on his parents eyes made him understand that things were very difficult.



Dimitris couldn't believe what was happening, he would suddenly have to leave his home, his neighborhood, he would lose his friends and his school. His parents are working and are tired and all this for some things he had asked for most of them were completely useless now.

If you want to choose a different ending, please go to page 34.

If you wish for Dimitris to ask to not do his homework, please go to page 19.

If you wish for Dimitris to ask not to go at the dentist, please go to page 63.

If you have read all three stories, please go to the end on page 80.

## B. To make amends by returning the markets back



"Shall we go, my Dimitraki?" his father asked him "do we have to cook" "dad;" Dimitrakis asked him "will we return all the purchases you made for me?" "Yes ame" said his father and Dimitrakis noticed a relief in his eyes. From the very next day, most of the things that Dimitrakis had taken had been returned to the stores. The tablet, the camera, the video games, the sound system, the Iron Man figures, the mirror that told the time. "But how many unnecessary things I had bought," thought Dimitrakis.

His parents finally did not work that many hours. They themselves were relaxed but Dimitrakis also spent more time with them. Within a few days, all things were back. They were almost all unused and the shops accepted them back, returning the money back. Everything in the house became like before and that made Dimitrakis very happy, happier than having any object in the world.

The days passed and without realizing it, his birthday arrived. It was Friday and the best of all was that it followed three days since it was pure Monday. Returning home, he wondered what gift his parents had given him for his birthday.



He knew that their finances were not good lately so he would not mind if it was a cake. Arriving outside the house you saw his parents sitting in front of the door next to a huge box. "Happy birthday Dimitraki" said his parents at the same time Dimitrakis ran to see what was in the box. It was a bike like the one he had seen in the window just that "Is the newest model" as if his father continued thinking "with 21 speeds and disc brakes" "We've been taking a deep breath financially lately thanks to you so we got you something worthwhile," his mother told him.

"Do not take it out of the box yet" his father told him "we will put it in the car directly".





"Get ready for the three days on the mountain" his mother told him "you will try your new bike there" Dimitrakis had gone crazy with joy. This double surprise made him so happy. After all, the feeling of being spontaneously given a gift is much better than using the owl's wish.

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If you have read all three stories, please go to the end on page 80.

### C) Not to go to the dentist.

He was holding the tablet in his hands, and it seemed like a lie. He ate another pancake with a lot of syrup and immediately his mind went to the dentist. After eating the last piece, Dimitris did not hesitate at all. "Mom can we cancel the appointment with the dentist?" "Of course, my boy" she replied "do you want to transfer it another day? The dentist should look at your teeth " "Hmm, I do not want to go to the dentist mom at all," he replied "Ok no problem, I will call to cancel the appointment with the doctor" his mother replied and picked up the phone to call the doctor. Dimitris did not believe that not only could he eat whatever sweet he wanted but he also wouldn't go to the dentist. He opened the tablet and started playing full of joy and satisfaction.





Monday dawned and Dimitris was getting ready for school. "Are the spells still valid?" he thought "Let's see" he opened the door of his room and said in a loud voice "Mom, will you make me pancakes with plenty of syrup today?" "Of course, my boy" she replied. Dimitris jumped full of joy that whatever he asked for he did not take no as an answer. He ate his pancakes with joy and left for school.



Weeks passed and Dimitris' breakfast now consisted of pancakes with plenty of syrup, a croissant had replaced the apple in the school breakfast, after lunch he always had a piece of cake and in the evening instead of yogurt, he had a delicious strawberry paste. "Why did the gym teacher say that we should eat healthy for our body? Why did the dentist say that we should avoid many sweets so as not to spoil our teeth? For so long I have been eating whatever I want, and I have not suffered anything" he said to himself every time he swallowed a sweet.



Today was a special Saturday. Dimitris's best friend, Nikolas, had a birthday party. All the classmates had gathered at Nikolas's house to celebrate. They played various games, listened to music, gave the presents to Nikolas and finally blew the cake candles, singing together "Happy Birthday Nikolas". The cake was so delicious, it contained cookies, syrups, cream whatever you can imagine. Dimitris took a large spoon and put it in his mouth. To his great surprise, instead of the pandemonium of sweet tastes, he felt a sharp pain in one of his back teeth.





