



# Marie's Spotlight Moment

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“Wake up, wake up!” Marie’s mother, Nada, shouted excitedly.  
“I want you to try on this new *Jalabiya*, I think it would look great on you for next week’s audition,” she added.



“What if they don’t like me Mama?”

Marie responded as soon as she woke up.



As the days kept getting closer for Marie's audition for the *Universal Kids Fashion Show of Beirut*, Marie began to reconsider her decision.

"Do I really want to audition?" she asked herself.

Even though Marie had voluntarily signed her name up for the upcoming school fashion show, she did not expect to be so nervous for her audition. Her thoughts began to spiral and consume her!



The next day Marie went to school and decided to tell her friends about how she was feeling. During lunch time, she spent time with her best friend Yasmine.



“Can I talk to you about something...?” she worriedly asked.

“Of course!” Yasmine answered willingly. “What’s up?”

“I’ve been feeling a little off lately... I don’t know if I should audition for the show! The other day, I was trying out new costumes in the changing room and I saw Malak whispering to her friend Maysa and laughing at me.”

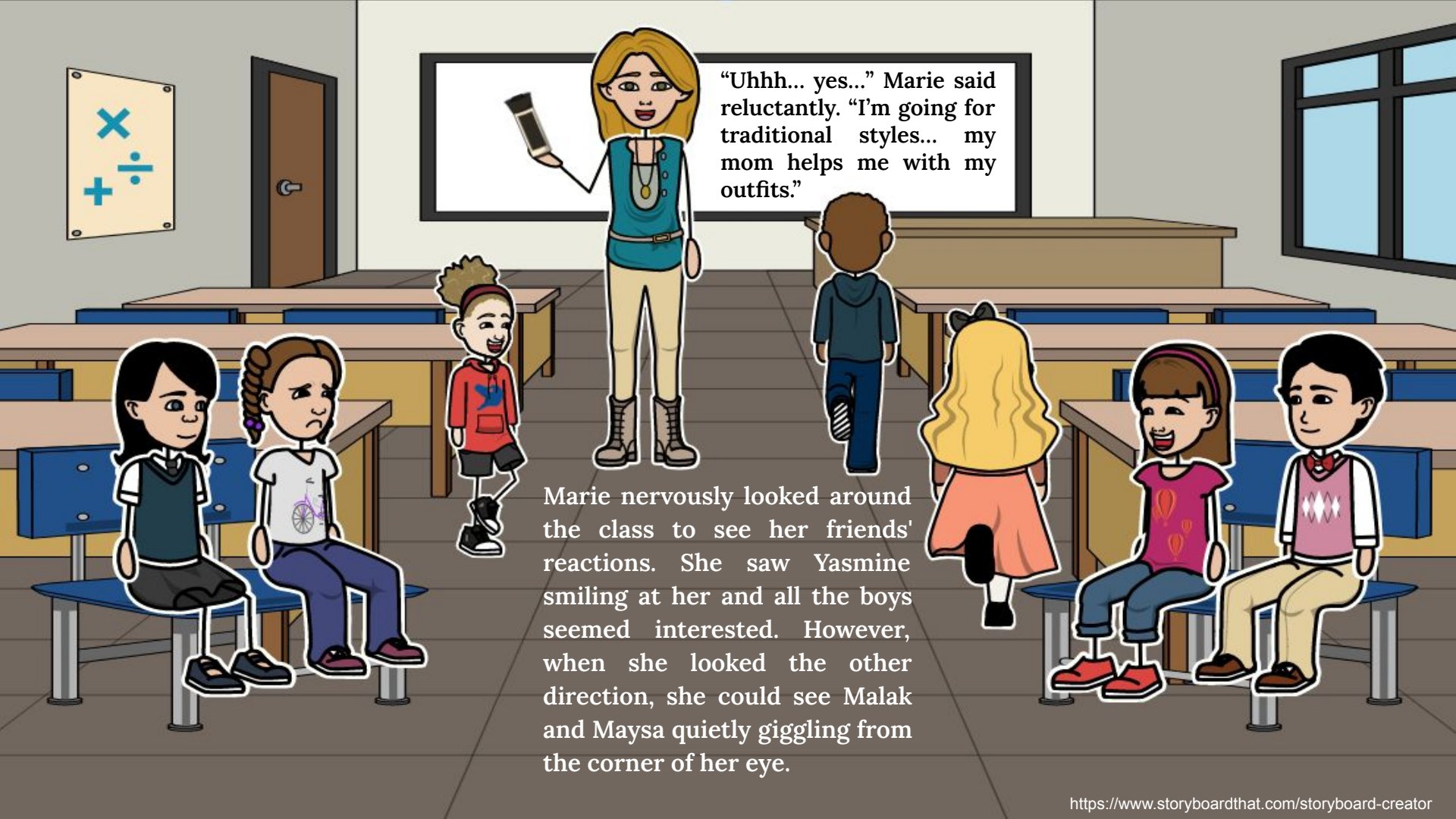
“Seriously? I can’t believe she would do that!” Yasmine answered as she munched into her sandwich. “You can do this Marie, your family and friends love your style, especially your Mama!”

