To our community organizations and allies against hate, this is for you.

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Good morning class, today we are going to draw something new.

Again? Do we always need to draw new things? Can't we keep doing more still lifes?

Yes, we need to Marjana. That is how we grow.

I don't need to grow anymore, ... Can I just work on what I did last week?

You have a sense of humor! Please stop interrupting.

Class, this week we are drawing something exciting! Our heroes.

Are you excited Yumi?

*GROAN*

Uh ...

*SIGH *

Ms. T wants us to draw something different this week. Our heroes.

So lame ... I wanted to do more still lifes, they're so relaxing.

Now we need to think about who and why.

Do you know who you would do?
Marjana! Are you still talking and bothering Yumi? Did you think of anything?

Well, what did you think of so far?

All this time passed and that’s it? Yumi, how about you?

Totally understandable because Marjana has been talking to you this whole time. How about a suggestion: what about one of your parents? I remember your parents from the PTA meeting last week; they were wonderful.

Well, there’s so many of those out there, but Marjana you are interrupting again!

Sorry about that Yumi. Did you decide during all this time Marjana was busy talking?

I ... I don't think I can do it.

Oh Ms. T, look at what Ashager drew!

Oh, I know who! Salman Khan!

He made Khan Academy, he’s my hero! You haven’t heard of it Ms. T? It’s the world-famous free online learning program that everyone’s on!

What?

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I'll be right back, try what I suggested. You don't need to overthink it.
Alright, class; I asked Ashager if she can start off because she's the first one to complete the assignment! Ashager can you share and explain?

Sure, Ms. T!

Class, can anyone guess who this is?

Ms. T, I—

Hmm, how about someone who hasn't gone yet? We haven't heard much from Yumi—

Yumi, can you tell us who this is?

I know!

I know!

Me!

I know!
Yumi, why are you disappointing our parents like this after everything they do?

Is this how you greet your parents after we have been working all day long?

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Yumi, why are you disappointing our parents like this after everything they do?
Hello?

MARJANA      2h ago
TXT ME WHEN U CAN
YUMI

MARJANA      50m ago
[missed calls]
Even if it's late, text me.

I'm worried about you.

I'm worried like last time ...

even if it's late, text me.

Even though I am still such a failure and disappointing everyone.

Thanks Marjana.

No you're not! Ms. T is just awful.

It's not that... I just can't talk about it. I don't know. I'll be fine.

Have a good night!

... 

Good night Yumi ...
Love you!
NO, leave me alone.

Yumi, get up!

You better go to school.

Mom and dad did not immigrate here and go through everything they do for you to be just lying there like that. Do you want to keep disappointing them?

I don't care what you say, I'm staying home!

You need to get to work on time.

Mom and dad did not immigrate here and go through everything they do for you to be just lying there like that. Do you want to keep disappointing them?

You're gonna be in so much trouble, but I'm not gonna be late.

You're gonna get in trouble too, and I'm already about to be late.

Okay, well ... it's all your fault.

NEXT MORNING ...
07:00 am

Yes ... yes ... no ... Do you want to—

06:00 pm

I didn't understand anything she said ... Yumi didn't go to school today ... Yumi! Come out this instant!

... Yes ... yes ... no ...

Do you want to—
Your counselor is ‘Ms. Li’ but she doesn’t speak Korean ... she asked about your history. She knew about last year when you went to the mental hospital! She even asked if we would like to consider therapy!!

Do you know what they said? They wanted to know if everything was okay at home. What must they be thinking?

The school counselor called us! How could my daughter end up like this, how can you do this to us??! Again?!!

I can’t believe this. Ms. Li is cool, she won’t tell anyone. She’s actually half Korean and half Taiwanese. And mom, it’s not a mental hospital! It’s a psychiatric facility—

Uh, well I think we don’t need to worry about Ms. Li and she might be able to help—

Well sadly lots of kids hurt themselves or say they want to die more than once. I noticed Ms. Li works with a lot of the Asian kids and they don’t always go back to the hospital—

She might be able to help WHAT?!!

Are you saying that is the goal? That Yumi doesn’t go to the hospital? After everything she put everyone through—

...
EVERYONE STOP!!!!
Mom,
what is she talking about?

Oh really?
Fell on top of a metal pipe that some nice man was holding and somehow only the other Asian people in the subway car fell on?

do you want to tell Yuri what happened while she was at her study sleepover? Yuri, did you notice dad's head?

What? I heard he fell on his way to work!

what??

That's the biggest problem—TALKING.

