

Sandy sat in class staring out the window at the playground outside. Sandy loved to play on the playground. Sandy had two best friends, Ann and Kate. Together, the three girls would run outside at recess time and try to get to the swings first. The girls would swing as long as they could before the teacher told them to get off of the swings. The teacher had to remind the three girls every day that other children should be able to swing on the swings, too. Sandy, Ann, and Kate would then go from the swings to the monkey bars and see who could hang upside down the longest. Sandy, Ann, and Kate always had lots of fun at recess time.

"Sandy, what is the answer to my question?" asked the teacher. Sandy jerked straight up in her chair. She had not been paying attention to the teacher. Instead, she had been staring outside and daydreaming. "Um, I don't know," Sandy said. She could hear the other kids in the class whispering and giggling. "You need to pay attention or you won't get to go outside for recess," the teacher said. The threat of not being able to go outside was enough to make Sandy sit up and listen to the teacher.

At last, the bell rang for recess. Sandy and her friends were the first ones out of the door. They ran as fast as they could to jump on the swings. They ran up to the swings and then came to a screeching halt. The swings had been taken down! The teacher came up behind them. "The swings needed to be taken in for repairs," the teacher said. Sandy, Ann, and Kate felt very sad. What were they going to do now?

"Let's go play on the monkey bars," said Ann. The three girls ran over to the monkey bars. However, the monkey bars were covered up with big sheets of plastic. "The monkey bars are too dangerous,"

said the teacher. "We covered them up with plastic so that none of the kids would play on them and get hurt." The girls sat down in the grass with sad looks on their faces. "We can't play on the swings or the monkey bars. What are we going to do?" asked Sandy. "I know," said Ann, "let's just sit here and talk." The girls had a good time just sitting and talking for the rest of their recess time. They agreed to do that more often.

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