

Years 3 & 4
3rd Place: Kiarna Gallagher
Year 4, Roleystone Community College

Life Changes – Either Good or Bad

It's the fifth time this week that Lauren stole my school lunch money. She got it while I was counting up how much I had by grabbing and holding me on the collar of my shirt, snatching it out of my bare hands and saying, "You're so weak you little nerd, or should I say nerd BRAT," and took off with my money. And what's even worse is she also took my notes for tomorrow's exam! I cried as I hid in the toilets for the rest of the day until the school bell rang.

I got home and Dad was cooking dinner. I quickly rushed to my bedroom and tried to remember all of my notes for tomorrow's exam. Mum got home just as I finished re-writing everything back down and then it was time for dinner. After I ate dinner I told Mum and Dad to stay seated as I finally told them all about my day and how this isn't the first time Lauren has done this.

"I NEED to move schools please, I'm not happy here and I can't take much more of this" I tell them.

Mum looks at me with a confused face and asked,

"But what about your best friend Lilah?"

"We're not best friends anymore because she's friends with Lauren and now she won't speak to me. Lauren makes the whole class laugh at me and even the teacher does too, this is why I can't stay there anymore, it's not fair, something has to change."

Later that night as I was falling to sleep, I heard Mum and Dad talking where Mum said to Dad,

"Honey, I was thinking about what Emily has said and I believe her, it's just what school could she go to?"

I drifted off to sleep but I wish I got to hear the rest of that conversation!

The next morning when I woke up, I jumped into my school clothes and raced down the stairs where I scooped down a whole bowl of Coco Pops in minutes, ran back upstairs, brushed my teeth, my hair and got my school bag ready to go and finally ran to Mum and Dads' room where I asked them about what I heard.

"Did I hear you guys talking about me moving schools?" I ask. "Have you thought about it? Do I get to move? Please say I get to move, please!"

Mum nodded her head and said they had just gotten off the phone and had confirmation that my dream school I have been asking to change to for years, Adamae Community College, has an opening and can get me there to start next term, and do you know what's even better? School holidays start in only 3 days, soooooo, I ONLY HAVE THREE DAYS LEFT AT THIS HORRIBLE SCHOOL, eeeeeekkkk, I'm so excited!

I skipped out the door to jump on the bus for school being in the happiest mood I have been in for years. I could not wipe the smile off my face all day long just thinking about my new school and how amazing it will be. Well that was until I

bumped into Lauren and Lilah (who is now one of Lauren's sheep). They grabbed both of my arms dragging me into the girls' bathroom where Lauren held me up against the wall and asked,

"Why are you so happy Emily? You know I don't like it when you're happy!"

I respond with, "I-I-I'm just in a good mood today Lauren, please let go."

She holds me tighter against the wall and says,

"I know when you're lying to me Emily, so how about you spit it out. I'll give you one more chance, why are you so happy??"

"I-I-I get to move schools after this term and no longer be bullied by you!" I said very, very quietly as tears ran down my face.

She gave me a shove and tipped everything out of my bag as she "humphed" under her breath before storming away. Little did they realise that when Lauren shoved me I fell into Lilah and she dropped her phone before storming out with Lauren. I picked up her phone and looked at her screen, she had taken photos of me being held up to the wall with tears running down my face and sent it to everyone in our class captioning it, "What a cry baby".

THIS IS EXACTLY WHY I HATE THIS PLACE! My supposed BFF was nothing but a traitor and didn't care one bit about me! This isn't how people should act! What is wrong with them and why me? I thought to myself, life isn't fair and I cannot wait to be far, far away from here!

I thought about handing Lilah's phone in but I knew once they found out that I would get picked on even worse and I was too scared to even think what they might do next so I left it in the bathroom and just walked out with my head down low hidden by my hoodie. I could already see people pointing and laughing at me, and then I had to walk past Lauren and her gang and she loudly yelled out,

"Cry baby, cry babyyy," while also pointing and laughing.

I ran straight to my last class which luckily didn't have any of them in it, so I finally got a breather and actually enjoyed the last hour of school.

After school I went to take the bus home, but as soon as I hopped on the bus I saw that Lauren and her friends were there, so I sat up the front but that didn't stop them from throwing things at me and still calling me cry baby all the way home while making crying noises. I just tried to ignore them, then finally it was my stop. I ran straight off the bus and to my house, unlocking the front door quickly as I aimed to dive straight to my room and sink my head in my pillow.

I heard Mums footsteps coming up the stairs, she already knew something was wrong. She slowly opened the door and said,

"Honey, is everything okay? What has happened?"

I ended up bawling my eyes out and told her all about my day again.

"THAT'S ENOUGH OF LAUREN'S BULLYING," she yells "I'M FED UP WITH THIS, IT IS NOT OKAY!"

Mum tells me I don't have to go to school for the last two days as I have been through enough but she straight away rang the school to get an appointment with the Principal to talk about Lauren's bullying and behaviour the very next day.

The next morning Mum and I got ready to go to my old school so I could finally confess what Lauren and her friends had been doing to me for years. It felt good to finally get it all out and tell someone. The Principal was absolutely shocked and devastated that this was going on in his school. I showed him the photo that was

sent around so he knew I wasn't lying. The Principal and Mum talked for a little bit longer and she told him this was the reason why I was moving schools. He was upset but reassured us that she would be dealt with accordingly which I later found out was lots of after school detentions where she had to clean up the school and do all the yucky things the cleaners would have to do.

I was just really glad that she couldn't hurt me anymore and that I didn't have to see her ever again.

Over the school holidays I found out about a book competition and decided I would enter it and the story would be called "Life Changes – Either Good or Bad" where I could write a short story about how I was bullied so badly that I decided enough was enough and made a big life change to finally move to a better school.

The holidays flew by, and soon enough it was THE DAY! I jumped out of bed and sprung into my new school uniform (which I absolutely love) and then I ran downstairs, gave Mum and Dad a super big hug and said, "I'm so excited for today!"

After I had my breakfast it was time to go, so I stood out the front of my house and waited for my new bus. It didn't take long for the bus to rock up. I was a bit nervous but also super excited. I slowly got onto the bus and looked around at where I could sit. I ended up sitting next to a girl named Grace who also happened to be in my year! She introduced herself straight away and we instantly started talking about nearly everything. It was the best bus ride to school I had ever had!

When we got to school Grace introduced me to all of her friends and said, "This is Emily and she is going to be our new friend!" I instantly knew I was where I belonged!

This life change was definitely a good one!