

- 1 KEITH: You know, I don't think it has to be *one* of us. We're just
2 going to have to take responsibility. All of us. Say how
3 sorry we are and live with the fact that it could've been any
4 one of us who did it.
5 MASON: Maybe ...
6 TANNER: You know, it could've been any one of us to lose an
7 eye, too.
8 KEITH: I know. It was pretty dumb to be shooting BBs at each
9 other like that. *(Pause.)*
10 TANNER: I wish I'd been afraid and hid like Jacob.
11 KEITH/MASON: Me, too.
12 TANNER: You know what? I bet Wes does, too. But that doesn't
13 change anything, does it? *(Stands up.)* Come on, we'd
14 better go talk to his parents.

Overbearing Mother

(2 Guys, 2 Girls)

CHARACTERS:

Danielle: Sierra's friend who tries to keep her calm about her grades and help her find a solution.

Sierra: Girl who gets a B and is freaking out because her mother expects only A's.

Alex: Acts like a goof-off but in the end thinks Sierra should just tell the truth.

Jordan: True goof-off who gets upset with Sierra's drama and believes the way out is to break the computer.

SETTING:

The two boys are talking in the hallway at school. Then the two girls come out of a classroom a few seconds later. Sierra is really upset.

1 DANIELLE: Seriously, I promise. It'll be OK. It's not that bad.
 2 SIERRA: No it won't! My mom is going to kill me!
 3 ALEX: What's going on?
 4 JORDAN: (To ALEX) Get ready; here comes another of Sierra's
 5 meltdowns over stupid things that don't matter. Just try to
 6 act like you care.
 7 DANIELLE: Sierra got a B in Algebra, and she's freaking out
 8 about it. It's really not even a big deal.
 9 SIERRA: No, I'm not, and even if I am, you would be too! My
 10 mom is going to flip when she sees this. She thinks that
 11 A's are the only way to go. If we ever get a B we're in a lot
 12 of trouble.
 13 JORDAN: Well, she wouldn't like my report card, then.
 14 ALEX: Or mine. I, like, only get B's.
 15 SIERRA: Can you guys get over it? I have a problem here, and
 16 you're only worried about yourselves like always.
 17 DANIELLE: OK, maybe you can just go talk to Mrs. Thompson
 18 and see if you can get your grade raised.
 19 SIERRA: We're talking about Mrs. Thompson. She doesn't
 20 accept late work and there's no extra credit. Ever.
 21 DANIELLE: Maybe she would this one time. You never know. It's
 22 worth a try at least.
 23 SIERRA: No way. It's so dumb, too. I always get hundreds in her
 24 class! Then I was too busy practicing for my piano recital
 25 and I forgot to study for that stupid quiz! One stupid F and
 26 now I've got a B in her class! How can that even be
 27 possible?
 28 ALEX: She counts quizzes twice. It's so unfair.
 29 SIERRA: She's probably just out to get me. Ever since teacher
 30 appreciation. I mean it's an honest mistake. We have so
 31 many teachers and it's easy to just forget one. I can tell
 32 that ever since I forgot about her stupid present, she's
 33 been acting different towards me. And of course the time I
 34 blurt out that I forgot to study — pop quiz! Totally taking
 35 advantage of the situation!

1 DANIELLE: Don't overreact. I always get A's and I didn't get her
 2 a gift.
 3 JORDAN: When I got a D on my report card, my mom freaked
 4 and made me go to tutoring. It stunk. The tutors think they
 5 know everything. I hated it.
 6 DANIELLE: You're not helping.
 7 ALEX: This is so stupid; it's a B. My mom is happy when I get
 8 B's.
 9 SIERRA: Well, your mom wasn't valedictorian in college, was
 10 she? And she doesn't expect you to be *exactly* like her,
 11 does she?
 12 ALEX: (Sarcastically) OK. Sorry.
 13 JORDAN: I don't understand why it's a big deal. It's only
 14 midterms; it doesn't even count.
 15 SIERRA: In my mom's head it does. She frames every single
 16 report card that we get back. Doesn't matter whether it's
 17 a midterm or not. To her, they all count. She switches
 18 them out every grading period.
 19 DANIELLE: It's true. I've seen them. It's like the wall of fame.
 20 SIERRA: Or in my case, the wall of *shame!*
 21 ALEX: You're so dramatic, Sierra.
 22 SIERRA: Dramatic? My sisters all are going to have their
 23 midterms put in a frame and hung on the wall, and mine
 24 will be thrown away. I'll probably be grounded for life and
 25 my mother will look at me with pure disappointment;
 26 wondering where she went wrong in raising me. She will tell
 27 all her friends, "Oh, look how smart Lisa and Gretchen
 28 are!" and then she'll look at me and just shake her head.
 29 DANIELLE: I've seen that look before, too! Your mom does that
 30 whole I'm-so-disappointed-in-you look absolutely perfect!
 31 SIERRA: All because Mrs. Thompson won't give me a chance!
 32 All she had to do was round my grade up one point! One
 33 stinking little point and I'd have an A on my midterm. I
 34 think she's just out to get me and make me fail.
 35 JORDAN: A B is not failing. Anyway, Mrs. Thompson is the only

