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Paul Not At All





Usually there are three kinds of students in a classroom. Super students with straight As always and are always competing with one another. Those are usually called nerds. Nerds usually sit in the front seats in the classroom. If they don't, teachers will move them to the front seats when they get to know that there's an inspector's visit.

The second type of students are careless. They don't care about anything, not at all. They never study and usually they have the worst marks in the classroom. Usually they sit in the back seats of the classroom so they can cheat in the exams and speak during the lesson. They also form small gangs to bother other students in every way they can. The not at all students have a leader. Their leader is Paul, Paul not at all. He's around five years older than us. Well, that's because he takes a school year in two years. That's why he's a common colleague for students in different stages.

The third category of students are ordinary students. These, form around two thirds of the students. Usually their grades swing between A and C according to the efforts they do. They don't always give their work the same dedication and attention. Sometimes their attention is altered by different activities such as watching the movies other stuff. They're not like the nerds in giving attention to their studies, but still some of them can get great grades sometimes.

what was totally unexpected though, was that Paul; Paul not at all, came first and got straight As this month.

It was a great surprise for all the teachers. They were all sure he managed to cheat one way or another.

But if he cheated, how could he get the full mark? No one can get the full marks unless they studied well.

Carl was completely frustrated. Carl was the best student in class. He always came first. He doesn't give anything in the world the dedication and attention he gives to his studies. He had a great ability to learn by heart. On the exam days, he doesn't talk to anyone, he stays alone and concentrates in the exam. Sometimes we doubted he's human being. We thought he could be a robot and that he's standing like this to recharge his batteries. After a month from the exam results an after the teacher left, Paul not at all and his gang Alex, Ron and Harold went to Carl and started bothering him. They made fun of him because Paul not at all came first this month. They pulled him to the empty space in front of the board and made a circle around him and sang, Paul, Paul not at all Paul Paul not at all. Carl got rid of him one by one after a great effort and went back to his place.



So, they took his bag and threw it to one another. Something really silly, and only silly ones would do that.

We didn't like to face them, because they have strong bodies. After that, we knew that Carl went to talk to the history teacher about Paul's sudden success. The teacher was convinced like Carl, that Paul not at all, had created a new way to cheat. It must be a very smart technique because no one could figure it out. Then he told Carl he'll make a pop quiz tomorrow and see what will Paul do and asked Carl to promise he won't tell anyone.

Next day, in the history session, the teacher asked us to put are books in our backpacks and to get a white paper and pen. He wrote the questions on the board and sat next to Paul not at all. It was long tough exam that needed writing big parts of the textbooks.

And of course, after the teacher left Paul's gang did the same silly things they did the last time. I felt so angry while I watched them attack poor Carl, and no one at all took any action against them. So, I screamed at them asking them to stop. And you know what! To my surprise! They stopped. The classroom was suddenly silent and I felt how powerful my words were. They echoed through the walls, while everyone in the classroom started looking at me.

Paul stared at me while he raised one of his eyebrows. He slowly approached me in such a dramatic way, to arouse my fears. He was much taller than me. I'm sure he can knock me down with one punch in the face. My heart was beating hard and I felt I was so foolish the moment I screamed at them, but what was done was done and I had to be a hero till the end.

Paul said, in a terrible accent, "I didn't hear what this boy said at all. Did anyone hear anything?" His gang said, "no Paul, not at all."

To his surprise, Paul was doing great. He had no mistakes not at all. The teacher inspected his desk, his clothes, his table and his ears to check if there were any head phones, but there was nothing, not at all.

After the time for the exam ended, the teacher started correcting the exams and announcing the results. Paul didn't lose any marks at all.

He got the full mark. Twenty out of twenty. Carl's answers were perfect too, but they were not identical to the ones in the book, so he got nineteen and a half out of twenty. The teacher couldn't possible give both of them the same mark. Paul didn't have any faults not at all. Carl was frustrated again. We all felt sad for him. We all know he deserves the full mark, we all know all the efforts he does studying, plus, we are all sure that Paul, is hiding something, but if we ask him he'll say, "not at all," unless a miracle happened to him.

It seems that they said I'm a lunatic to face Paul and why support a lunatic then.

