

Chelsea and Carrie walked excitedly into their fifth grade classroom. They had been best friends for as long as they could remember. This was the first year that they had been assigned to the same teacher, and they couldn't believe their luck. They quickly sat down in two seats in the back row, hoping that they would be able to choose their seats for themselves. Mr. Reeder stood at the front of the room and announced that he would call out names and assign seats. Chelsea and Carrie sighed.

It didn't take long for Chelsea's name to be called. She was assigned to sit on the left side of the classroom in the second row. Carrie waited silently, hoping that she would get assigned to a seat close to her friend. She heard her name called, looked up, and saw Mr. Reeder pointing to the opposite side of the room from Chelsea. They looked at each other and grimaced.

At recess, they sat together feeling sorry for themselves. They had waited all these years to be in the same classroom, and now they were separated by rows of desks. That afternoon, Carrie got brave and wrote Chelsea a note. She knew Tommy and Roberto would help her out. She passed it to Tommy while the teacher wasn't looking. Then as he reached toward Roberto's desk, Mr. Reeder calmly walked over and took the note. He looked sternly at Chelsea and Carrie. They knew that they wouldn't be sitting near each other anytime soon.