For the rest of the time he could think of nothing but the pain in his tooth. "What if my tooth was damaged by many sweets? No, it is not possible for teeth to decay so easily. On the other hand I ate every day, maybe I should go to the dentist. Will he pull out all my gums?" thoughts ran through his mind while the pain was still present in every bite of sweet. "Come on Dimitris, we are leaving" it was his mom who had come to pick him up from the party "What is the matter my boy?" she asked him seeing that something was bothering him "Is everything all right?"

# What should Dimitris decide now?

A) Do not say anything to his mom and continue eating sweets. pg. 69

B) Ask his mom to take him to the dentist. pg. 75

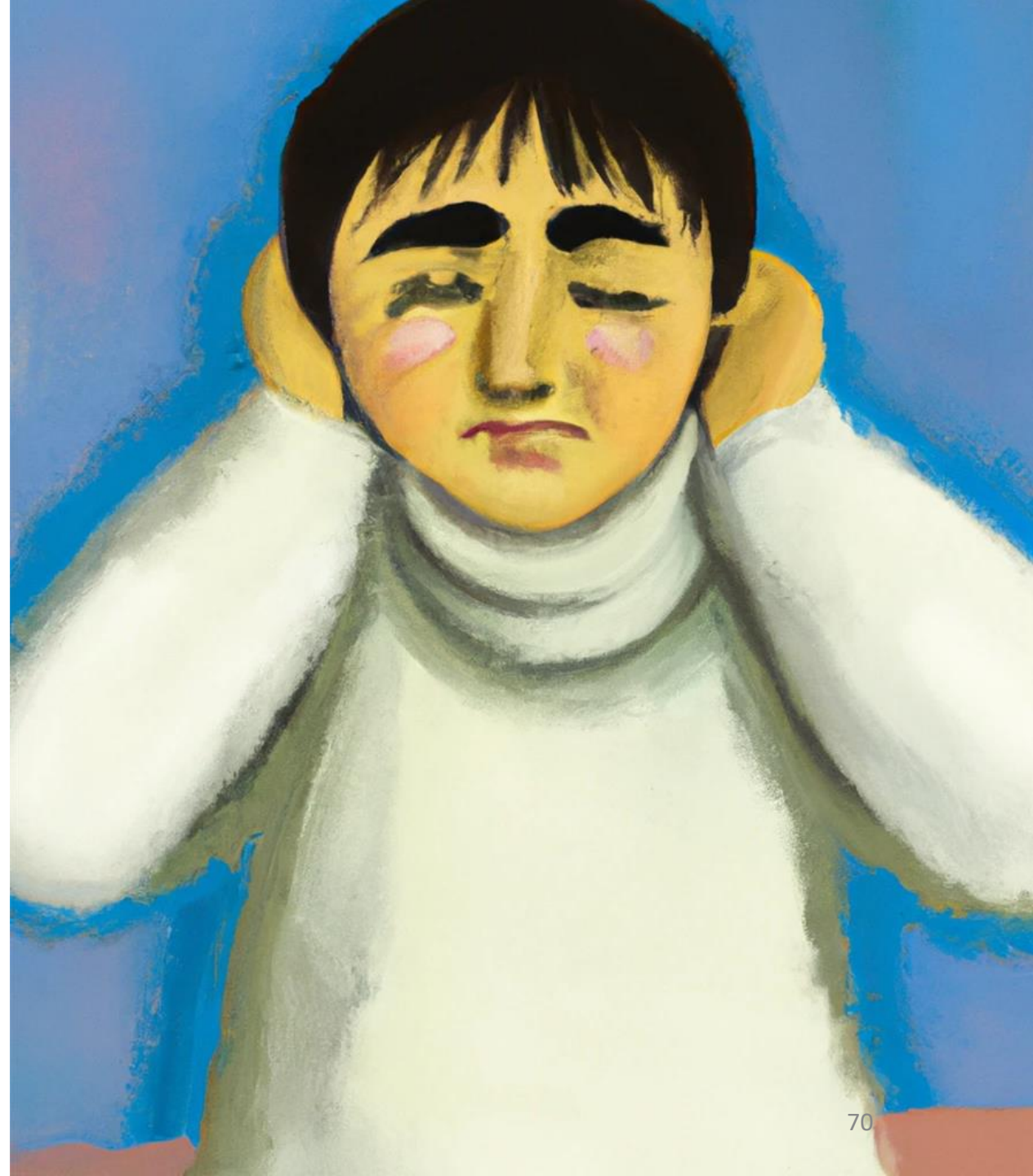
**A. Do not say anything to his mom and continue eating sweets.**