Carl though, was so grateful, and I felt I made a new friend today. Carl and I walked together for a while on our way home and he asked me to make a little adventure with him. He told me that he heard Paul tell Ron that he's going to fetch new part of the curriculum today. I didn't exactly know what that meant. How can anyone get a part of the curriculum? Maybe he means that he takes private lessons? But what private lesson can teach him the curriculum by heart in such a precise way.

Carl said that he feels he's going to know the secret Paul is hiding. He'll finally know the secret of his sudden success if he follows him and gets to know what he is doing. I hesitated. I sure want to help Carl, but if Paul discovered that we're following him he'll definitely cause them a lot of harm.

I didn't know what to say. I didn't want to say something that would make them make fun of me. Paul was so close, I was afraid to death but I pretended to be brave. Paul stuck his nose to mine and looked at me sarcastically in the eye, just like gangsters in movies do. I felt he was about to knock me down and in this very moment, I heard the teacher, enter the classroom, so Paul immediately backed off. The teacher was actually in the classroom and he saw the incident. He yelled at Paul, blamed him and warned him from doing this again.

I shivered as I returned to my seat but I tried hard not to show. At least I apparently won him. No one had ever tried to challenge Paul this way, no one at all. I'm sure he'll pay back for this soon. Paul didn't come near me all day long, but I was mad at my colleagues, who stayed in their places all day long without trying to offer any help.



I told him but we don't know where or when they are going. He said, that he heard Paul and Ron agree that they'll meet in front of the school at six pm. He added, that he didn't need to over hear them. Their voices were loud enough.

I found that accepting this adventure is inevitable. I didn't want him to think I'm a coward while I showed lots of bravery today. Besides, I really wanted to know the secret. So, we agreed to meet at quarter to six to follow Paul and Ron.

On time, we met and hid behind one of the closed kiosks next to the school. At six O'clock, Ron came but Paul came fifteen minutes later. Ron waited and as he waited, it was obvious that he too, is scared of Paul. We followed them from far away, and we were so careful they won't see us. Finally,

After around a minute, we heard footsteps moving towards the door.

Carl grabbed my hands and pulled me to dash off the stairs, but I told him it would be better to climb upstairs so no one can see us. We quickly climbed the stairs and peeked with our heads to see what is going on and in this very moment, Paul opened the door to descend and Ron followed. We remained hiding for a while, then we looked to discover that the apartment door was open. Paul forgot it. He's just not good for anything at all. We wanted to take the opportunity and enter the apartment. What's the use of the adventure then, if we didn't get to know anything? So, we tiptoed till we reached the door.

Then Carl held my hands and whispered, "but what if we found someone there?" I said, "we'll pretend we came to ask about Dr. Smith's apartment."

they turned into a building so we ran the remaining distance so we won't miss the flat they entered. We climbed the stairs quietly following their footsteps and heard a door open, then close in the upper floor. We climbed till we reached the door of the apartment and fortunately there was only one apartment in the floor, so we weren't confused which apartment they entered.

We stopped and looked at each other. It seemed like our adventure ended here. What else can we do now? Carl stuck his ears on the door to overhear them and said, that he heard such a strange noise. I stuck my ear to the door too but I didn't hear anything. I felt we were not doing the right thing. Then we heard a loud scream coming from inside. It was Paul. He was in severe pain. We were terrified to death.

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We shivered when we heard Paul's scream from behind the door. We also heard something break. We tried to hear anything but we couldn't.



Carl asked, “but who is Dr. Smith?” I ground my teeth as I told him, “we’ll just say any name Carl.”

