

A Conference with the Teacher

Lan Le opens her backpack and pulls out a piece of orange paper. She says, "Here, Dad. This is for you."

"What is it?" asks Lan's father.

"It's a note from my third grade teacher, Mrs. Carr. You need to come to my school next Wednesday at four o'clock for a conference."

"A *conference*?" asks Lan's father. "What's that?"

"My teacher wants to talk to you about me," says Lan.

"Did you do something wrong?" asks Lan's father.

"No!" says Lan. "Mrs. Carr wants to show you my report card and...I don't know...she wants to have a conference with you!"

"Can she call me?" asks Lan's father.

"No, Dad," answers Lan. "She wants to see you face to face."

"But I don't speak English very well."

"Don't worry! Mrs. Pham, our teacher's aide, will be there to translate if you don't understand. You have to go. It's important!"

"Okay," says Lan's father. "I'll go. But I have to leave work early on Wednesday."

Lan's father arrives at his daughter's classroom at four o'clock. Mrs. Carr is waiting for him. She smiles and shakes his hand.

"It's very nice to meet you, Mr. Le," says Mrs. Carr. "Lan is a good student and I am very happy to have her in my class."

"Thank you," says Mr. Le. "Is that all?"

"No, not quite. There are a few more things I would like to discuss with you. Your daughter is a very good girl. She behaves well both inside and outside the classroom. However, I am concerned about her reading. She is a little behind the other third grade students. She needs to read more at home."

"We don't have many books at home," says Lan's father.

"That isn't a problem. She can borrow books from the school library," says Mrs. Carr. "I want her to spend at least twenty minutes every evening reading at home."

"Twenty minutes every evening. Okay," says Mr. Le. "I will make sure that this happens."

"That will help a lot," says Mrs. Carr. "Thank you for your support. Now, before you go, I want you to see her report card. Oh, good! Here is Mrs. Pham. She works in our class. She speaks Vietnamese and English. She can help if you have any questions."