

# ALGEBREATH

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A one-act dramedy by  
Marty Chandler

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

ANIYAH, 17, female, most likely to be a CEO.

BRAYDEN, 16, male, most likely to be on the field after school.

EDSEL, 17, male, most likely to win an Oscar or Tony.

GEORGIA, 16, female, most likely to have a strange opinion on a specific food.

Note: Any role may be cast as any gender, but change pronouns accordingly.

## SETTING

A Monday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time. A Zoom call.

For Aniyah, Bryaden, and Georgia: their homes in San Francisco.

For Edsel: his grandma's house in Virginia.

## NOTES

A note on live performance:

This play could be adapted to live performance. The students can be put onstage together in one room, a school classroom, and the language related to being on Zoom can be removed. Similarly, the lines related to Edsel being in Virginia could be removed. The language related to or alluding to the pandemic can be adapted to reference the general time of stress in the students' lives (i.e., finals period at the end of junior year, an inherently stressful year of preparing for college applications, exams, etc.).

(A Zoom call. It's 2:59 p.m. Pacific Time.)

(ANIYAH logs on first. She sees she's alone, so she waits, checks her phone. A moment passes.)

(BRAYDEN logs on next.)

**BRAYDEN:** Hey!

(Aniyah looks up, surprised.)

**ANIYAH:** Hi, sorry.

**BRAYDEN:** Did I scare you?

**ANIYAH:** A little.

**BRAYDEN:** Sorry, ha—

**ANIYAH:** No, I just got here and no one was here, so I wasn't looking—

**BRAYDEN:** No, no, no—I gotchu! I never know when to log onto these things—

**ANIYAH:** Yeah?

**BRAYDEN:** Yeah, like I was just at my computer at 2:55, but I figured I'd be the first person here, so—

**ANIYAH & BRAYDEN:** —so you waited?

**BRAYDEN:** Ha, yeah, I waited until now.

**ANIYAH:** I get that. The other day, I was the first one to show up for my Spanish class, and it was just me and Señora García for like five minutes waiting on everyone—

**BRAYDEN:** So awkward—

**ANIYAH:** Yeah, *muy* awkward—

(Brayden laughs.)

(EDSEL logs on.)

**EDSEL:** Hi, sorry—

**BRAYDEN:** Hey Edsel—

**ANIYAH:** Hey Eddie—

**EDSEL:** Sorry, sorry. I was afraid I'd be holding you all up.

**ANIYAH:** No—

**BRAYDEN:** You're good.

**ANIYAH:** Still waiting on Georgia, too—

**EDSEL:** Oh good. I was just grabbing my dinner.

*(He holds up a bowl of food.)*

**BRAYDEN:** Dinner?

**ANIYAH:** It's 3:00 p.m., Eddie.

**EDSEL:** In your time zone!

**ANIYAH:** *Our* time zone?

**BRAYDEN:** What?

**EDSEL:** I'm on Eastern Time now.

**ANIYAH:** Woah—

**BRAYDEN:** I didn't know that.

**EDSEL:** Yeah, yeah. My mom was like—she wanted us to be with our family, so like we could take care of my grandma and all, and like be together, and she thought San Fran was gonna be getting worse, so we came out here to Virginia when all this started.

**ANIYAH:** Oh wow.

**EDSEL:** Everything's good, though. We're all like healthy and stuff—

**BRAYDEN:** Good, good.

**EDSEL:** Are you all good? Doing well?

**BRAYDEN:** Yes –

**ANIYAH:** Yeah –

**EDSEL:** Nice.

**BRAYDEN:** Well, we didn't know you were out there! We could have like definitely changed the meeting time or whatever so you didn't have to do it during dinner –

**ANIYAH:** Yeah Eddie, we didn't mean to steal you from dinner.

**EDSEL:** No, you're fine, you're fine! Gotta get this project done some time.

**ANIYAH:** That's true.

**EDSEL:** Soooo you're just going to have to watch me eat on camera. Don't get hungry!

**BRAYDEN:** Ha! Fine by me –

**ANIYAH:** Yeah, please!

*(Edsel starts to eat again and continues to eat off and on as the Zoom continues.)*