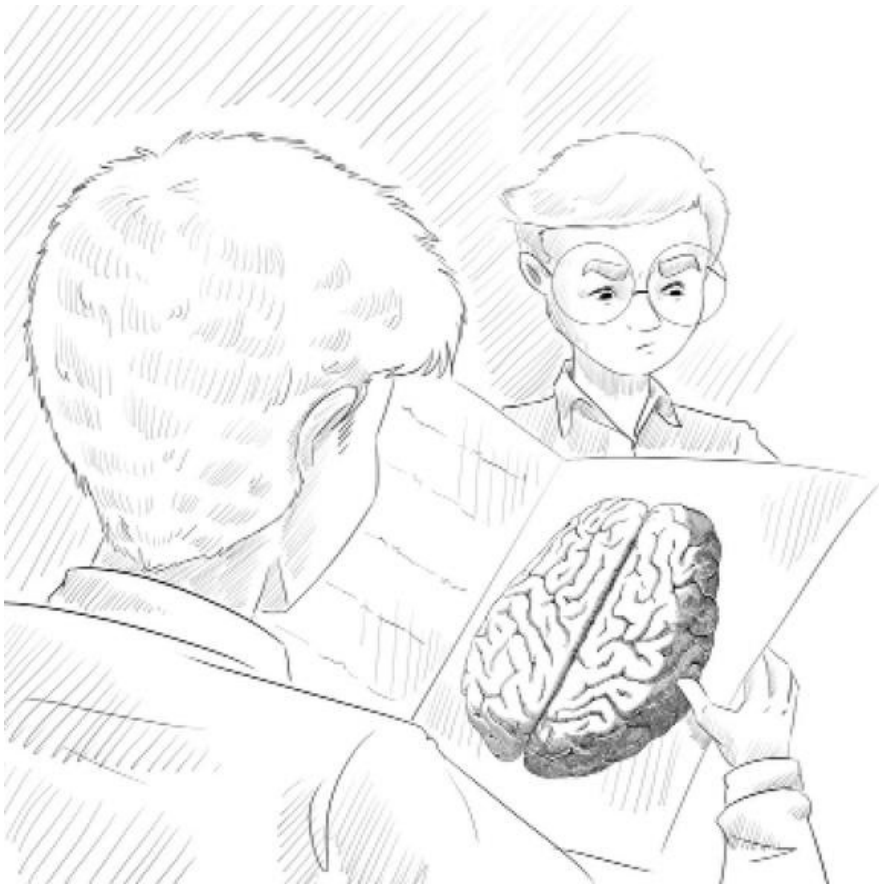
Carl said, “but don’t you think it’s weird to find someone in your bedroom to ask you about someone else’s apartment?” I said, “Well, it sure is, but if we overthink we won’t be able to do anything. Let’s get moving Carl.”

We entered to the hall. It was lit by a dim light. I pulled Carl’s hands before he switched the lights on. He’s just too naïve. He certainly doesn’t watch any movies at all or he would’ve been much more experienced than he is now.

It was quite dark and we couldn’t see properly. We made sure we won’t bump into anything that can make a noise and get ourselves into trouble. It was an ordinary place, nothing special about the apartment. I noticed some notes and pens on a table.

I turned the pages but I couldn’t see what was written because of the dim light. Carl ran into the corridor and dashed into one of the rooms. I tried to warn him that he may find someone inside, but he was very fast. Then I

heard a scream come from inside and I saw Carl dashing out from the apartment like lightning.



I followed him while my heart palpitated so hard. We jumped as we descended on the stair and ran for a while without looking back. Then after a sometime, we stopped and took our breaths, then we sat on the floor. Only then I discovered that one of these notebooks was still in my hands. I opened the notebook as I blamed Carl, then we found out that it looked like some handwritten lectures. Some were drafts written in terrible handwriting, while others were written neatly in lovely handwriting. We started reading some of the neatly written pages which said, The human brain is one of the weirdest and most complex organs. It's still one of the most organs that remain secret to scientists. But you sure will be surprised to know that all the logic, mathematics, thoughts and genius ideas come from this soft fatty substance.

All what I've done is that I've found the function of some cells in the stem of the brain and I related this discovered with one of the computer applications and now I'll explain how.

There's a computer technology to link wifi between devices instead of wires. This technology is known as Bluetooth. It's perfect in dealing with different devices such as computers, cellular phones. Printers and headphones. This technology allows radio waves from transmitting data and it functions on 2.5 gigabytes. This range extends far beyond the ranges of other communication devices that use radio waves.

I had a dream since I was young, I wished I could get the information from books without having to study

Generally, the brain weighs a kilogram to a kilogram and a half. It consumes twenty percent of the energy that the body needs and it may reach sixty percent in new born children. The outer crust of the brain is grey. All the thinking happens there. While the white substance is in the inner part of the brain. The brain itself is suspended in a thick liquid that protects it from trauma. The brain deserves all this care as it controls everything going on in the body from normalizing body temperature to heart beat rate and storing data and giving orders to muscles for movement. In the old ages, the benefit of the brain was unknown. People believed that human beings thought with their hearts. Ancient Egyptians got rid of the brain during mummification, and kept the heart. The two scientists Herophilos and Erasistratus were the first to discover that the brain was the source of intelligence.

As I said, some areas of the brain are still a secret and their function is totally unknown.

