

Jesse's PERFECT SCORE

Jesse had no trouble with most of his classes but clearly struggled with science. Just a week ago, Mr. Delgado had suggested that Jesse's parents find him a science tutor. So, when he received an A+ on the astronomy test, Mr. Delgado was pleased—and a little surprised. Then Anton reported that he had seen Jesse looking at his test answers. Mr. Delgado considered Jesse an honest student, but he began wondering whether Jesse had earned that perfect score.

Mr. Delgado was missing important information. First, Jesse had been an astronomy buff for years and was thrilled when the class finally reached that part of science. He had glow-in-the-dark stars on his bedroom ceiling, and photos of planets and galaxies decorated his walls. Second, Jesse had studied especially hard for the test.

Third, Anton was angry at Jesse and wanted revenge. Anton's pride had been wounded. Most days at recess, the other kids chose Jesse for the baseball team before him. Jesse was a better catcher and batter. Anton could not stand it. When Jesse tagged Anton out at home base, Anton promised to make him pay.

Mr. Delgado had to uncover the truth. He began with Jesse. He took him aside, explaining that another student had accused him of cheating on the test. Jesse insisted that he didn't cheat. He was honest and worked hard for his grades. Jesse inquired, "Was the student Anton?"

The surprise on the teacher's face was evident. Jesse explained what happened at recess and described how much he had studied. As he spoke, Jesse gained a new confidence. Mr. Delgado asked questions and listened carefully to Jesse's answers.

He then talked to Anton, who eventually admitted lying, and offered an apology. After thanking Anton for telling the truth, Mr. Delgado discussed the importance of honesty. He emphasized that actions have consequences and told Anton that he owed Jesse an apology. Anton would spend today's recess inside writing that apology.

After Anton finished writing, Mr. Delgado brought the two students together. Jesse listened politely as Anton read the apology aloud. When he finished, Anton asked him nervously if maybe they could be friends—and if maybe they could play on the same team at recess.

"I'd like that," Jesse said.



SLEUTH WORK

Ask Questions What more would you like to know about Jesse, Anton, and Mr. Delgado? List at least three questions about what they did, said, or felt.

Gather Evidence Before his meeting with Anton, what information did Mr. Delgado learn that suggested Jesse did not cheat?

Make Your Case What is the most important theme in this story? Use details from the story to explain and support your answer.