The Story Behind the Tree House

By Nahla Taha

Illustrated by Nahla Taha (Storyboard.com)

Once a upon a time, in the middle of Beirut, there was a boy named Adam who lived with his mom and dad. Adam was a very cheeky child who loved to cause trouble to his parents and everyone around him. At the time, Adam was 12 years old and was the only child which means he had no brothers and no sisters. Since Adam was the only child, his parents used to spoil him and get him whatever he wants

Adam used to go to a very good school in Beirut. His school had a very good education system and had the many top and well-disciplined students who get very good marks. However, Adam was not like his classmates from school. He was a naughty boy. Adam used to always talk in class and make noises in class to not let his classmates focus. Because of his bad behavior, his teachers were always angry at him. Adam's grades were also bad because of his bad discipline and poor performance in class. Also, he used to try to make his good and excellent classmates become like him.

Adam's mom and dad were always mad at him because of his naughty behavior at home too. He always shouts and says bad words to his mom when he is forced to study because he does not want to. If his mom is cooking food he does not like, he will not eat it and will throw his plate on the floor, causing a huge mess. His room is always untidy because he is always sitting on his iPad instead of keeping it tidy and studying.

Adam's mom and dad were always worried about Adam's behavior because it keeps on getting worse and worse. Adam's grades were also really bad. So, his parents decided to go to school and have a talk with the teachers, and they wanted Adam to improve and become a good boy like his classmates in school. But, because of Adam's really bad behavior, his teachers could not help his parents with solutions. His teachers were hopeless because they tried everything with Adam, and he was not changing. After Adam's parents realized that there is no hope from the teachers, they decided to take him to therapy sessions. This means that there are doctors who help children that are misbehaving, and they try to find solutions for the problems. After so many sessions, Adam was still naughty and was not doing any better.

But his parents kept on trying and did not give up. They started punishing him by taking his iPad away or put him in the time-out chair whenever he misbehaves. These punishments were not working with Adam and he kept on misbehaving like a naughty boy. One night, when Adam was asleep, his parents were trying to think of how they can find the best solution to Adam's behavior. They were thinking about a solution that will let him have fun but also a learn a lesson from it. Although this time, they had to be harsh and tough on him because they realized that the kinder and nicer they were to him, the more he would take this chance to misbehave

The next day, on Monday, Adam came back from school to find his parents sitting in the living room. His parents did not smile or asked him about his day which confused Adam.

Adam asked: "What is happening over here? Is there anything wrong?"

His dad then replies: "Yes there is something wrong and we need to talk to you about something," Adam then sits next to his parents, wondering what they are going to talk to him about.