*(GEORGIA logs on.)*

**GEORGIA:** Hi friends –

**ANIYAH:** Hey! Was just about to text you –

**BRAYDEN:** Georgia! Hey! The squad's all here –

**EDSEL:** *(His mouth full of food:)* Hey, Georgia.

**GEORGIA:** Sorry I'm late –

**ANIYAH:** Hardly late –

**GEORGIA:** I was helping my brother with his class –

**ANIYAH:** Isn't your brother like really little?

**GEORGIA:** Yeah, he's six.

**BRAYDEN:** Woooahhh kindergarten?! Kindergarten has calls too?

**GEORGIA:** Ohhhhh yeahhhh.

**ANIYAH:** Wild —

**BRAYDEN:** I can't imagine doing this like *that* young.

**EDSEL:** Oh, yeah. My brother is in fifth grade. He's got his meetings every day with his teacher, too.

**ANIYAH:** Wow —

**EDSEL:** Yeah. His teacher also does "bedtime story" calls. Like twice a week, he logs on in the evenings, and his teacher reads the kids a story before bed. The other day, I came into his room and found him passed out in his bed with the laptop. She'd read him to sleep.

**ANIYAH:** Aw —

**GEORGIA:** That is so sweeeet...

**EDSEL:** Yeah, it was cute. It's even later here too, so he was super tired by the time she even started reading.

**GEORGIA:** What?

**EDSEL:** Oh yeah, I'm on the East Coast right now. I told them before you got here —

**GEORGIA:** Oh, okay — sorry I missed that.

**ANIYAH:** That's still just so cute —

**BRAYDEN:** Yeah. And I think there's like something really important in that. These kids must really miss their teachers and class and all. Since they're so used to seeing the same teacher and kids and all every day. Just looking to have that stability again.

**EDSEL:** Yeah —

**ANIYAH:** Well, you miss that too, right?

**BRAYDEN:** The stability?

**ANIYAH:** All of it.

**BRAYDEN:** Yeah. I do.

*(Beat.)*

**GEORGIA:** Did you start talking about the project before I got here?

**EDSEL:** No!

**GEORGIA:** Oh, good —

**EDSEL:** We should probably get started.

**ANIYAH:** Yeah, we should.

**GEORGIA:** Did anyone look at the assignment sheet?

**BRAYDEN:** Ha —

**EDSEL:** Um.

**ANIYAH:** Yes! I did!

**BRAYDEN:** Way to make me and Edsel look bad, Aniyah —

**ANIYAH:** What?

**GEORGIA:** Okay, okay — I'll just read it out loud —

**EDSEL:** Thank youuuu —

**GEORGIA:** Okay. Let's see here... Lemme pull it up...  
*(Reading:)* "Dear Class. For your final project, you and your assigned group must come up with a project that is rooted in mathematics in some way — truly any way, shape or form. This year has been difficult, and like the digits in  $\pi$ , you've been going on and on nonstop. Now it's time just to breathe, be creative and do what you like. There are no required lengths or

limits of the project—just submit it by Friday. If you have questions, let me know. With algebraic love, Mrs. G."

*(They all look at each other.)*

**BRAYDEN:** What does "algebraic love" mean?

**EDSEL:** ...Full of exes?

*(Brayden laughs. Aniyah and Georgia groan.)*

What? Get it like x's as in—

**ANIYAH:** Okay, Eddie, let's just focus on the prompt. Please.

**EDSEL:** Okay—

**GEORGIA:** "A project that is rooted in mathematics in some way."

**EDSEL:** Sooooo...

**ANIYAH:** It's *very* specific.

**BRAYDEN:** No, it's not—

**ANIYAH:** I was being sarcastic, Brayden.

*(Edsel laughs.)*

**BRAYDEN:** Okay—

**GEORGIA:** We just have to do something about math—

**ANIYAH:** Why didn't she just like, give us more to work with—

**EDSEL:** No, this is great—we can just do whatever!

**ANIYAH:** No, I know, but like lowkey, I'm just at the point where I'd rather have it laid out very specifically for me. Sometimes it's just so hard to think or be creative.