“I guess so...” Marie responded.



The school bell rang and Marie and her classmates made their way back to the classroom.

“Alright everyone, let’s all take a seat!” said Mrs. Khoury. “Marie, I saw your name on the list for the fashion show next week. Can you tell the class what outfits you’ll be wearing?”



"Uhhh... yes..." Marie said reluctantly. "I'm going for traditional styles... my mom helps me with my outfits."

Marie nervously looked around the class to see her friends' reactions. She saw Yasmine smiling at her and all the boys seemed interested. However, when she looked the other direction, she could see Malak and Maysa quietly giggling from the corner of her eye.



Marie was upset for the rest of the day. She really wanted to know what was so funny and why Malak and Maysa were laughing at her.





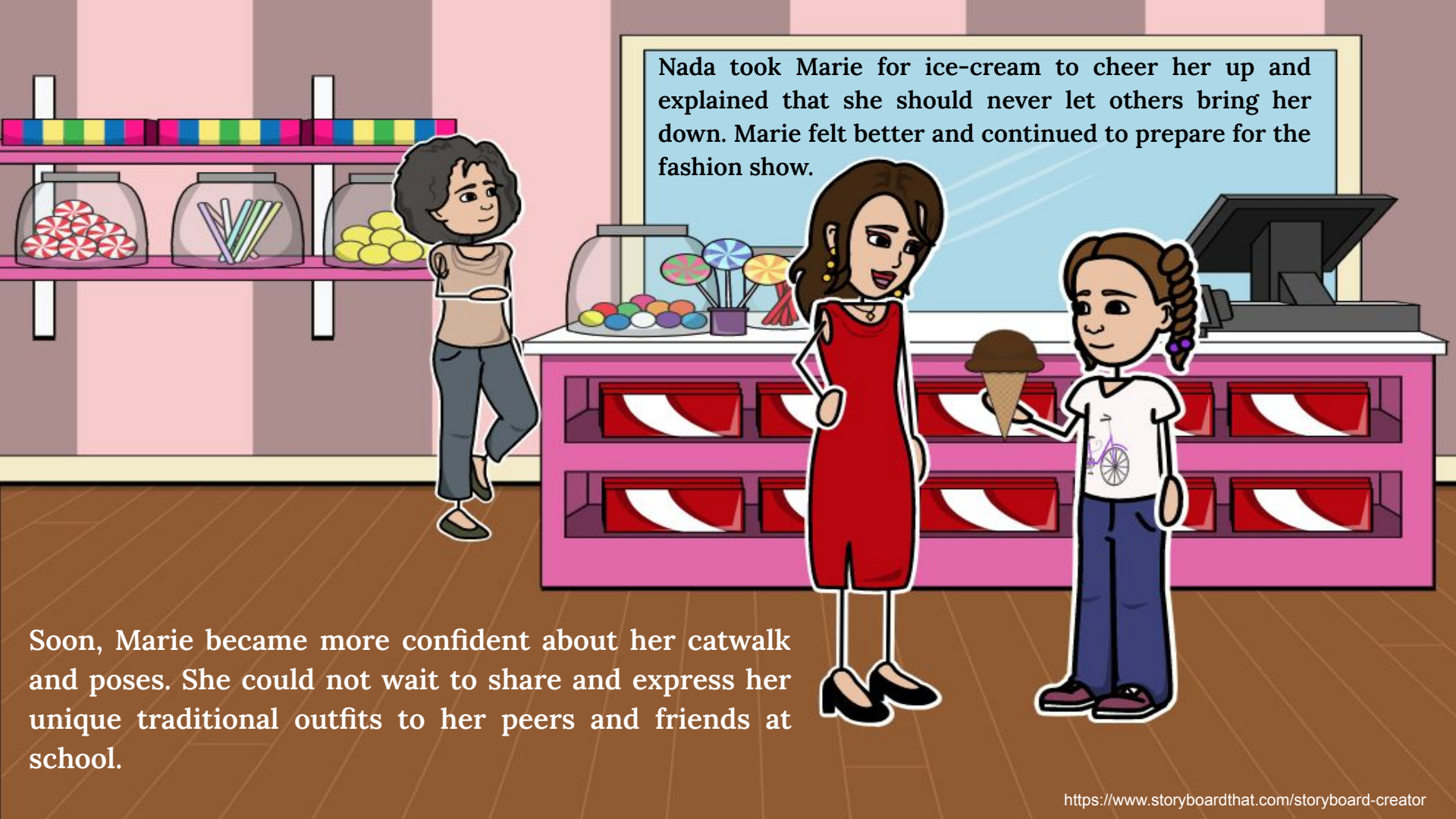
When her Mom came to pick her up from school, Marie began to tear up.