Adam's dad started talking and said with an angry tone: "Listen Adam, we tried helping you in the best ways as possible, but it seems to us that your behavior is still the same and you are not doing well in school. So, your mother and I have decided a punishment for you that is fun and tiring at the same time, and if you do not listen to us, something bad will happen to you,"
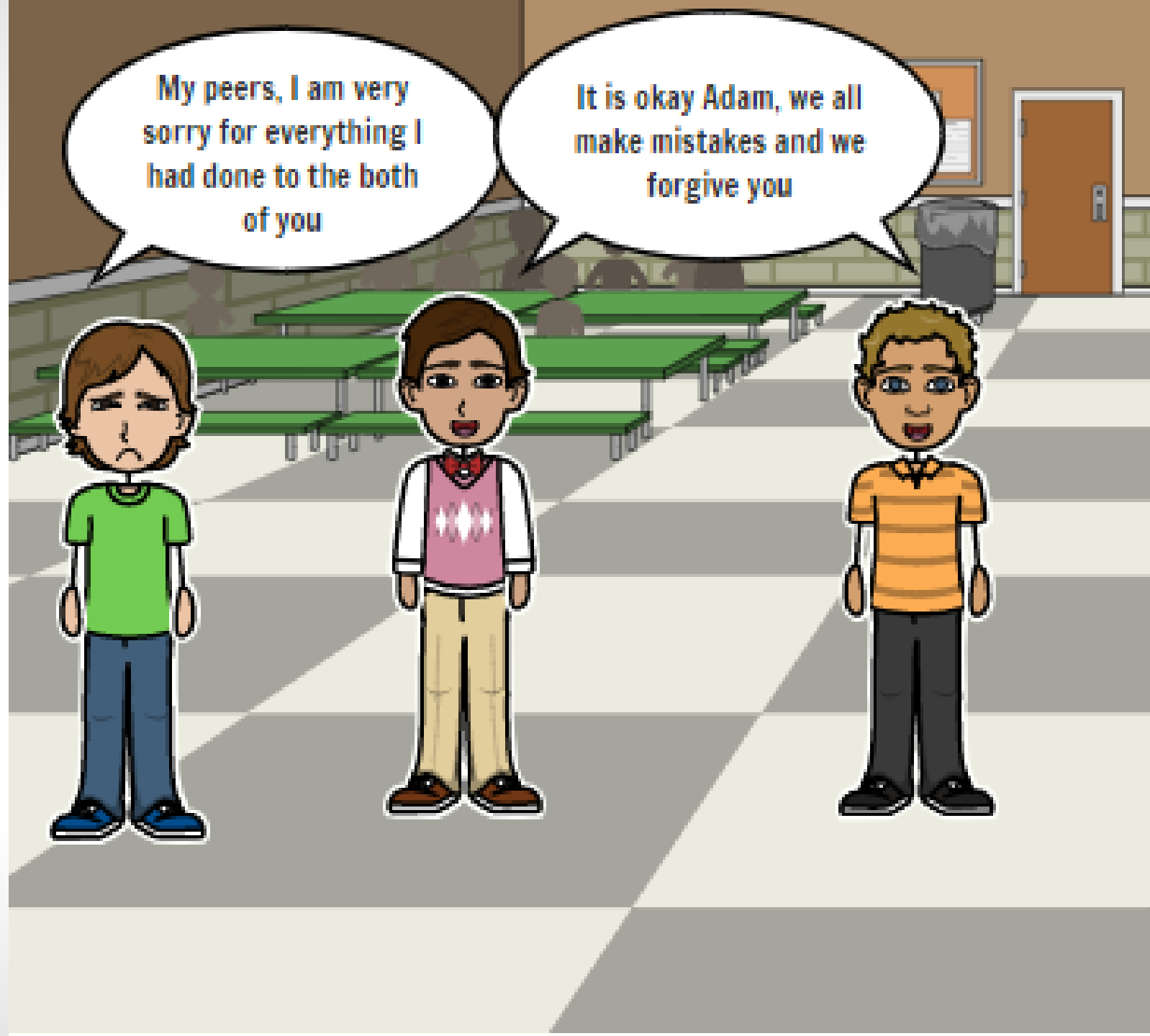
Adam nervously asked: "What is this punishment?"

His dad replies: "You have to build a tree house in our backyard from scratch in one week, and if you do not build this tree house, I will not hesitate and send you to a mental hospital and you will stay there with all the sick and naughty people,"

After hearing what his dad said, Adam started to feel bad about himself and how he treated everyone around him. He then went to his room and started thinking to himself about how he will build this tree house all alone and in one week

The next day, Adam went to school with a different behavior. He started to become nice to everyone around him. He even started apologizing to his teachers and classmates about all the bad things he did to them. Everyone in the school was surprised and happy with Adam. During the lunch break, Adam spoke to a few friends about this tree house that he was going to build in his backyard and his friends were all happy to hear about it. He asked his friends if they can help him build it and they all said yes with the excitement on their faces.

Adam and his friends would go every day to Adam's house once they finished school so that they can finish building the treehouse. They built a ladder for the tree house, painted it red from the outside and white from the inside. Adam got some decorations from his room like LED lights and pictures and hung them inside. They made a room for him and his friends by getting some old pillows from the storeroom in his house and placed them inside the tree house.

By the end of the week, Adam and his friends managed to finish building the tree house and it very beautiful. After all their hard work that they put into the tree house, Adam's parents rewarded him and his friends with some treats for their work.

In the end, Adam's parents were amazed and very proud of how Adam was doing and how he has changed. He was being very friendly and nice with everyone in his school including his teachers. His grades in school were starting to get better and all his teachers are so proud of him. He even started participating in his classes and school activities like events and clubs that were taking place in school. Moreover, Adam and his parents were able to continue living their lives happily and peacefully with no problems at all.