**GEORGIA:** Yeah...

**ANIYAH:** So like I almost *wish* she had given us just a step-by-step layout of which things we need to hit. A rubric—is that what I'm talking about? I don't even know—

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**BRAYDEN:** No, no, I get that for sure.

**EDSEL:** Well...if anything, this is better. Mrs. G left it open to interpretation. That kinda makes it easier since, ya know. We're trying to do a group project. Through video call.

**ANIYAH:** I guess that's true.

**BRAYDEN:** Okay, party people, let's get this ball rolling then!!  
WooooOOO!

**GEORGIA:** Okay, Brayden, what do you think we should do—

**BRAYDEN:** I don't know.

**GEORGIA:** Great—

**EDSEL:** Ha.

*(Beat.)*

**ANIYAH:** Math is everywhere.

**GEORGIA:** It is—

**EDSEL:** I guess so—

**ANIYAH:** So, we should be able to come up with something...

*(Beat.)* Anyone got anything? *(Short beat; like a carnival barker:)*  
One big math project, step right up, folks, any ideas—

**GEORGIA:** I'm going to get my notebook—

**ANIYAH:** That was *not* an idea—

**GEORGIA:** I'll be right back—

*(Georgia gets up from her screen.)*

**ANIYAH:** Why is she getting her notebook?

**EDSEL:** Probably to look at notes? For an idea or something—

**BRAYDEN:** Oh! That's smart—

*(Brayden also gets up from his screen.)*

**ANIYAH:** Wait, Brayden—

**EDSEL:** They're coming back.

**ANIYAH:** Ugh.

*(She sighs some more.)*

**EDSEL:** Are you alright, Aniyah?

**ANIYAH:** Yeah, I'm fine—

**EDSEL:** Alright—

**ANIYAH:** I'm just stressed I guess, is all—

**EDSEL:** Oh.

*(Short beat.)*

**ANIYAH:** I'm so sick of this.

**EDSEL:** We're all sick of this.

**ANIYAH:** I wish I could be, like, *with* you all. Doing this silly project.

**EDSEL:** I do, too.

**ANIYAH:** It just feels limiting.

**EDSEL:** Hm... *(Short beat:)* Once, Mr. Benson—

**ANIYAH:** The drama teacher?

**EDSEL:** Yeah. We were in class, and he put us into small groups for a "creative competition," he said. We all had to perform the same scene. And each group had a different constraint. My group's was to perform the scene without speaking.

**ANIYAH:** What?

**EDSEL:** Yeah. We were like, "Mr. Benson, we can't do it without speaking, that's the main part of acting!" And he was like, "Sometimes the best things come from persisting even within the most difficult of constraints."

**ANIYAH:** Hm.

**EDSEL:** We're gonna come up with something. And it'll be the best project ever.

**ANIYAH:** Yeah—

*(On Georgia's screen, we see she's returned with her notebook.)*

**GEORGIA:** Okay, hi, hi, sorry. I just wanted to grab my notebook.

**ANIYAH:** You're fine—

**GEORGIA:** I was just thinking I could flip through it and see if there's anything that speaks to us, you know? Just to jump-start us on some ideas.

*(Brayden comes back on screen.)*

**EDSEL:** Got your notebook too, Brayden?

**BRAYDEN:** No, I can't find my backpack—

**ANIYAH:** What?

**EDSEL:** Hahahaha—

**BRAYDEN:** Yeah, I took my laptop and my binder out of it weeks ago. And so far, that's all I've needed, so ummm...yeahhh.