"I'm fine mom" Dimitris replied without telling her about his toothache and they both made their way home. As they walked, his tooth did not bother him at all. "Maybe it was this dessert" he thought "let's try another dessert softer without cookies" "Mom, can we get some pasta from the patisserie?" Of course, his mother did not refuse him. They entered the store and chose a chocolate paste. Dimitris hesitantly ate a bite and nothing. Not the slightest pain. "That was it," he thought, "that sweet would be to blame," he ate all his paste full of relief.

There were days when the pain returned momentarily to Dimitris's tooth but he had found the solution in ice creams, granitas and sweets in general that did not need much biting. Even the food he asked his mother for was limited to rice and spaghetti. "Oh how I miss a steak" he thought "but it can hurt my tooth again if I bite something hard" The days passed and Dimitris tried to hide the problem with his tooth. One night after eating a milk pudding he went to bed. That night would be one of the worst of his life.

A strong pain coming from his tooth woke him up in the night. It was like someone pierced his jaw with force. As time went on the pain spread throughout his head.





Dimitris cried and his parents ran to his room to see what was happening. "We have to go to the dentist," his father told him "No, I do not want to go," he whined "Very well" said his mother sternly "if you do not want to go to the dentist, he will come here" she turned her back and left so quickly that Dimitris did not have time to talk to her.

The dentist who came quickly, entered Dimitris's room furiously "Come on, open your mouth, let me see the infamous tooth," she told him "I do not want to" Dimitris replied and thought of the owl's wish "I want you to leave".



The doctor not only did not leave but also opened his suitcase with various tools. The wish only applied to his parents and the doctor is determined to not back down. At the same time, the pain became even more unbearable. Dimitris understood that there was no reason to resist anymore.

"Things are very bad" the doctor said after finishing the examination "three teeth need extraction immediately" "Do you mean you will pull out three whole teeth for me?" Dimitris was terrified. "I'm sorry my boy but they must be removed as soon as possible otherwise the infection will spread throughout your mouth and things will get ten times worse".





"They can get worse?" Dimitris asked with rolled eyes  
"Certainly!" the doctor replied "if you had come to me sooner you would have saved them with a simple seal. And of course if you did not eat so many sweets!"

Dimitris did the export and for a month he could not eat anything except soups. With the slightest bite his mouth ached. His doctor had told him that it would pass in a while. "But how foolish I was," he thought, "I would have avoided all this if I had gone to the doctor and not eaten so many sweets. Now I have to eat only boiled soups".

If you want to choose a different ending, please go to page 75.

If you wish for Dimitris to ask to not do his homework, please go to page 19.

If you wish for Dimitris to ask to buy whatever he wants, please go to page 48.

If you have read all three stories, please go to the end on page 80.

## B. Ask his mom to take him to the dentist.

"Mom, I think I should go to the dentist" replied Dimitris "as soon as I bit a hard piece of cookie from the cake my tooth hurt a lot" As soon as he finished his sentence, he had already regretted it. And if the doctor pulled out his tooth, and if he had to have surgery and if his mother scolded him because ... "Well, it's nothing," his mother interrupted his thoughts. "What do you mean by a simple seal?" He asked "I have one too" he replied "it's nothing, in 10 minutes it is over".