They want to know everything when I'm not going to class or when I don't get a good grade but they're so scared I'll say anything about what actually happened!

While I'm at it might as well say this—everyone cares about me not going to school but no one—no one except Marjana and maybe Ms. Li—wanted to know if I was okay! No one bothers to ask me how I feel or if anything happened.

do you think about what you put me through?

Mom, what is she talking about?
Leave me alone or else!!!

SLAM
Later that day

Yumi?

Can you hear me?

... Do you wanna talk?

Seriously? That's what you're here to say?? Did you even hear what I was saying?

I know you don't wanna talk to us... and honestly I didn't know all that about Dad. But I'm asking if you want to talk to Marjana.

No, she called me. She was worried.

I'm not saying you need to listen to me, but I think it'd help to talk to her and Ms. Li.

Just give it a chance.
ONE WEEK LATER...

Do you want to talk about what happened? Or how you ended up coming back?

I'm scared of what could happen. I'm worried my parents are right. But I'm also really confused because everyone else seems to think we should speak up.

Yes, it can be complicated...

Especially if your parents seem to be saying something different.

I'm still not sure but I'm here because Marjana and my sister helped me. There's also stuff I think I wanna talk about?

Well, you're in the right place.

It does sound like you're not sure yet. What makes you feel that way?

Yumi! I'm so glad you decided to come back to school and meet with me.
I’m so ashamed. I never say no to the teacher and I wouldn’t even think of walking out of class ... but that’s what I did that day. So much was happening.

Well, we all heard about the thing someone drew on Ashager’s locker because she reported it ...

We were all shocked because we just finished reading about World War II and were reading US History ... Ashager explained how it affected her as an Ethiopian Jew.

I don’t know why I can’t be strong like Ashager. You know her right? From what happened last year?

I don’t know why they couldn’t get rid of it sooner! I remember because my locker is right next to hers.

No one talks about it.
Then last week before art class ...

Someone drew something on my locker.

No one saw it either.

I wiped it off ... and went to class.

Yumi... that must have been terrible.

Did you tell anyone?
I was so mad at myself for not saying anything.

Just like your parents?

Anyways, when we were in art class Ms. T asked us to draw heroes ... She suggested I draw my parents.

Ashager drew Kamala Harris saying "Mr. Vice President, I'm speaking."

Ms. T called on me, I couldn’t say anything. She said I was gonna fail the assignment.

Just like my parents.

Oh Yumi ... Can I just say I am so sorry ...

Actually, I just played video games. I got in a lot of trouble.

It must have been so hard. How did you manage?
If they're from a different place, a different time, they might not know what it's like for you.

That's what they ultimately want for you, too; even if you can't always agree.

So, it is up to you to make the choices that feel right to you, Yumi.

My parents might want what's best for me. So, if they think it's the best thing … they might tell you not to play video games.

It's confusing because it's complicated.

Yes...

Of course!

You're not alone, I used to be confused, too.

There's nothing wrong with that. It must be confusing when you get in trouble at home but counselors and teachers tell you it's okay.
That kinda makes sense ... But I don't know if things could really change.

It's completely normal to feel that way ... and somehow surprises are normal too!

We can talk more about it later but I think it will help if you had more support ... I want to meet often but I'm a school counselor. Can I recommend a place where they have different programs and people like me whom you can meet often?

My mom told me you suggested it for them, too. She wasn't happy ...

I think you're right, but she might not have been ready. That's why I ask everyone again ... especially when things change—and often they do, too.

Well how about you, Yumi? Do you feel that you're more comfortable now talking to a counselor than before?

*NOD NOD*

Of course, after meeting you! I don't know if I will be with a new person but ...

... I'll think about it.
ONE WEEK LATER ...

I’m so glad you agreed to come out! This seems like such a cool event ... they even have a youth mental health booth. I just joined a Bengali youth group and it’s awesome! We’re having AAPI events this month too. I think it’s a Korean community organization and another Asian community organization working together.

That’s great! Keep me posted about it ... and also Ms. Li!

I signed up for the mental health clinic, just waiting for the health insurance and schedule.

Yep, my parents like it too! Especially because they have so many services ... all in Korean too. They have all kinds of things here.

Oh um ... Marjana, do you remember last time when I told you about my dad?

Yeahhh, OMG ...
I got here early and was looking at the flyer there. Take a look—

OMG...

What do you want to do Yumi?

Well, I'm going show the Korean version to my parents.

I don't know what will happen next... but first things first, I'm speaking.