Jada’s Homework Dilemma
Zahnik Underdue and Nicole Thompson

Jada lives in a city called Newark. She is a student at TEAM Academy. She wakes up every morning at six o’clock. She eats breakfast, washes her face, and combs her hair. Afterwards, she takes her backpack and walks to school.

Her first class is mathematics. After math, she goes to science, French, writing, and reading. Jada likes learning about science and
reading, but she does not like mathematics. Reading is her last class before she can go home. Even though she thinks her teacher is mean and grumpy, she still likes her reading class because she loves to read.

One day, Jada waited as her classmates came into the classroom. They sat down around her, and she talked with her friends. Suddenly the reading teacher, Mr. Smith, walked in. Everyone immediately stopped talking!

“It is time for class to begin,” he said. “Everyone, take out your workbooks!” All of the students quietly took their workbooks from their backpacks. Jada looked in her backpack, but she couldn’t find her book! Jada started to worry. If she did not find her workbook, Mr. Smith would be very upset. Jada raised her
hand.

“Mr. Smith?” she said. “I forgot my book in my locker.”

“Your locker?” Mr. Smith asked. He did not look happy. “You may go look for your workbook now.”

Jada quickly stood up and ran out of the classroom. She opened her locker. She searched and searched, but she still could not find her workbook. Then Jada remembered, her workbook was at home! Students were not
allowed to go home during school. How would she get her workbook for class?

Jada thought about how she should solve her problem. She thought, “Is it better to not break a rule, or is it better to have my homework?” She decided to try and go home to find her workbook. She was breaking a rule, but her homework was very important. She looked around. Nobody was watching her. She walked quickly down the hallway and out the school door. Jada’s home was close to the school. It only took her five minutes to get there.

Her mother was in the kitchen and was very surprised to see her. “Why are you home?” Jada’s mother asked.

“I forgot the book I need for class!” Jada said. Jada ran into her room. She saw her workbook on her bed. Jada grabbed it and rushed back to school.
Jada was just about to enter the school when she was stopped by Mr. Smith at the front door! Jada was now very scared. She tried to explain why she left. “I’m sorry!” she said. “I actually left my workbook at home. I really wanted to have my homework.”

To her surprise, Mr. Smith did not look angry. He explained, “I know it is important for you to have your homework. You tried to do the right thing, but you should have been honest about the situation.”

Jada reflected on what Mr. Smith said. He was right. She should have told the truth. “Okay,” she said. “Next time, I will tell the truth.”

Mr. Smith smiled. “Good!” he said. “I am glad you have your homework, but I cannot take it. You must tell the truth. Even though I cannot take your homework, you can still come to class.”
Jada said, “Okay. I am just glad that I can go to class and learn. I will do my best to make sure that I remember my homework from now on.”

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