And indeed, it was! The next day they went to the dentist and, as Dimitris's mother had predicted, a simple seal was needed. As long as the sealing lasted, Dimitris felt a slight discomfort, but it could not be compared to the pain he had felt at Nikolas's party. "Done" shouted the dentist "Already?" Dimitris asked "Of course" "It could not have been so simple" he thought "now he will tell me that I should only eat soups for a month and that I can never eat any sweets again" the doctor took a serious look and was getting ready to talk to Dimitris

"As you understood my little boy..."





The doctor did not have time to finish his sentence "I know, no more sweets" Dimitris interrupted sullenly and the doctor laughed "Oh no! Who lives without sweets" he replied" but you should limit them! "You cannot eat every day unless you want to come back here," he told him with a smile "No I don't to be honest" replied Dimitris "and when can I start eating again? My mouth feels a little numb," he asked, waiting for the answer with a heavy heart "Until the afternoon you will be able to even eat steak" A huge weight left Dimitris! Nothing he thought eventually happened, everything was simpler than he imagined.

In the evening they all ate together in a restaurant to celebrate the sealing of Dimitris, as his dad said jokingly. Dimitris ate a juicy steak, and his tooth did not bother him at all. How right his parents were in the end who insisted on not eating so many sweets. If he had listened to them from the beginning and gone to the dentist, he would have avoided all this. "Fortunately, everything is fine now," Dimitris thought as he continued his meal happily.



If you want to choose a different ending, please go to page 69.

If you wish for Dimitris to ask to not do his homework, please go to page 19.

If you wish for Dimitris to ask to buy whatever he wants, please go to page 48.

If you have read all three stories, please go to the end on page 80.

End



Dimitris was sitting in his room and looking out of the window. He was thinking about everything that had happened lately. A mother with a small child was walking on the sidewalk when the child saw the playground across the street and he wanted without hesitation to cross. Of course his mom stopped him "No! We never cross the street," she told him sternly, and the little boy cried because his mother would not let him cross. Dimitris smiled "But he does not understand that she told him no for his own good, otherwise the cars would hit him," Dimitris said to himself.





And at that time he understood everything.

All these adventures in his life came from the moment the magic owl fulfilled his wish. The troubles started when his parents stopped saying "no" to him and granting him all favours! Dimitris suddenly felt so naive just like the small child that went to cross the street and got angry with his mother. "I have to stop it" he monologued "everything must be done as before! The owl said that " Before the sun rises, the word "no" will disappear from your parents' mouth. Ask for whatever you want because the time for the word "yes" has come. And if you ever regret it, hammer three times and the bird of knowledge will appear in front of you."

Without a second thought, Dimitris whistled loudly three times. Like the first time he met the magic owl, now a strong wind blew and Dimitris closed his eyes. As soon as the wind stopped he opened his eyes and looked out the window. There was the owl waiting for him with her glare starring at Dimitris. "Well, I think you got your lesson, young man," she told him "How did you..." "I know a lot of things" she interrupted him "You thought that by saying no your parents wanted to torture you! While they wanted the exact opposite, whatever they did they did it for your own good".



Dimitris was listening in amazement "And then why did you do this to me?" he asked her "Why did you not explain it to me from the beginning and let me be tortured?" "Because this is my mission" she replied "in this way I help children to understand that listening to the word no and setting limits is for their own good" Dimitris did not say anything "When we are young we may not understand it but parents always know when to say no and when to say yes to something we ask".

He had so many questions to ask her but as soon as she opened her mouth to speak the owl spread its huge wings and disappeared into the night. Dimitris looked out the window for a few minutes.





"Have the spells been solved?" He wondered. "Is there a way to find out?" He ran to the living room where his parents were. "Mom, Dad, can I not go to school tomorrow?" he asked them, anxiously awaiting their answer "OF COURSE NOT!" they answered at the same time. Dimitris delighted ran at them "Thank you very much!" It was the first time he was so happy that he heard the word no.

The End

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