

A Little Kindness Goes a Long Way

by He Cheuk Ting 5A

Maggie stared at the small screen of her phone, her heart sinking as she glanced at her Octopus card balance - zero. It was a typical Monday morning, and the thought of skipping breakfast or missing her classes was unbearable. The bustling crowd at the MTR station felt overwhelming, with students rushing past her, laughing and chatting, oblivious to her predicament.

Frustrated, she sighed and turned to leave when a familiar voice called out, "Hey Maggie!" It was Jack, her classmate from Biology. He jogged over, wielding his Octopus card like a lifeline.

"Are you okay?" he asked, brows furrowed with concern. Maggie forced a smile, trying to brush it off. "Just forgot to recharge my card," she said, but Jack could see through her bravado.

"No worries! I've got you," he said, pulling out his card. "Let's grab some breakfast first. I'll treat you." Maggie hesitated, her pride battling her hunger. But the aroma of freshly baked pastries wafting through the station convinced her otherwise.

They headed to a nearby café, chatting about their weekend plans. Maggie felt her spirits lift as they shared stories and laughter over croissants and hot chocolate. Jack's kindness made her forget about her financial worries, if only for a moment.

After breakfast, Maggie thanked him profusely. "I really appreciate this, Jack. I promise to pay you back," she insisted, feeling guilty.

"Just pay it forward," he replied with a warm smile. "We all have our tough days, right?" Maggie nodded, inspired by his generosity. As they walked into class together, she realized that sometimes, a little kindness could make all the difference. And maybe, just maybe, her luck was about to turn around.