1 nice teacher in this hallway. How can you not like her?
 2 SIERRA: Have you not been listening? Gosh, Jordan! You're so
 3 stupid.
 4 JORDAN: Really? Because I'm not the one with a B in Mrs.
 5 Thompson's class. Mrs. Thompson actually likes me and
 6 always gives me A's.
 7 DANIELLE: (*Ignoring JORDAN*) Sierra, it's not that big of a deal.
 8 So your midterm doesn't get put in a frame and hung on
 9 the wall. And so you might get grounded for a little while
 10 — it's just one time.
 11 SIERRA: How can you say that? I *have* to have my midterm on
 12 the wall. My sisters can't be the only people getting praised
 13 for their good grades. They'll be impossible to live with, as
 14 if they aren't already! They'll be so happy that I messed up.
 15 I always have higher grades, am better at sports, and play
 16 the piano way better than them! If I slip up just one time,
 17 I'll never hear the end of it!
 18 ALEX: Well, it's not like they're perfect.
 19 SIERRA: They'll seem that way now, won't they? The perfect
 20 daughters. I'll be the black sheep of the family. The family
 21 dunce. They probably won't even let me eat at the table
 22 with them.
 23 JORDAN: Oh, please. One B is not going to get you disowned
 24 from your family.
 25 ALEX: Really. One B is not going to kill you.
 26 SIERRA: You don't know that. I could die of my mom's
 27 disappointment.
 28 DANIELLE: Maybe it's time for your sisters to have a moment to
 29 shine. Believe me, I live in my sister's shadow, and that's
 30 not a great place to be. I'd give anything for her to mess up.
 31 SIERRA: Well, this isn't about you, Danielle, now is it? You're
 32 always try to make everything be about you. So can we get
 33 back to how I'm going to get this grade up? (*DANIELLE*
 34 *looks angry.*)
 35 JORDAN: What if you don't show her and say you haven't

1 gotten your midterm yet and you get it up to an A before
 2 she notices.
 3 SIERRA: Are you an idiot? My mom checks my grades every
 4 night online. That wouldn't work.
 5 ALEX: What if you tell her they made a mistake and you really
 6 do have all A's?
 7 SIERRA: Uh, I don't know. I'm not a very good liar.
 8 JORDAN: Really? 'Cause you're a great actor.
 9 ALEX: You — not a good liar? You told me you had a second
 10 house in Hawaii the first time we met.
 11 SIERRA: We were in third grade! Everybody lies in third grade!
 12 And besides, my parents *were* thinking about buying land
 13 in Hawaii.
 14 JORDAN: Yeah, just like they were *thinking* about becoming
 15 missionaries in Africa that one year.
 16 SIERRA: Well, they were. Can I help it if they change their minds
 17 a lot?
 18 ALEX: And the time you told me that Tom Cruise was your
 19 uncle. I met your uncle, and he doesn't look a thing like
 20 Tom Cruise.
 21 SIERRA: OK. This isn't helping. Let's stay focused, OK? So how
 22 is my mom not going to know about the B when she
 23 checks my grades every night?
 24 JORDAN: Ooooh! Break your computer! Then blame it on one
 25 of your perfect sisters.
 26 DANIELLE: (*Perks up at this idea. She'd love to do that to her sister.*)
 27 Good idea! Then your sisters can get in trouble and *they*
 28 can get that disappointed look! (*ALEX and JORDAN high five*
 29 *each other.*)
 30 SIERRA: I am not going to break my computer! You guys are so
 31 stupid!
 32 JORDAN: Not as stupid as your face.
 33 ALEX: Ooooh, burn. (*ALEX and JORDAN high five each other again.*)
 34 SIERRA: You guys are so immature. I can't even believe I'm
 35 friends with you!

1 DANIELLE: I know! Why don't you say that you should go out
 2 for dinner? That way when you get home, you can stay on
 3 the computer all night and your mom won't be able to get
 4 on to check your grades.

5 SIERRA: I guess that could work. I'll tell her I'm working on
 6 research for a project. And I'll take forever to eat at the
 7 restaurant. Maybe I could even hang out in the bathroom
 8 for awhile and pretend that my stomach hurts!

9 ALEX: That sounds like a lot of work. Why don't you just tell
 10 your mom? She might not like it, but she'll be happy that
 11 you didn't lie about it. You can't hide your grades forever,
 12 so you're going to have to tell her eventually. Why not come
 13 clean now?

14 SIERRA: Eventually is better than now.

15 ALEX: I just think that that would be the right thing to do.

16 SIERRA: Since when did you become Mr. Goody-two-shoes?

17 ALEX: Say what you want, but lying or hiding it is only going to
 18 make it worse. Trust me.

19 SIERRA: This from the guy that wanted me to break my
 20 computer and blame it on my sisters.

21 ALEX: You know I was just kidding about that. Well, I have to
 22 get to class. See you guys later. Sierra, I think you should
 23 tell your mom the truth. Even if you get away with it, you
 24 know lying about it is going to eat you up. *(Leaves.)*

25 SIERRA: What got into him? He's so stupid. Acting like Dr. Phil
 26 or something.

27 DANIELLE: I think I'm with him. You should just tell your mom.
 28 I mean, I know you'll get grounded and everything, but I
 29 think it'd be better to just face it.

30 SIERRA: What?! You just told me to stall at dinner and then
 31 your boyfriend thinks I should tell the truth and all of a
 32 sudden you do, too? How convenient! And are you
 33 forgetting? My midterm won't get hung on the wall and my
 34 parents will be disappointed.

35 DANIELLE: OK. First, he's not my boyfriend. But I think he has

1 a point. And second, this whole thing is ridiculous. It's one
 2 grade. Tell the truth and then get over it. Your mom is not
 3 as bad as you make her sound. *(Leaves.)*

4 SIERRA: *(To JORDAN)* Are you with them too?

5 JORDAN: I still think you should break the computer. It could
 6 work in so many ways!

7 SIERRA: Oh, just get out of here!