I was ready to spend anything to make my dream come true. If I could do it, I could make lots of money.

I prepared a small lab in one of my rooms at home. All what I needed was an EEG and some other devices for measuring electromagnetic waves in the brain and some computers and current generator.

After that I managed to get some volunteers. If a student is a failure in school, I tell him there is a way he can get the full marks without studying for free, but in return he'll undergo some experiments for some time. They never say no.

I scheduled a timetable. I had to research a few points. First, I had to get all the curriculum being taught at schools related to the volunteers. I was keen to have them all from the same school year.

or to get them from the brains of teachers directly. Can you imagine if you have a science exam and you have the whole book in your head? Or if you can take the contents of the brain of a science teacher via a ray that is transmitted from his head to your head directly without any effort at all. It would've been great. We'd play all year long and get great marks at the end. You know what? I made this dream come true.

The idea was obvious in my head. All what I needed was some experimenting. I needed to find an easier way to transmit data from the computer to the brain using Bluetooth. The main challenge I faced was financing and finding volunteers. None of the universities or research centres gave me financial allowance. Everyone thought the idea was not logic and I couldn't convince them with my idea. They thought it was crazy and impossible.

So, I decided to depend on myself and fortunately I had enough money.

This took several weeks. The effort was endless. I was about to give up, but the probabilities were not done yet so I had to continue. I continued till the day that any scientist starts writing journal in. “Today I succeeded. I had a volunteer called Paul. Paul was not polite at all. He was so difficult to handle. I attracted him to undergo the trials by giving him money. That’s because he didn’t care about being academically perfect at all.

On that day and after I prepared the devices and adjusted the rays on an available frequency, I can’t write this here because it’s highly classified, I directed a ray on a specific part on the stem of the brain.

I read these books while the EEG is connected to my head and the computer is connected to the EEG recording signals all of the time. I stored these signals in a separate file to form information. This file contains the information that will be transmitted to the brains of the students. This was the main step in in my experiment. Transferring data was the main and the most important step to make electric signals comprehensive to the brain.

Now the trial period begins. I start directing the Bluetooth rays containing the curriculum to the brain of the volunteer. Here, I faced two problems. The first problem is that I don’t know where are the most suitable cells to transfer the information that is, if there are any suitable cells in the first place. The second problem is that I don’t know the frequency wave on which the cells can respond. That’s why I had to change the frequency on which the ray operates then try every frequency separately on each part of the brain.



Then, I noticed that Paul's face began sweating and his eyes began rolling and pain began to reflect on his face. It was only then that I was sure I'm on the right track. All the other volunteers didn't feel what Paul felt. After I finished I discovered that Paul can remember all the information in the book.

I was so happy that day. My experiments have worked finally. My hypothesis was right. This invention will change the history of humanity for ever. Imagine a world with no schools or universities or education. A world with children playing all day long. Imagine that we can get all the knowledge we need by a click of a mouse in a few seconds. What will the world be like if this happens? Someone like me will be able to study all the medical curricula and treat himself in a few seconds. If I want to fix an electronic device, I'll input to my brain the books that tackle the subject and I'll fix it straight away.

Suddenly we found Paul and Ron over our heads. We got up to face them. We felt like two dwarfs facing two giants. Paul had a stick with thorns and he waved it right and left. I thought we must run, but the wall was behind us and they were in front of us. I wasn't terrified this time, in fact I was furious. I had faced him before and got out of it, but what if he beat me with this stick? Simply pain and a bump? It's ok, I'm not scared anymore. I won't accept his threats anymore.

