

POCKET DIAL

Darcy lived one mile from school. It was an easy 20-minute walk and he liked getting the fresh air. He told his parents he was old enough to walk himself. His parents were nervous. There were a couple of unsafe streets that he had to cross to get to school and they didn't like the fact that he would be alone.

Darcy was responsible and honest though, so his parents trusted him. They bought him a cell phone so that if anything happened, he could easily call home. It ended up coming in handy when Darcy forgot his home keys and needed his Dad to drop by the house and let him in.

Darcy didn't use the phone for many things. There wasn't internet on it and he only had a few friends' numbers. He kept his phone in his pocket most days since he didn't trust the lockers. They didn't have locks and he knew if his phone was stolen, his parents wouldn't get him a new one and he would have to take the bus.

This all sounded like a perfect plan, except the school has a "No Cell Phone" on school grounds policy. Darcy was freaked out about carrying his phone around. He knew it was a risky move. Most of the time he forgot it was there since he had never taken it out during school. It was only when he sat down and felt it in his pocket that he remembered. He often turned red just thinking about it.

One day in math class, his phone went off. The switch must have flicked off of silent mode in his pocket because it was ringing loud enough for the class across the hall to hear. Darcy was in shock. He reached into his pocket and started jamming his fingers on random buttons to silent it. He didn't recognize the number, it must have been a wrong number.

Two seconds later, his teacher stood in front of his desk with his palm outstretched. Darcy put the phone in his hand and dropped his head so no one could see him. When the teacher came back, he put a tiny slip for the Principal's Office on his desk. Darcy was ashamed.



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Guiding Questions:

- What should Darcy do?
- Why does Darcy have a phone when it's not allowed at school? Could his parents have come up with a different solution?
- Why do you think the school has a no cell phone policy?
- How can school rules and family rules work together?

Topic: Media Balance and Dynamics

Age: Elementary