**GEORGIA:** *(Laughing:)* Oh my gosh...

**BRAYDEN:** Nooooo idea where my backpack is—

**EDSEL:** Well, that's fine. Georgia, what have you got?

**GEORGIA:** Okayyyyy, let's see. *(Flipping through her notebook:)* Integrals—

**ANIYAH:** Meh.

**GEORGIA:** Chain rule—

*(Edsel makes a gagging sound.)*

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Um...what's this?

(*She squints.*)

I can't even read that—oh um, Riemann sums—

**BRAYDEN:** Ew—

**GEORGIA:** Fundamental Theorem of Calculus—

**ANIYAH:** Ugh, okay no, sorry. I can't think of any of those right now—

**GEORGIA:** I mean, I think those are cool—

**ANIYAH:** But I don't know about making them into a creative project.

**GEORGIA:** Alright, alright—I'm just gonna set this down then—

**ANIYAH:** Sorry, I just—

**GEORGIA:** It's okay.

**BRAYDEN:** Okay look, squad—this is supposed to be fun.

**ANIYAH:** Meh—

**GEORGIA:** Sure.

**BRAYDEN:** Mrs. G only said, "mathematics in some way." She didn't say *calculus* specifically. So, we could choose literally anything math-y.

**EDSEL:** Facts.

**GEORGIA:** Yeah, you're right, I guess—

**ANIYAH:** Thank you, Brayden—

**BRAYDEN:** So let's just think about something—**ANYTHING**—related to math, even if it's like basic adding and subtracting or **SOMETHING**, and then go from there.

**ANIYAH:** Okay.



**BRAYDEN:** Right, right, but you have to bring everyone a Valentine. And you have to decorate like, a big construction paper envelope-folder-thing that you tape on the side of your desk? Like a big pita pocket for your desk. And then your classmates come by and put their Valentine into it?

**ANIYAH:** Yeah, yeah—

**BRAYDEN:** Okay, so. When I was in fifth grade, this weird girl who picked her nose decorated her big envelope, and it said "I LOVE BRAYDEN" in big capital letters in the middle of a heart, and everyone was teasing me about it—

**EDSEL:** Wow...

**GEORGIA:** Nooooo—

**ANIYAH:** Who was it? Do we know them—

**BRAYDEN:** No, she moved away.

**ANIYAH:** Dang—

**BRAYDEN:** Yeah. I have no idea where she is now... Hmm...I hope she's doing well...

**ANIYAH:** Yeah.

*(Short beat.)*

**BRAYDEN:** Okay. Sorry, Edsel—

**EDSEL:** No, you're good—

**BRAYDEN:** What's your idea about first grade Valentine's Day?

**EDSEL:** Well, in first grade, did your teachers do this? They give you a box of the Sweethearts candy, right? Then you open them up, and you count out how many you have of each color, like how many blue and pink and green or whatever—do you remember that?

**ANIYAH:** Yeah!

**BRAYDEN:** Uh-huh—

**EDSEL:** Aaaand yeah.

*(Short beat.)*

**BRAYDEN:** Yeah?

**EDSEL:** Yeah.

**BRAYDEN:** Wait, was that the idea?

**GEORGIA:** Wait, what was the idea? I missed it.

**EDSEL:** That *was* the idea.

**GEORGIA:** We're going to get Sweethearts candies and count them?

**EDSEL:** Yeah! I kinda forget what happens once you count them all up. Like what the point was. Maybe you just compare your results to what your classmates got? Or maybe it's to just practice counting? And learn colors?

