

## Friendship

I love the ocean. The feeling you have when you are there, the breeze rushing around, the sound of the waves lapping against the shore, and being able to surf the waves, it's all exhilarating. Today was even more fun than normal because I met a nice girl. I was surfing next to this girl who had long, wavy brown hair, green eyes, and tan skin when I ran in to take a break wrapping a towel around me with my school's logo written on it. The girl came up behind me "omg you go to Birchtree?" "Uhh huh why?" "Because I go there." "Cool! I only started last year," I said. It was not uncommon that I didn't know she went to my school because our school had over 700 kids. "What grade are you in?" I asked. "6th," she replied. Ooh dang, "I'm in 5th," I said. Then I told her my name is Brooklyn and asked for hers. "Mine's Sidney," she replied. After making the revelation that we go to the same school, we spent the rest of the day together, the whole week in fact. It was so much fun. We became great friends.

"...rrring rinnng rrrring" went my alarm clock. Nooooo, I wanted to yell. Today was the first day of school. It's not that I don't like school, I do. In fact, I'm really good at it. It's just that my best friend from last year moved away so it will NOT be fun going to school without her. At least I have Sidney I thought. Even though we're not in the same grade I'm sure it'll be fine. I quickly get dressed having picked my outfit days ago. It was a cute, light purple shirt, white jean jacket, and bluish shorts to match my black curly hair and blue eyes. Hurriedly, I ate my eggs and rushed out the door. I did not want to be late on the first day. I walked onto the bus and passed Sidney as I found my regular seat at the back. I waved to her and she gave me a half-smile. The girl next to her was whispering to Sidney and looking at me which made me feel self-conscious, but I reminded myself I was fine. It was just first day of school nerves. The first class was a

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complete bore. I couldn't wait for recess but I still had one more class. I said hello to Sidney at my locker and we talked about the boredom of first days. She was so nice, it was great to have someone who was so like me and sympathized with me. Alright math here I come, I thought. Math is my best subject, it's normally a breeze but especially today because all we did was meet the teacher. Now for recess! I met Sidney on the yard and there was this other girl with her who I was not a fan of. She was the one Sidney was sitting next to on the bus. Sidney and I were laughing together as the girl walked up. "Hey, do you want to play handball with me? Bet I can beat you!" I said. The other girl, who I later found was named Caroline, said "As if! Why would anyone ever play with someone younger than them, it goes against every social code. You've got nerve little one and it's not good." I turned toward Sidney rolling my eyes but Sidney just shook her head and let herself be dragged away from me. A few feet away she yelled to me "You are not even in middle school, I don't know what you were thinking. I can't believe you would ask that, you weirdo." Caroline smiled at her and they half-flounced, half-dragged their feet away. Me, on the other hand, well I was shocked! It wasn't so much what was said, which was stupid, but it was the fact that Sidney took part in it. I was so confused. We were great friends just this morning but because that stupid girl showed up, she turned on me and acted all mean and snotty. It was also a stupid thing to get mad about, did I mention that already? I mean a younger person asking an older person to play??? You've got to be kidding me. As I was thinking all this, a girl walked up to me introducing herself as Madison and said "I'm sorry, that's rough. Anything I can do?" I shook my head, no. And walked away. The rest of the day dragged on. I was so happy when it was over. I sat on the bus to go home when dreaded Sidney walked up.

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She handed me a note and left. I almost didn't look at it but finally willed myself to glance. It said "Don't mind Caroline, I know she is annoying, can we still be friends? (Obviously not in front of Caroline though, lol. You know how she gets.)" I was furious!!!! Looking at this note, I realized I definitely could not stay friends with her. I was beyond hurt that she only wants to be my friend when it's convenient for her. My friend needs to be there for me no matter what! It really showed a lot about her personality and I was disappointed I had spent the last week of my summer with her. I didn't know who my friends were going to be or how I was going to make them, but I did know that it couldn't be Sidney.

I stayed awake for a while worrying about making friends. I'd clearly misjudged Sidney and I didn't want to misjudge anyone else. The next day I found Sidney by herself and told her that I could only be friends with her if she was there for me all the time and not just when convenient. Loyalty is an important quality that I look for in friends. She got mad. Yelling at me saying I wasn't being a good friend to her because I didn't understand how hard it was to be around Caroline and I so wasn't helping the situation. She said a good friend would've understood her predicament being torn between the two and wishing she didn't have to choose. I don't understand why you even want Caroline I said. I guess we can't be friends. And with that I ran away super upset and ran smack dab into Madison, the girl I'd talked to yesterday. She comforted me and helped me get ready for class. I walked into math knowing that I was going to be fine. I was shocked about what happened with Sidney but was happy I realized what kind of person she was super early in the year. And I thought a friendship might start, or has already started, between Madison and me.