


EXCEL [3] STEM

LOOKING

UP

by PJ Gray






Wes was **happy**. It was summer break. This was the summer before senior year.

"Ready for summer?" his dad asked.

"So ready," Wes said.



A hand in a blue and white plaid shirt sleeve points upwards towards the ceiling. The hand is positioned in the center-left of the frame. To the right, a large window with white frames looks out onto a bright, sunny day. Outside the window, there is a green lawn, a white picket fence, and a blue sky with white clouds. The room's walls are white, and the floor is light-colored wood. A black rectangular box with a hand-drawn border is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, containing text.

His dad smiled. "Good," he said. "Now you have time to help me. You can start by mowing the lawn."

Wes **rolled his eyes**. He headed to the shed.



On his way, he glanced over the fence. There was a big tree in the yard next door. It had a cool tree house. Wes had always **wondered** about it. He never saw kids up there. He didn't even know if the family had kids.



Wes finished mowing.
Then he walked over to
the fence. He took a closer
look at the tree house.



"Hi," someone said.

We turned toward the voice.
It was a little girl. She was in
a **wheelchair**.





A young girl with brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a blue and green plaid shirt over a pink top, sits in a wheelchair. She is positioned behind a wooden fence made of vertical planks. The background is a lush green lawn under a blue sky with white clouds. A black banner with white text is superimposed over the top half of the image.

"Are you **spying?**" she asked.

"No," Wes said. "I was just looking at the tree house."

"It's okay," she said. "I'm Mia."

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