



Name: _____

An Honest Mistake

It was a sunny Monday morning at Reeds Spring Elementary, and Mrs. Dilliner's third grade class was buzzing with excitement. Everyone was talking about the big math test they had just taken. Sarah, a bright and hardworking student, felt confident about her answers. She loved math, and this test was important for her grades.



After lunch, Mrs. Dilliner returned with the graded tests. "I'm so proud of how hard everyone worked," she said as she handed the tests back. Sarah's heart raced as she looked at her paper. There, at the top, was a big red "A+" and a note that read, *Great job!* She smiled proudly.

Later that afternoon, Mrs. Dilliner began reviewing the test questions with the class. As Sarah followed along, she realized something. On one of the harder problems, she had made a mistake, but Mrs. Dilliner hadn't marked it wrong. The problem was worth five points, and if it had been marked wrong, her grade wouldn't have been an A+.

Sarah's stomach tightened. "What should I do?" she wondered. She didn't want to lose her A+, but she also knew the grade wasn't completely honest. She thought about it all through recess and even after school, trying to decide.

That night, Sarah talked to her mom about the mistake. "What do you think I should do?" she asked.

Her mom smiled gently. "Well, how would you feel if you didn't say anything?"

Sarah thought for a moment. "I guess... I would feel bad because it wouldn't be the truth. I didn't really earn that A+."

Her mom nodded. "Honesty is always the best choice, even when it's hard. Your teacher will respect you for being honest."

The next day, Sarah took a deep breath and walked up to Mrs. Dilliner's desk. "Mrs. Dilliner, I need to talk to you," she said quietly.

Mrs. Dilliner looked up, smiling. "What's on your mind, Sarah?"

Sarah held out her test. "I realized I made a mistake on this problem, but it wasn't marked wrong. I didn't earn the A+."



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Mrs. Dilliner looked at the problem and nodded. "You're right, Sarah. I missed that mistake. But I'm really proud of you for being honest and bringing it to my attention. That shows great character."

Sarah felt a wave of relief wash over her. Even though her grade went down to an A, she knew she had done the right thing.

Later that week, Mrs. Dilliner announced, "I want to give a special shout-out to someone who showed incredible honesty this week. Sarah noticed a mistake on her test, but instead of keeping quiet, she was brave enough to speak up. That's the kind of person we should all strive to be—honest, even when it's tough."

Sarah's classmates clapped, and she smiled, feeling proud. She realized that being honest was even better than getting a perfect grade. After all, doing the right thing made her feel good inside, and that was something she could always be proud of.

1. What is the theme of this story? _____

2. What helped Sarah decide to be honest about the math test? _____

3. Reread paragraph 1. What does "buzzing with excitement" tell you about the class?