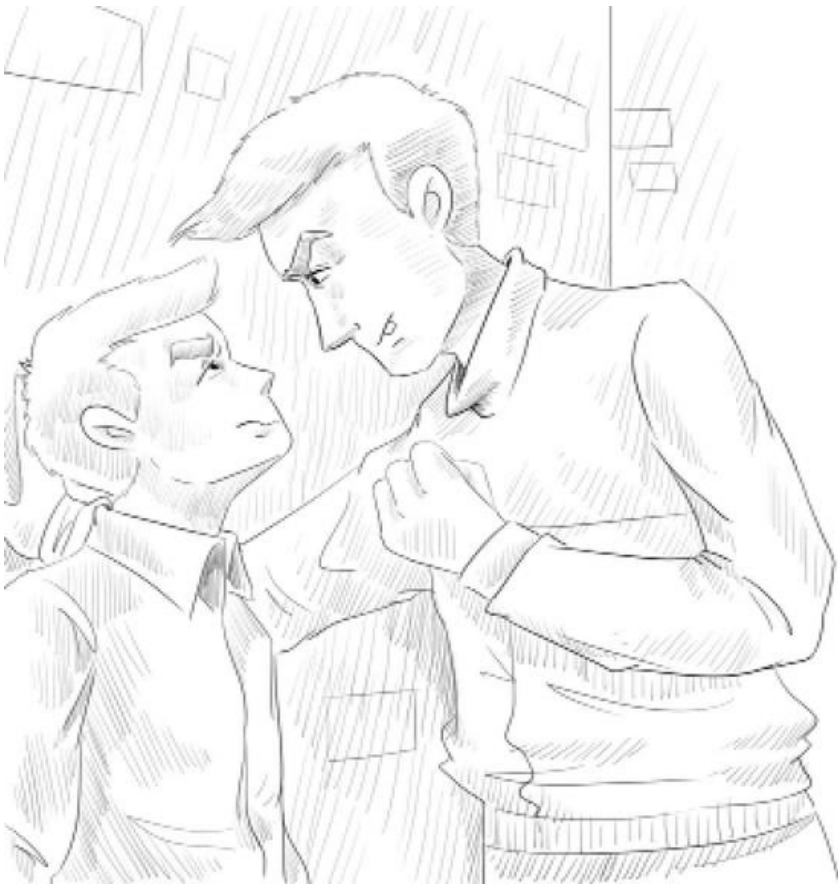
Paul said, while he chewed something in his mouth, "then now you know the secret." I yelled, "get out of our way Paul. You don't scare me at all by the way, so don't try to do something silly."

Ron sarcastically said, "Now look who's talking?"

No one will need any services from anyone else and I'll save tons of money, but wait, where will I get my salary from if no one needs me? Everyone will get knowledge from my device and no one will need me after that. I guess I need to study this some more time. Anyways, this device is important for human knowledge.

We stopped reading at this point and we found as if a shadow appeared and blocked the light from the pages. We raised our eyes to find Paul and Ron. Paul carried a stick with thorns and had a deadly smile on his face.

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and he stretched his arm to grab me from my shirt, but I held his hand firmly so he pushed me towards the wall. I tried to push him away, but there was a great variance in strength between us. I regretted that I ignored exercising all these years.

Paul said, “Too bad I saw you unlucky guys as you ran out of the building. I wasn’t that far yet. You dared to follow me and know my secret and you’ll pay for this now.” You are fast runners and it took me some time to know where you are. Did you enjoy reading during this time?

I was still holding the notebook, but I was stuck against the wall. He grabbed the notebook and the cover was torn. I looked at Carl as he shrunk in his place without doing anything.

There was no one in the street, so there was no use of screaming and Carl won't dare face them. Now the moment I was waiting for came. I thought I'd be brave but what other choice do I have. It's only some pain and a bruise. Pain is coming on its way. I saw the stick falling on me. Ok pain, I'm ready to endure you. I'll be brave enough and you won't scare me anymore. Are you here then...

OOOOOUUUUUUCCCCCCHHHHHH! Oh, his hands are very strong. I held my shoulder with my hand. All what I wish now that he won't hit again. Thank goodness, my wish came true. They ran away out of fear of my scream. The pain was gone and only the bruise remained that will become even darker tomorrow morning.

I didn't complain and I didn't tell anyone about what happened. I returned home and I tried not to show any signs of pain, but when I woke up, I found out that I can't lift my arm.

It was obvious was not interested in Carl anymore, not at all. It seems that excelling over him academically satisfied him. So now, it just me and him. Oh no, Carl please do something don't leave me to these two monsters.

Paul asked as he turned the pages of the notebook, and asked, "what's written here?" I said, "Well they wrote that volunteers who underwent the trial will die after two days." I saw the fear in Paul's eyes as I said this. Then he suddenly recognized I'm playing with him, so he threw the notebook in the middle of the street furiously.

Then he said, "Ok genius, I'm warning you now. If anyone knows this secret, I'll get rid of you. I replied, "Do you mean you'll kill me?"

He said, "Try to tell the secret and you'll see."

Ron left me at that moment, and I fell on the floor. Paul raised the stick and it seemed as if he'll hit me with it. I looked to my right and my left.



