

Best Friends Forever?

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Ever since meeting on the first day of junior kindergarten, Tanya and Amaya have been the best of friends. From playing in the sandbox together to having sleepovers and staying up until midnight, the two were inseparable.

That's why it was such a big surprise when Tanya told her mom that she was no longer friends with Amaya. She even went so far as to rip off the friendship bracelet that Amaya gave her last summer. She said that things would never be the same.

Amaya, on the other hand, was more sad than angry. She truly didn't know why Tanya was so upset - after all, it was just a misunderstanding.

Let's backtrack, to find out what *really* happened...

It was a Saturday afternoon, which meant that Tanya and Amaya had Jewelry Making class at the community centre. Doing arts and crafts came naturally for both girls. Today they would be learning how to make dangly earrings - perfect for Valentine's Day. Ms. Daphne, the Jewelry making instructor handed out the supplies to the entire class and then started teaching how to clip the wire and attach the gems.

"This is so cool", said both girls, catching on quickly.

Tanya made 3 pairs of earrings in just 45 minutes. One with hearts, another with shiny square rhinestones, and the last pair had the beads with letter "A" (these were going to be a special gift from Amaya). Then, Tanya remembered that she had some green emerald stones at home that would be PERFECT, so she walked up to the bin of supplies, grabbed a handful, and put them in her backpack - so she could make her own special earrings at home.

Before the class ended, Amaya asked the instructor if she could have some extras to take home too, just like Tanya. The instructor responded, "no, we have to make sure that there's enough for the kids in the next class, and I didn't give permission for Tanya to take home any supplies, that's stealing"

The instructor called Tanya to her desk and asked her if she stole the jewelry making supplies

Tanya was scared, she didn't mean to steal, she thought that she was *allowed* to take some supplies home. Her eyes started to fill up with tears, she didn't like getting into trouble, afterall, she didn't even know that she wasn't allowed! But more importantly, she wondered why her best friend would tell on her.

So she emptied her backpack and put back all of the jewelry making supplies, she was so embarrassed.

After class, Tanya wouldn't even look at Amaya. Amaya tried explaining that she didn't mean to tattle on her, it was just an honest mistake, but Tanya wasn't trying to hear it.

So when Amaya got home, she explained the entire situation to her mom. Her mom said that if Tanya wouldn't talk to her, maybe she should try writing an apology note and dropping it off at Tanya's house along with her favourite cookies. Amaya thought that this was a fantastic idea! So she went straight to her room, and used her rainbow gel pens to write Tanya an apology letter.

Dear Tanya,

I know you're really mad at me and I just wanted to say sorry. I asked our Jewelry teacher for extra supplies and told her that you got some extra supplies too. I didn't know that we weren't allowed. Even though it looks like I tattled on you, it was just a mistake.

I hope you can forgive me.

Amaya put some stickers on the letter, folded it up, and went to the local cookie shop, Craig's Cookies to get Tanya's favourite flavours.

She rang the doorbell at Tanya's house, handed the cookies and note to Tanya's big brother, and walked back home.

About an hour later, Amaya got a message on her iPad, it was Tanya! Tanya thanked Amaya for the note and delicious cookies, she also apologized for not listening to Amaya's side of the story, it was all just a big misunderstanding. She should've known that Amaya would never tell on her on purpose.

They promised to always talk things through and listen to each other's side of the story.

QUESTIONS:

1. If you were Tanya, and wanted to take home art supplies, what would you have done differently?
2. Saying sorry can be tough, what are some creative ways to apologize?
3. When someone makes you angry, why do you think you should listen to their side of the story?