“Hayete Mama! What’s wrong?” Nada concernedly asked.

Marie bursted into tears.

“I didn’t tell you what happened the other day... but when I was wearing the *Cherwell Tetta* got me in the changing room and practicing my poses in the mirror, I saw Malak and Maysa laughing at me from outside. And today, they even started laughing in class when Mrs. Khoury asked me to share what outfits I’ll be wearing.”



Nada took Marie for ice-cream to cheer her up and explained that she should never let others bring her down. Marie felt better and continued to prepare for the fashion show.

Soon, Marie became more confident about her catwalk and poses. She could not wait to share and express her unique traditional outfits to her peers and friends at school.



Time passed and it was finally time for the *Universal Kids Fashion Show*.

“It’s showday!”

As soon as they arrived home, Marie ran to the kitchen and quickly had her lunch. She was so excited she began to pack her outfits two hours early.

“Finish your Koosa!” Nada exclaimed as Marie hopped out of the kitchen.



## *Universal Kids Fashion Show of Beirut*

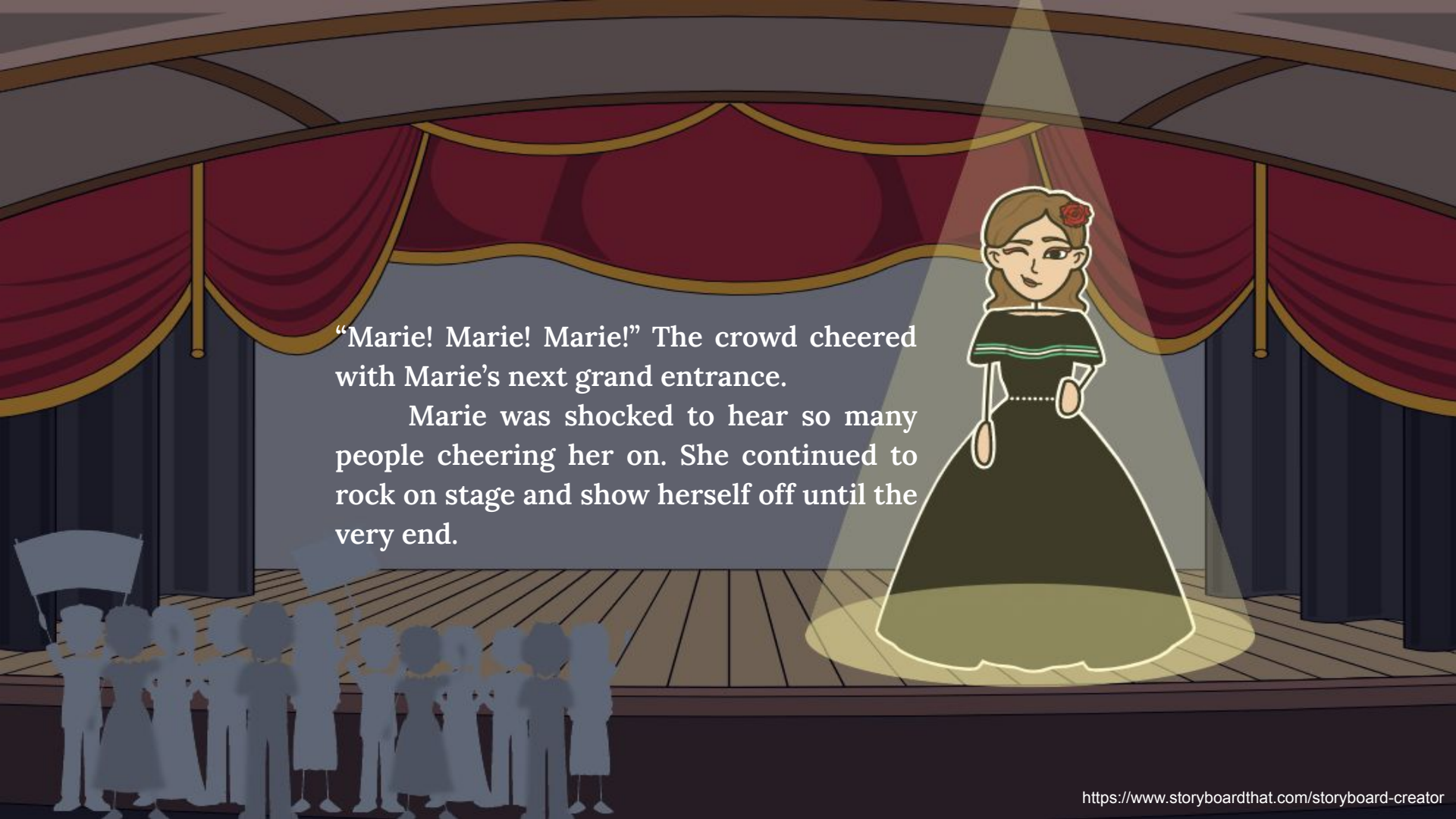
It was 6:30pm, 30 minutes before showtime. Marie was waiting in her first outfit backstage. Her first one had a similar style to Cleopatra. The lights dimmed and the host of the *Universal Kids Fashion Show of Beirut* came on stage and began to introduce all the contestants. Marie's palms began to sweat and she started shaking. As she peeked into the crowd, she got more and more nervous- but that did not stop her. She had remembered the powerful words her mother told her on her way back from school that day. She remembered the support she got from Yasmine.

"And next up, we have Marie with her very first Cleopatra-inspired outfit! Let's give her a warm welcome!" said the host of the show filled with enthusiasm.





Marie made her way down the stage. Her legs were wobbling and her heart was racing. The spotlight was focused straight on her. She had never felt more prideful. For the first time in her life, she was able to step on stage and share her passion with such a big crowd of people. When she reached the front pit of the stage she saw her family and friends cheering her on, her nerves slowly began to disappear, and she made her way backstage to change for her second and third outfit.



“Marie! Marie! Marie!” The crowd cheered with Marie’s next grand entrance.

Marie was shocked to hear so many people cheering her on. She continued to rock on stage and show herself off until the very end.



The show was finally over, and it was time to announce the top three winners.



“And our final top three fashionistas are... Marie, Sarah, and Marc!” said the host of the show.

Marie was filled with joy. She could not believe she had made it to the top three. Marie’s mother Nada was cheering proudly in the audience, “That’s my girl!” She felt so thankful to have had her family and friends by her side...

The next morning, Marie went to school with a smile on her face.  
“You did great last night,” said one of her classmates, Saeed.  
“Bravo Marie!” followed her teacher Mrs. Khoury.

