

A Day With Ramon

"I BLEW IT!"

It is April of Ramon's senior year. He just talked to his high school counselor and found out that he might not graduate. He is failing a class. As he walks towards the cafeteria, he is thinking about his parents. "I've really messed up. I know I won't graduate. My parents are going to hate this." He sees his girlfriend, Tanya, as he walks into the cafeteria.

Tanya looks at Ramon and says, "What happened, Ramon? You look really upset."

"I blew it! I can't believe how stupid I am. I feel like a real jerk." he answered.

She looked worried and said, "Ramon, you are one of the smartest and hardest working people I know. Tell me what's going on."

Ramon dropped his books on the table and sat down. He put his head in his hands and said, "When I tell you what's happened your going to be upset with me."

"Ramon how can you know if I'll be upset! Let me decide! I can think for myself. What's going on?!"

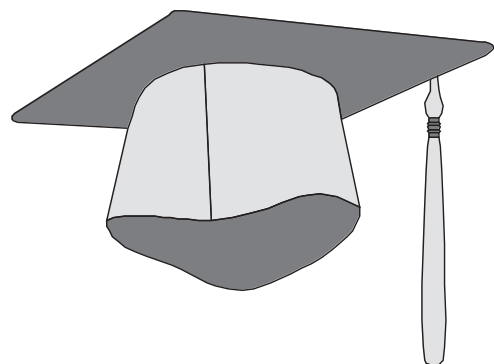
Ramon looked up at her and in a low voice said, "I may not graduate."

Tanya sat down across from Ramon and asked, "Is there anything you can do? Is there someone you can talk to?"

Ramon looked down again and said, "I don't know what to do. I feel like a jerk. My parents are going to hate this. You know how important school is to them. They work so hard. They always tell us how important school is. We have to graduate so we can go to college. I blew it! I feel so bad!"

Standing up, Tanya said, "Ramon, forget feeling sorry for yourself. There are still ten weeks left. I know you can change this. Why can't you graduate?"

"I'm flunking economics. I'm just too dumb to get it. I haven't been able to keep up with the homework. I've been working after school every night and I'm still behind." He looked at Tanya as he talked.



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Tanya tapped his arm and said, "Come on, let's get moving. You need a plan. Who's your economics teacher? It's time to go talk and get this worked out."

Ramon shook his head, "It's Mr. Gumble. He'll never talk to me. He told us we had to keep up with our work or we would flunk. I blew it! He'll never give me a passing grade."



Tapping her foot, Tanya said, "Ramon, this is frustrating! I can deal with this grade problem. But I'm not going to deal with your attitude much longer. You know it won't hurt to talk to Mr. Gumble. If you approach him honestly, I'm sure he'll give you a break, especially if he knows you're serious."

Ramon looked at her, "Do you really think I have a chance? I just don't see any way out of this. I guess I'll try if you think it will help." Ramon stood up to go. He stopped and said, "I know you're right. I just feel so dumb for getting myself into this problem situation. I guess it's time to face the problem. I'll feel better doing it."

"Now you sound like the guy I know!" said Tanya as she took Ramon's hand. They walked down the hall toward Mr. Gumble's classroom.