



A Mistake

Part 1

Teacher Reads Jade has not seen her friend Paula since Paula’s accident. Paula had been in the hospital, but now she is recovering and resting at home.

“We all miss you at school,” Jade said to Paula as they
12 sat in Paula’s bedroom. “Did you get the card we sent?
23 Ms. Flores let me choose the card because I said I was going
36 to visit you today.” Paula nodded and gave a little smile, but
48 she did not speak.

52 Jade said, “I have never seen you speechless before.
61 It must be hard for you! Are you in a lot of pain?”
74 Jade paused and then said, “I keep doing that! It’s not your
86 fault you can’t speak. You have a broken jaw after all, but I
99 keep asking you about things! Let’s play cards. Wave at me
110 when you need to rest.”

115 Paula and Jade played a card game. But then Paula waved
126 her hand because she had to rest. Jade said she would return
138 for another visit soon. Then she left.

Part 2

Teacher Reads Later, Jade and her mother had a conversation about Paula and the accident.

145 “Did you see Paula today?” her mother asked when Jade
155 got home. “I understand she will need to rest for a long
167 time—maybe until August.”



Part 2 continued

171 “Yes, I saw her,” Jade said. “We played cards for a while,
183 but I left when she had to rest. I think she is in a lot of pain.
200 She has a broken jaw and three cracked ribs. Her left arm is
213 also sprained. That car crash caused big problems for her.
223 She will miss a lot of school, too. Ms. Flores is recording
235 lessons for her. Paula can play the recordings on her laptop
246 at home, but it’s not the same as being in school with the rest
260 of us. It must be hard to stay in bed all day,” Jade added with
275 a sigh.

Part 3

Teacher Reads Read on to find out how the accident happened and why Paula is so badly hurt.

277 “It’s a shame,” Jade’s mother said. “A car didn’t stop in
288 time and crashed into the car Paula’s mother was driving.
298 Paula’s mother was not hurt because she wore a seat belt.
309 Paula was in the back seat, but she did not have her seat belt
323 on. She had her seat belt off to reach for a straw that fell.
337 That’s why she got hurt! Her pain was **preventable**. Paula
347 might not have been hurt so bad if she had kept her seat
360 belt on.”

362 “You are right, Mom,” said Jade. “Seat belts keep people
372 safe. Ms. Flores said there are seat belt laws in most states.
384 I will use a seat belt each time I ride in a car. I think Paula
400 will do that from now on.” [Learn More](#)

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