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“Hey class, we have a special announcement to make. We have the annual Science Fair next week, and everyone is free to join. There is a prize for best project. Good Luck!” Mr. Farnsworth said. Immediately, everybody’s eyeballs shot up with excitement. It had been a boring day for 11 year Trevor R overt, but this changed the entire mood of the day! Trevor excitedly looked around the class, staring at the people who he thought could easily win the competition. Of course, Trevor really wanted to win as well. He had been waiting for this opportunity since when he was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, when his brother won first prize. Trevor anxiously waited for the clock to strike 3:15 and raced out of the classroom. Everyone walked out of the school excitedly. Kids scrambled around looking for their backpacks and workbooks. Packs of kids scrambled out the front door of William J. Condor Middle School. However, Trevor, who was eager to join the competition, went straight to the sign-up sheet for the science competition. Looking up, he grabbed the pen and immediately signed his name up. Then, he made his way past the crowds and walked out the front door.

That afternoon, Trevor looked for an idea for the Science Fair. He needed something that could impress all the judges and evaluators. Despite Trevor’s confidence, he came up empty at his home. Nothing seemed good enough for impressive enough. Sighing with disappointment, Trevor called it a day and retired to the bed.

The next morning, Trevor happily walked to school whistling with joy. The sky was as blue as the logo of Facebook, and the big puffy clouds looked like big cotton balls. The day had been particularly warm, and Trevor felt as if he had been thrown into a fire pit. The day gone through as the speed of light, and Trevor found himself hearing the bell ring. Trevor rose from his seat, and walked out of the classroom. He looked up at the sign-up sheet. His name was still there, but there was someone else who also wrote their name on the sheet. **Eric Cire**. Trevor was shocked. Eric had been his best friend since Kindergarten, and now he was against him in the Science Fair. Trevor felt his cheeks turn flaming hot red. If he won the competition, it would break the chain to friendship between the two best friends forever, but Trevor needed to win the competition for his family! The idea of science ran through the entire R overt family. Trevor’s mom was a scientist, and Trevor’s dad was a computer science major. Trevor’s brother just won the Science Competition Bee. If Trevor didn’t win the competition, it would mean he was an outlier in the family, and Trevor was ready to prove he wasn’t. Trevor knew what he had to do. He sprinted to find his friend Eric, to talk sense into him.

Trevor found Eric walking along the sidewalk. He seemed distracted by the big clouds in the air. Running as fast as he could, Trevor easily caught up to Eric. Enraged, he stared at Eric.

“Eric, what were you thinking signing up for the Science Fair? Do you know how much winning means to me?” Trevor asked his best friend.

“Do you know how much it means to me?” Eric countered. He looked like he was about to punch Trevor in the face. He shoved Trevor away, and walked away quickly. Trevor was stunned. Why was Eric acting this way? Eric had never pushed Trevor away before. However, despite the strangeness, Trevor was enraged at Eric. He declared one thing to himself. The competition was on. Trevor didn’t care

anymore how much it would hurt the friendship. It was him, vs his best friend. The idea seemed really absurd to Trevor, but there was no denying it. Eric clearly wanted to win, and he didn't care about Trevor's feelings. Trevor was ready to do the same.

Seeing his best friend was so eager to win, Trevor focused even more on his project. He finally settled on the idea of "Can Tomatoes Provide Electricity?" and started gathering the materials. He easily found 3 tomatoes, which was plenty, and found a little circuit light. "Perfect" Trevor thought to himself. He felt relieved that he had all the materials he needed. After finding a piece of cardboard box, Trevor finally settled down and started doing extra-curriculum homework. Trevor slept badly that night. He dreamed that his project was ruined by a dog and he failed the competition. Trevor snapped awake at dusk, and he blinked. His clock read, 5:45 A.M. Trevor sighed. It was unusual for him to wake up this early, but Trevor knew the reason. He had been thinking about the competition all night. He weighed the consequences of purposely failing the competition and winning the competition. Both consequences were him getting in trouble, but in different ways.

Trevor didn't know how, but he managed to fall back asleep again, and he woke up at 8 in the morning. Today was a Friday, which meant a lot of free time after school. Trevor breezed through the first half of the day like an average day. When Trevor arrived home, he went straight to his project. He sent the wire through the tomatoes and on to the light. With one snap, but light lit up. Trevor practically jumped with joy. It worked! He disconnected the light. What he needed to do now was to simply wait till the competition to start. Filled with triumph, Trevor forgot about all his chores at home and jumped right into comics.

Trevor heard a loud rumbling noise coming from the kitchen after reading about 3 comic books. It kept coming, and Trevor couldn't resist the urge to see what was going in the kitchen. When he peeked, he saw a big brown figure at the kitchen. When he walked closer, he noticed it was a dog! Enraged, he took his baseball bat and swung it at the dog. He missed, but it frightened the big creature away, and it jumped out the window. Trevor sighed. Of course, he forgot to lock the windows. He closed the window and locked it. He then looked around. Good, nothing was damaged except for a couple of tomatoes and wires. Trevor stopped cold. His Science Fair Project! The big down stupid dog had ruined it. He broke down into tears. He looked for more tomatoes, but couldn't find any. Great, now he had no project now. Defeated, he stepped out of the house and headed to Eric's house to check on his project. When he got there, he found Eric sitting on his steps with the same exact big brown dog that had ruined his project. Outraged, he stormed towards Eric.

"Your dog just ruined my project!" He yelled at Eric. Eric just shrugged, which made Trevor even madder. "What do you want? Why re you acting like I don't matter? What have I done?" He screamed. Eric looked up. Trevor then noticed the tears in Eric's eyes.

"It was an accident. I sent the dog there with a camera to see what your project was. I'm sorry." He said. "My mother is sick and my dad lost his job, I really need the prize money for my parents." he added. Shocked, he felt depressed that he yelled ta his friend.

"Oh I didn't know, sorry. How's your project?" Trevor asked.

"I didn't start. I'm not sure what to do." Eric replied, still looking at his feet.

“You wanna work together?” Trevor asked generously. Eric looked up. His eyes brimmed with excitement.

“You mean it?” He finally asked.

“Every word.” Trevor replied. He held his hand out, and Eric took it. Eric found the materials from his house, and they built Trevor’s original project.

On the day of the competition, their project won first prize, with a cash reward of 1,000 dollars, enough for Eric to pay his mom’s medical bill. He hugged Trevor at the news. The two had survived another crisis. That day, Trevor thought to himself, maybe working together is easier than working alone after all.

THE END