**GEORGIA:** A first grade holiday project is what you're suggesting—

**ANIYAH:** Yeah, wait, Eddie—we cannot just do a first grade math game—

**EDSEL:** What?

**BRAYDEN:** I don't see why not—

**ANIYAH:** Brayden—

**BRAYDEN:** It has to do with math!

**ANIYAH:** Yeah, but like...like sure, Mrs. G wants us to be able to do something easy.

**BRAYDEN:** Exactly—

**ANIYAH:** *(Raising eyebrows:)* But like...likeeee...

**GEORGIA:** Yeahhhh, I'm with Aniyah here. That seems like wayyyyy too easy.

**EDSEL:** Fine –

**BRAYDEN:** Alright.

**ANIYAH:** Plus, where are we going to find Sweethearts? February was so long ago –

**BRAYDEN:** You don't have to use Sweethearts –

**EDSEL:** Yeah, we can use anything – any candy you want.

**BRAYDEN:** You could use M&Ms even –

**GEORGIA:** Meh –

**EDSEL:** "Meh" what, Georgia?

**GEORGIA:** I don't like M&Ms.

**EDSEL:** What?

**BRAYDEN:** How could you not like M&Ms?

**ANIYAH:** Yeah –

**GEORGIA:** No, I mean like their taste and all –

**EDSEL:** What?

**GEORGIA:** I just don't like the colors.

**BRAYDEN:** Haha – what?

**GEORGIA:** They're yellow, red, orange, blue, green and brown – right?

**BRAYDEN:** Yeah –

**GEORGIA:** Well growing up I didn't like M&Ms because they didn't have my favorite color and my favorite color is purple –

**BRAYDEN:** Woah, slow down –

**EDSEL:** That's not true. I've seen a purple M&M –

**BRAYDEN:** I'm Googling this.

**ANIYAH:** If you go to the party store, they have them –

**EDSEL:** Yeah, in the party favor candy section –

**ANIYAH:** My mom said you can buy a whole bag of just one color of M&Ms for your wedding – like if your wedding color was purple, you could buy a bag of just purple ones –

**GEORGIA:** Okay, okay, okay –

**BRAYDEN:** Here: I just found an article from teenvogue.com about why there aren't purple M&Ms – I'm putting it in the chat –

**ANIYAH:** Ooh –

**GEORGIA:** Okay, well, anyway. When I was little, I didn't know about purple party store M&Ms. So I didn't want to eat M&Ms because there wasn't a purple one. There! That's all I was trying to say! I love the color purple –

**ANIYAH:** The book?

**GEORGIA:** No, the –

**EDSEL:** The musical?

**GEORGIA:** No, no, I just said the *color*. That's the whole point of what I was just saying.

**ANIYAH:** I was kidding!

**EDSEL:** Ha!

**GEORGIA:** But I'm sure the book and the musical are good, too. But anyway, the color. It's my favorite because it reminds me of my mom's hair when I was little – it wasn't a whole head of bright purple hair, just the ends.

**BRAYDEN:** Woah, she was like a *cool* mom. With dyed hair. My mom would never. Especially when I was little.

**GEORGIA:** Oh! What if we do something about colors? Maybe there's more math in art than I thought. Something about...ratios? Ratios of mixing? Like purple is just red and blue – like 50/50 or –

**BRAYDEN:** Yeah, that might be fun –

**GEORGIA:** Do you all have paint?

**BRAYDEN:** No.

**EDSEL:** Nope!

**ANIYAH:** Don't think so.

**GEORGIA:** Oof.

**BRAYDEN:** Alrighty, friendos, let's think.

**ANIYAH:** We've *been* thinking.

*(Beat.)*

**EDSEL:** Hold on, I'm thirsty.

*(Edsel gets up from his computer.)*

**ANIYAH:** Eddie –

**EDSEL:** *(Hollering from off:)* I'll be right back.

**BRAYDEN:** Oh. My brother took Mrs. G's class too, a few years ago. He wrote a song about calculus for his final project.

