

Cynthia To

Ms. Pahomov

English 2- C band

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Older sister in Charge

All I wanted was to relax at home for one whole day - taking a break from all of the Geometry. A good portion of my summer had been spent focusing on Geometry every day of the summer. My thoughts only lingered around finishing that online course. Each day I had to do an endless pile of lessons just to stay on track with the curriculum. It was my plan. This was the plan that I started thinking about the day before I signed up for Geometry.

When we came home from my grandparents' house, I asked my mom and my dad, "Hey Mom and Dad, can I stay home tomorrow and relax?" I knew they would understand me. My parents are always concerned that my sister and I were not getting enough sleep from school. They are right to be because of all that work being piled on us, we're always tired!

It's always hard balancing school work and home chores especially now that my sister doesn't live at home. Ellen comes home every few days and when she does, you'd think that my life would get easier, right? Wrong. When Ellen comes home from her apartment for the weekend, she almost always comes home to a slightly instantly started to yell about the chores in the house! She came home, cleaned, took a nap, and then yelled at me to do some chores!

“Cynthia, don’t just stay home and wat! Be a productive human being!”

I was too drained to argue with her so I answered with a simple - okay. I got why she doesn’t want me to stay home all day and not be useful but I don’t think she understands all of the work I’ve put into my summer course! I just need a break! I don’t think that’s too much to ask for.

Before my Dad drove my sister to her co-op at Drexel, she said to me, “Since you are at home, do all of the laundries, she’d never and it up.” She never gives me a break! I know what she has to go through in college, but doesn’t she know how stressed or how fast Geometry is.

Then again, come to think about it... she does. I forgot that she also took Geometry in the summer and she stressed about it like a crazy person - just like me! I remember her freaking out about this class over the summer and how supportive I had been. I was half awake on my bed saying to Ellen, "Hmmm..." and I went back to sleep and my mom started to do the laundry for me. My mom knew how tired I was so she let me sleep a little more until my dad came home to wake me up.

After, my parents left for work, I went downstairs to eat breakfast. While eating breakfast, I watched Korean Dramas to keep me occupied. I did my own thing while watching episodes of Korean Dramas. After the episode was over I decided to check on the clothes and the dry them. The clothes were still a little damp so I set the dryer timer a little longer. While waiting, I decided this to watch my drama again. After two hours of dramas, I went to go on the laundry and they were finally dry. I carried dried clothes up to everyone’s room making room for the next load to go into the washer.

Not to long later, my sister came home earlier than usual. Usually she comes home around 7ish or 8ish with my parents but this time, she came home at 5. She walked in the house and I was on my phone watching Korean drama on the sofa. She came in, looked at me, and said, “hey Cynthia, did you finish the laundry?”

I could barely hear her over the drama I was watching. I had earbuds in and I was crying my eyes out on the sofa because of the drama I was watching. I thought when I had a day off from stressing about Geometry, I’d actually have the day off. But that wasn’t the case - especially when Ellen came home.

“WHAT DID YOU SAY?” I responded.

“Did you do all the laundry and bring it up?” as she said even louder.

“Oh, I did some of it.” I shrugged and I went back to my drama and crying my eyes out.

“SOME? You had all day,” she said as she threw her arms in the air!

“Sorry! The clothes took forever to dry.”

“STOP lying,” she shouted, “if you weren’t watching dramas on your phone, you could have done all the laundry and brought it up. Then I wouldn’t have to yell at you.” Stomping her feet while she is walking down the stairs to the basement to check if the laundry was dried. Eventually, I got off my phone and on this day, I learned to help out more.

With Ellen coming home and telling me to stay on top of house chores, it shows me that being on the internet doesn’t help me with anything productive. When I am at home, I’m never fully relaxed because I have to do the chores around the house. Even though I need breaks

sometimes, I know that my parents need more breaks than I do because they are taking care of the whole family. I now know that I should get off of the internet and be more active.