There was terrible pain in my shoulder too. I hardly put on my clothes and went to school so I can be there on time. In the classroom, I avoided Carl. How can I talk to him again, when I've been through all of for him, and when I was in trouble he didn't even try to help me? On the other hand, Paul was giving me those terrible looks. The looks were both threatening and happy because of what happened to me.

It's ok for now. I haven't decided what to do with him yet anyways. During break, Carl approached me and tried to apologize and told me that even if he tried to help me by hitting Paul, he wouldn't have made a difference. It would seem as if he was talking to the school fence. Will the fence feel any pain? I looked at his weak body building and recognized that I've asked too much from him. He couldn't have helped anyways. In fact, both of us would have been injured. At least one injured is better than two. He was very wise in fact. Carl said, that people like Paul shouldn't be faced by the body but by the brain because they don't have it.

Plus, there were too many lamps, much more than before. We got to know that Carl was behind that. He was the one who came to school with an electrician who changed all the lamps as a donation for the school after he took permission from the supervisor of course. I wasn't sure why he was doing this. There was nothing wrong with light before, and it didn't come to my mind that it was a part of a plan he was carrying out.

The exams were over and we waited eagerly for the results. Will Paul remain first, or will Carl retain his record?

I was the only one who knew Paul's secret, but I wasn't willing to tell anyone, not because I was afraid, but simply because no one would believe. Besides, Carl asked me not to interfere again and promised that he'll handle the situation.

Just as the exam started Carl asked the teacher to turn on all the lights because he couldn't see properly.

I said, "but Paul has a brain now. In his head, he has all these books." Carl said, "Yes, he has the data but he does not know how to use it. And what's the use of having data if you can't make use of it?" Carl was so weird today. I felt that he had something in mind but he's not saying them and I truly believe that it's better to leave him handle this issue.

After a few days my arm felt better, but still Paul and his gang won't leave us alone. We endured what they said, as if it wasn't told to us. On the other hand, Carl confirmed to me that Paul won't ever be first again. He seemed to be so confident about it but I had no idea why.

Before the month exams, we were surprised that all the light bulbs in the school were change and white fluorescent lamps were placed instead.



The teacher didn't really find any need to do this, but he did it anyways.

The teacher stood next to Paul and watched him carefully. All the teachers acquired this habit since Paul's sudden success. This time Paul was not ok. He tried hard to remember but he couldn't. the exam was over but Paul didn't write a word, not one single word, not at all. After time was over, the teacher sat at his desk and marked the exam and announced the results. Carl managed to maintain his records and got the full mark again as usual and Paul retained his zero record too. The whole class applauded the success of Carl, but everyone didn't know what was going on and how did that happen. After the teacher left, Paul wanted to attack Carl, but this time everyone yelled at him and asked him to stop and so he did.



“Carl, won’t you tell me what happened? I’m sure it’s related to the light bulbs.” I said.

Carl said, “Well, what you don’t know is that I returned to look for the notebook that Paul threw along the street, and found it. So, I took it and started reading it all over again, and I started reading the drafts as well. It was so difficult to read but I managed to get some very useful information from there. Professor Abraham the inventor realized that the information isn’t permanent. In fact, it can be affected if exposed to any devices with engines, like fridges, mixers, dryers and vacuum cleaners. These devices can delete the information simply because of their electromagnetic waves because of the serotonin they secrete in the brain. This substance is related to electric signals reaching different parts of the brain.

But was everything over now?

Will Paul go back to get some data to his brain again? I guess Paul will give up and if now fluorescent lamps will stop him from using the information he got so we'll have to keep the secret from him. But what about Professor Abraham? Will he continue his researches and volunteer trials? Will he find a solution to having being exposed to electromagnetic waves problem? Will he find a way to make the information permanent?

But most important, will the day that we'll won't have to go to school ever come, or won't it ever come at all?

There is something else that affects information, that also has electromagnetic waves, and that is; fluorescent lamps. So, I thought that it's the most suitable thing we can have at school, for I can't get a fridge to school and put it next to Paul during the exam. Besides, we added some condensers to the lamps to amplify the effect of the electromagnetic field. I wasn't so sure I was right, but it was worth the try.

I was so happy with the results especially the way it happened. Carl finally won over Paul by using his mind. He studied his plan and didn't have to use his muscles.



The End