**ANIYAH:** Should we write a song then?

**BRAYDEN:** No.

**ANIYAH:** We should!

**BRAYDEN:** It was his idea, though –

**ANIYAH:** Well, we wouldn't write the same song.

**BRAYDEN:** We should come up with something more original –

**ANIYAH:** What, are you not musically inspired –

**GEORGIA:** Haha, yeah, you're not too cool for songwriting, are you, Mr. Sports –

**BRAYDEN:** No, no –

**ANIYAH:** Mr. Varsity Athlete –

**BRAYDEN:** Hey, hey, that's enough –

**ANIYAH:** What?

**BRAYDEN:** Just –

**ANIYAH:** What is it, Brayden –

**BRAYDEN:** I'm still...sad about that.

**GEORGIA:** About what?

**BRAYDEN:** Sports! Soccer! I didn't even get to finish the season.

**GEORGIA:** Oh –

**ANIYAH:** Right... I'm sorry Brayden –

**GEORGIA:** Yeah, I'm sorry – we didn't mean to –

**BRAYDEN:** No, it's fine. Really, don't worry –

**ANIYAH:** Yeah, we were just teasing.

**BRAYDEN:** It's fine, seriously... It's just disappointing. When you spend all year getting excited about something and then, (*Snaps fingers:*) poof! Gone. Like Thanos.

(*Beat.*)

**ANIYAH:** Is that a *Star Wars* reference –

**BRAYDEN:** What? No, it's *Avengers* –

**GEORGIA:** Aniyah, oh my gosh –

**BRAYDEN:** – did you even see or hear anything about *Infinity War*? Or *Endgame*?

**ANIYAH:** Okay, okay, okay!

*(Edsel returns to his screen, carrying a water bottle.)*

**EDSEL:** What'd I miss?

**BRAYDEN:** Aniyah's never seen the Marvel movies –

**EDSEL:** Tsk tsk.

**BRAYDEN:** I know –

**ANIYAH:** Okay, okay – I'll watch them at some point –

**EDSEL:** You have all this time now, so –

**GEORGIA:** Okay y'all, let's get back to thinking –

**BRAYDEN:** Right.

*(Beat. There's a sound, a splashing thud. It repeats. It's coming from Edsel's screen, but he's oblivious. Georgia, Aniyah and Brayden listen in. They can't see what he's doing.)*

Edsel, what's that sound?

**EDSEL:** *(Surprised:)* What?

**BRAYDEN:** What's that sound coming from you?

**EDSEL:** Oh!

*(He holds up his water bottle.)*

I was flipping my water bottle on the desk here.

**ANIYAH:** Oh my gosh –

**BRAYDEN:** How old are you, dude –

**GEORGIA:** Did you get it?

**EDSEL:** No, it keeps falling – hah, I'm not good at water bottle flipping. Sorry, I didn't realize that I was disrupting the focus.

(Beat. They return to thinking.)

**BRAYDEN:** Wait, that's it!

**ANIYAH:** What?!

**BRAYDEN:** The water bottle flipping!

**EDSEL:** What?

**GEORGIA:** That's not math, is it?

**BRAYDEN:** No, it is! It's math. We can calculate the statistics or the likelihood or something of how many times Edsel's bottle lands right-side up.

**ANIYAH:** Oh, this is crazy...

**GEORGIA:** You mean like flipping a coin?

**BRAYDEN:** Yeah, it's like figuring out the odds of getting heads or tails.

**EDSEL:** But coin flips are always 50/50.

**BRAYDEN:** Yeah?

**EDSEL:** But is a water bottle flip always 50/50?

**BRAYDEN:** Yeah, because it either lands right-side up or not right-side up. There are only those two options. Just like heads or tails.

**EDSEL:** But is it always 50/50? In a coin, the weight is evenly distributed, and when it flips, it always flips the same.