Marie’s words of encouragement gave her confidence and pride to always follow her dreams. When recess came, she began telling all her friends about how nervous she was and how she prepared for the show and even encouraged them to audition for plays, shows, and take part in sports they would be interested in no matter how scared or challenged they are..

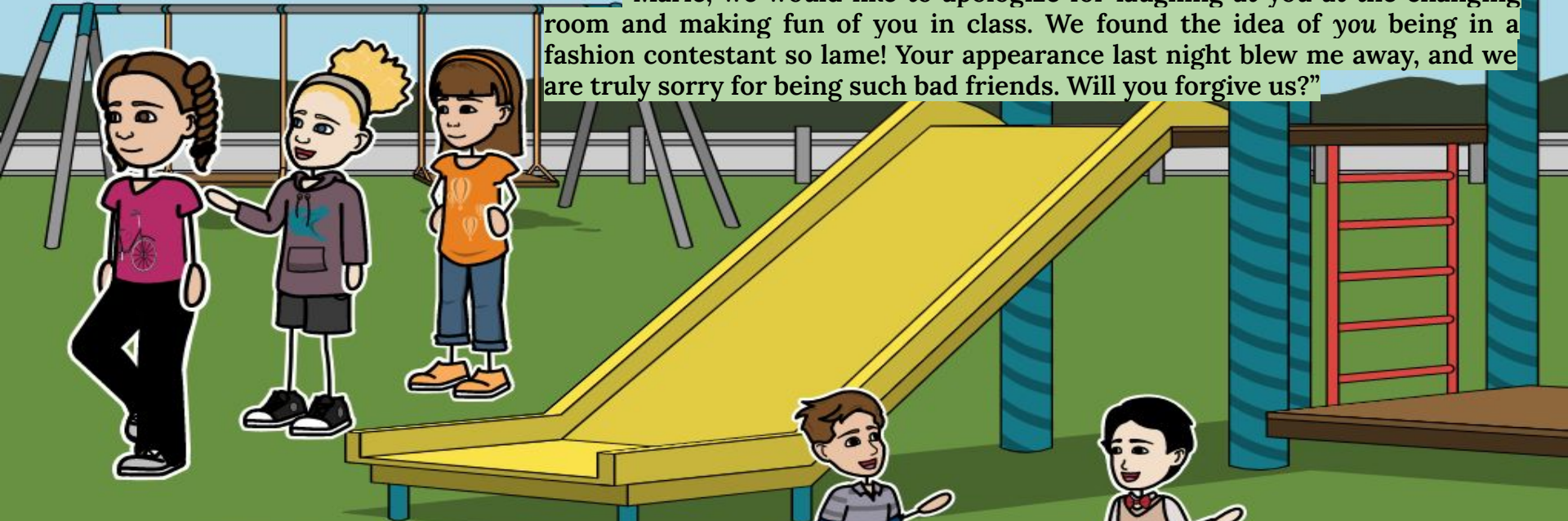
She began to inspire those around her...





During lunchtime, Marie unexpectedly felt a little tap on her shoulder at the playground. She turned around to find Malak and Maysa standing right behind her.

“Marie, we would like to apologize for laughing at you at the changing room and making fun of you in class. We found the idea of you being in a fashion contestant so lame! Your appearance last night blew me away, and we are truly sorry for being such bad friends. Will you forgive us?”



Marie had not expected to hear from Malak or Maysa. She in fact was afraid they would say mean things about her outfits after the show. But it turned out they really enjoyed watching her shine under the spotlight.

“Thank you for apologizing Malak,” she said forgivingly.



Marie, Malak, and Maysa became friends and joined Yasmine and the rest of their friends for a slumber party on the weekend. They played, laughed, and had a great time together.

“Let’s all join the contest next year!” exclaimed Yasmine.

“Sure thing!” the rest of the girls answered simultaneously.

“I’d love to try that *Jalabiya* on. It was my favorite look!” said Malak.



The girls became a great group of friends and already began to prepare for next year’s contest.

Before going to bed, Marie closed her eyes and felt thankful for everyone who had supported her along the way. Before falling sound asleep she whispered to herself: “I knew I could do it, just like Mama told me...”



# Reference

<https://www.storyboardthat.com/storyboard-creator>