

3rd Place Equal (Schools Y7&8, 2022): Zaniah Reynolds, Parua Bay School, Regret

I wander to my best friend, Millie's house. When I get to their black, wooden door little raindrops are dancing on my head. "Hello," I shout, making my way up the short staircase with my feet warming up from the carpet. No answer.

I find myself in the living room and there's \$600 sitting on the coffee table unattended - just sitting there. Without thinking I take the money and head into town with only one thing on my mind...

Finally I have found the thing I've been saving for. The one thing I have wanted most in life and it's in my hand! As I walk to the counter I look at the iPhone 13's black screen and become overridden with guilt, thinking that just maybe the money I had taken might have been important to someone. When I reach the register I push the feeling aside, buy the phone and go back to Millie's house.

When I'm about to walk into her room something grabs my attention from the living room.

Millie's dad is crying. "How are we going to pay for Millie's surgery?"

"I don't know," her mum mutters.

Millie's in hospital? What have I done!