**BRAYDEN:** Right.

**EDSEL:** But with the water bottle, the water might move around and spread out more throughout the bottle during the flip. So, I think the likelihood of landing right-side up is more *unlikely*, because the water isn't consistent throughout the flip, like the consistency of the coin—

**GEORGIA:** So, is it like 75/25?

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**EDSEL:** I don't know, but we could probably figure it out—

**BRAYDEN:** No, no—now we're getting into like, a physics question—

**EDSEL:** Physics is still math!

**ANIYAH:** No, no, no—we just like... We *can't* do this project on water bottle flipping. First, elementary school with Valentine's candy and painting, and now middle school with this? We need something like, for us. We're juniors in high school. I think we can figure something out that's more our speed—

**GEORGIA:** But Aniyah, it doesn't matter—we just need to come up with something about math! Literally anything. Honestly, I'm sure Mrs. G would be fine with anything we've come up with already! We could have been almost done with the project by now—

**ANIYAH:** Yeahhhh...

**BRAYDEN:** Yeah, Georgia's right, I guess.

**ANIYAH:** Okay, I'm sorry. I just—I feel like we should just do something, I don't know. Mature—

**BRAYDEN:** Okayyy, Mrs. Valedictorian—

**GEORGIA:** Yeah, our grades don't even really matter at this point. We just need to finish the year—

**ANIYAH:** Okay. I'm sorry. (*Beat.*) Maybe I'm still a little worried about the grade, yes. And making sure that Mrs. G doesn't think we're just phoning it in or anything—

**EDSEL:** Aniyah, it's alright—

**ANIYAH:** Isn't anyone else just worried still? Like...I don't know. Our grades *do* matter still. I still want to make sure we get into colleges and have a future after this—

**GEORGIA:** We're not going to fail this project—

**ANIYAH:** I know that. You three are some of the smartest people I know—

**EDSEL:** You are too, Aniyah—

**ANIYAH:** Thank you. I just... (*Beat.*) I don't know. I'm sorry.

**BRAYDEN:** We're all going to end up where we're meant to. It's going to be okay.

**ANIYAH:** Okay. Thank you.

*(She sighs.)*

Woof, okay. I'm good.

**EDSEL:** Good?

**ANIYAH:** Good.

**BRAYDEN:** Okay. One more time. Let's come up with a great idea. Something about math. Something meaningful. Thinking caps on, and gooooo!

*(Beat. The longest beat thus far.)*

Anyone?

*(The others shake their heads.)*

Aniyah?

**ANIYAH:** I'm sorry. I'm just like so...brain-dead these days. I don't know why—

**EDSEL:** Hey, no, it's okay. I mean, we all are—

**BRAYDEN:** You're fine. Me too.

**ANIYAH:** It's just hard to think on this. Because all the time there are so many other things I'm thinking about—like I said, college and the future, and society and health and life and all— all of it. All day, I'm *thinking*. So, by the time I have to think

about like, this stuff—projects and assignments—by the time I have to do them, I don't want to think. And normally, I don't mind thinking about these things. It's easy. But now. Well, now it's different.

**GEORGIA:** I get that.

**BRAYDEN:** Have you tried meditating?

**ANIYAH:** No. I was actually thinking that I should—

**EDSEL:** Brayden, what—

**GEORGIA:** Brayden, you meditate?

**BRAYDEN:** Yeah, I meditate. I used to meditate before my games. When I still had them, ha... But it helps clear your mind. For me, at least.

**GEORGIA:** Oh—

**ANIYAH:** No, I should try that.

**BRAYDEN:** Yeah, I've found myself doing it a lot nowadays, too.

**EDSEL:** Hm...

**BRAYDEN:** When it feels like all there is to do is think, sometimes it's necessary to do some *not-thinking*.

**ANIYAH:** I like that: "*not-thinking*."

**EDSEL:** When I try to not-think, I not-think by playing video games—

**GEORGIA:** So does my older brother—

**EDSEL:** Yeah, it works mostly, but then I end up staying up too late, haha—

**BRAYDEN:** Right! Some forms of not-thinking make you feel worse—

**ANIYAH:** Hm...

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**BRAYDEN:** I'm not trying to be preachy or like hippie-y or whatever —

**ANIYAH:** No!

**GEORGIA:** No, you're good, Brayden —

**EDSEL:** You're fine —

**BRAYDEN:** But I just thought I'd share that. If you wanted it.

**ANIYAH:** No — thank you. Thank you.

**GEORGIA:** Does it take up a lot of time?

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