



IT DOES *Matter*





Chapter 1

Laine walked to school. Tess was with her. Tess was Laine's best friend. And Tess was in her English class.

Tess didn't share any other classes with Laine. But they did have lunch at the same time.

Tess was in a hurry to get to school. But Laine wasn't in a hurry.

Laine liked school OK. But she was very glad it was her senior year. School would be over in three weeks. Laine could hardly wait.

Tess asked, "Why did you get to my house so late? I told you I wanted to get

to school early.”

Laine was in a hurry for her senior year to be over. But that didn’t mean she wanted to get to school early.

“I don’t know why you are so upset, Tess. I got to your house late. So what? It doesn’t matter. We will still get to school on time,” Laine said.

Tess said, “But it does matter to me. I need to talk to Mrs. Vance before school starts. I need to ask her about our test.”

Mrs. Vance was their English teacher. They had a test in her class the next day. It would be the last test before their final exam.

“Mrs. Vance is going to review the test for us today. So ask her then,” Laine said.

“I need to ask her now. I might not get a chance to ask her in class. It will be a hard test. And I want to do well on it,” Tess said.

Tess always studied a lot. And she worried a lot about her grades.

Laine thought Tess worried too much about her grades.

Laine said, “Don’t worry about the test, Tess. I am sure you will do well on it. We are almost to school. So you can talk to Mrs. Vance before school starts.”

“But I have a book due today. I need to take it back to the media center. I want to take it back before school starts. And now I can’t do that,” Tess said.

“You can take it back after lunch,” Laine said.

Tess said, “I know. But I don’t want to do that. And now I will have to take it then. You should have been on time, Laine.”

Laine didn’t know why Tess was so upset. Tess had time to talk to Mrs. Vance before school started. And it didn’t

matter about her book. Tess could take it back after lunch.

Laine wanted them to talk about something else. She tried to think of something to say. Then she thought about the game on Friday after school.

The Carter High baseball team was going to play Maxwell High. The game would be played at Maxwell High. The winner would go to the state finals.

Laine was going to the game. She would ride the school bus. Griff was going on the bus too.

Griff was her boyfriend. They had been dating for most of the school year.

Laine said, "I wish you could go to the game on Friday."

Tess said, "So do I. I wish it were here. Then I could go. But I can't go to Maxwell High. I would get home too late.

“My cousins are coming to visit. They might already be at my house. And I have to be home when they get there.”

Her two cousins were coming from out of town. Her aunt and uncle were coming too. They were going to stay all weekend.

The girls got to the school.

Tess said, “I need to hurry. I will see you in English class.”

Tess hurried in the school.

Laine walked around outside for a few minutes. She saw Steve.

Steve was in her English class too. He and Griff were friends. Steve always studied a lot. But Laine thought he worried too much about his grades too.

Laine was looking for Griff. But she didn't see him.

The bell rang.

Laine went in the school. She walked slowly to her first class. Griff wasn't in her first class. So she was in no hurry to get there.

Laine was almost late to class.



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Laine used to think that it was OK to be a few minutes late. She often put her own needs before others, especially her best friend, Tess. But Laine finds out the hard way that being late does matter. Will she learn to be on time?



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