

Paul was the class clown. He said funny things. He played tricks on his friends. He made faces at the teacher behind her back. The class laughed at him when he did this. Paul did not try to be mean. His tricks never hurt anyone. He just wanted to be funny. He liked for people to pay attention to him.

What was bad was that Paul made bad grades. He did poorly in school. He did not listen to the teacher. He was too busy thinking about funny things to do.

He drew funny pictures. He wrote silly jokes. He gave them to his friends. His friends laughed and laughed.

One day the teacher gave Paul a note. "Please take this to your parents," she said. "OK," said Paul. He did not seem worried to his friends. He tried to

clown around about it. He said the teacher was saying how smart he was.

On the way home Paul read the note. It said he had an "F" in the class. It said he did not behave. Paul was shaking in his boots. He was in big trouble!

He handed the note to his father. His father read it slowly. Then he sighed. He sat down. He told Paul to stop clowning in class. "It is fine to have fun after school," said Father. "But in school you will listen to the teacher. If you do not do better, I will punish you!"

Paul promised to do better. He started listening in class. He did not make fun of the teacher. Soon he was making all "A's" on his work. Paul was very happy. Father was proud of Paul. Paul learned when to have fun. He also learned when to be good.

Soon all of the boys and girls were paying attention to Paul. He was not a clown anymore. Now he was the smart kid of the class. Paul liked the way his friends talked about him. He did not have to be the class clown to win friends.

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