Topic: A Touching Moment

Pictures given: A piece of cake, hands cupped in a begging position, two people hugging

“You are stupid! You always mess things up! Now hand over your pocket money!” Jack shouted at me.

I trembled like a leaf in the wind. Jack was the notorious school bully who always like to pick on me.

I shouted back at him, “No! This is my parents’ hard-earned money!”

When Jack heard this, he stared daggers at me. I braced for impact as I thought that Jack would punch me. Instead, he stomped away it fury. It was unlike Jack.

After school, as I was about to walk home, I saw an unbelievable sight. Jack…was…crying? I approached him and tapped his shoulder.

“What do you want?” he hissed.

I sat down next to him and asked him what was wrong.

“My father… passed away. He was the sole breadwinner of the family. Now my mother needs to find a job but she has no qualifications.”

I took pity on poor Jack. I took the remaining lunch money I had and handed it over to him. Jack’s eyes nearly popped out of their sockets.

He muttered, “You- you are actually giving this to me?”
I nodded my head and told him that it did not matter if he was my enemy. I would help someone in need. After all, I also said, there was no reason why we could not be friends. Tears trickled down Jack’s face and he apologised for all his past actions.

A few months passed. Jack and I had become best friends. My mother, who was the boss of a company, gave Jack’s mother a job. During those months, Jack’s mother worked hard and rose to the position of a manager. In school, I would study with Jack and helped him out with his school work. He improved to become one of the top three students in the class. All was well until one day…

Jack had something to tell me.

“I have to leave Singapore and move overseas,” he said.

I felt a mixture of anger and sadness. On one hand, I felt angry that Jack was just going to leave after all that I had done for him. On the other hand, I was sad that I was going to miss one of my best friends. Jack wanted to explain but I waved him off and walked away.

That night, when I saw an aeroplane in the sky, I could not help but feel a strange sadness.

Twenty years have passed but the memory of me walking away from Jack without saying goodbye would occasionally come back to haunt me. I was guilt-stricken for acting so childishly. That day, for no particular reason, I decided to walk down memory lane by going to the places where Jack and I used to hang out. The playground, the library and the hawker centre. I went to the hawker centre first as it was the first place where Jack and I started hanging out. I bought an ice-cream there, remembering the time when I treated him to one. Wallowing in my nostalgia, I suddenly noticed a fancy-looking businessman eating an ice-cream which had the same flavour as mine, sitting at the same table I was at.

Feeling slightly bewildered, I asked him, “Do I know you?”

“It’s me! Jack!” the man exclaimed. “I just came back to Singapore!”
I was dumbfounded. We hugged each other and I apologised for being angry at him when I should have been more understanding.

“Let me treat you to a nice dinner while we catch up!” Jack said.

I refused his offer but he insisted. After this very day, we became even closer friends than before. This was my most touching moment – being reunited with a close friend.

By Darius Lye, P6