

Tip: I asked the teacher if I could take her for walks around the school sometimes, I don't think animals should always be in cages. She's always stayed in my pocket before...I guess she wanted to meet you. Can you take some pictures of her?

Ella, keeping a bit of a distance, takes some pictures of Ankwacas in Tip's hands. After she takes some, Ankwacas scurries back into Tip's pocket. They look at the photos.

Ella: Hey, some of these actually make Ank-wa-cas look kinda cute.

Tip: Ankwacas. And yeah, she is cute. Thanks again. Sometimes I can be a bit of a perfectionist.

Ella: No worries! This was way more fun than just sitting in front of the office reading until the bell. Will you be here this early again tomorrow?

Tip: I'm here early every morning.

Ella: *Really?! Why?*

Tip: My bus drops me off early. If I miss the bus, I don't have another ride to school that day.

Ella: That sucks. Wouldn't you rather sleep in?

Tip: Sleeping in would be nice.

Ella: Then I say, do it! You can walk here from like, anywhere in town.

Tip: Oh, I don't live in town. I'm from Pointcrest.

Ella: The reserve? *[Tip nods]* Well, I've never been there, but it can't be that far! How long is the bus ride?

Tip: About 40 minutes? After we've picked everyone up.

Ella: Oh...I see. So that would probably be-

Tip: Around two hours to walk.

Ella: Yeah. Nevermind. Taking the bus seems better. *[Sitting on bench again]* So why do you come here? Isn't there a school on the reserve?

Tip: There used to be, but it closed a long time ago. We have a daycare, but after that you need to go into town.

Ella: Wow. *[Thinking]* We really have it hard, don't we?

Tip: Taking an early bus isn't so bad. You kinda get used to it. *[Ankwacas comes out, listening]*



Start

Ella: See, that's just it! You're used to it. You don't know how much better you could have it if you didn't have to wake up so early. And me and my family, not having any water.

Tip: How long have you been without water?

Ella: FOUR DAYS. That's just the start.

Tip: I-

Ella: I mean, you'd think in this day and age we wouldn't have to worry about having water.

Tip: You're right, we-

Ella: This isn't right!

Tip: We-

Ella: How can we be expected to live like this, and still focus on school as if everything's fine?

Tip: I hear that.

Ella: Principal Kelly calls us the "leaders of tomorrow"...but they can't even provide us with what we need to get through today!

Tip: I never looked at it that way.

Ella: It's an outrage!

Tip: An outrage!!

Ella: Right?! *[Beat]* We need to do something.

Tip: ...like what?

Ella: *[grabs tablet from Tip's hands, turning on the camera and addressing it]* We're going to do a live.

Tip: A....live?

Ella: Yeah, you know, we'll do a live video. You have access to the school's social media on this tablet! Let's see...the school has....over 1500 followers!

Tip: Ella, wait-

Ella: This is perfect! Oh, let's do a post about our livestream first, so the followers have a chance to tune in. *[She adjusts so that Tip is in the frame of the camera as well]* Smile! Or wait, don't! Or wait- think of no water.

Ella takes a few pictures. Tip looks uncomfortable in all of them.

Ella: Okay! "Livestream starting in 2 minutes! Make sure you tune in, you don't wanna miss this! Hashtag students...hashtag school....hashtag livestream....hashtag manitoba.....hashtag water...." Hey, what's your account? I'll tag us!

Tip: You need to slow down.

Ella: *[Beat]* Hmm, I can't find you. Is that just one word? No spaces in between?

Tip: No, that's not my username, that's me saying you, Ella, need to slow down!

Ella: Sometimes you just gotta do something!

Tip: No, sometimes you have to look at what is happening.

Ella: This is important. We're getting the job done. No one else is doing anything about it.

Tip: How do you know that?

Ella: I don't see anyone else posting about it.

Tip: That's because you haven't looked. I don't think you've really thought this through, Ella.

Ella: But we agreed, this is an outrage!

Tip: Yeah, it is, but we need to see what is happening first. See what other people are already doing about it.

Ella: So that other people will get ahead of us? No! We need to act now! Going live in 5, 4, 3--

Tip turns off the tablet.

Tip: We don't even have permission to be doing any of this. All I was supposed to do was take pictures of the class pets and hand this back into the main office.

Ella turns the tablet back on.

Ella: "Shoot first, ask questions later." That's what my cousin Jen says. It means that sometimes you need to just take action.

Tip: Sure, but if you leap without looking you might land in hot water.

Ella: There is no hot water, Tip. There's no water at all!

She gets the tablet into position again.

Ella: We're on in 5, 4, 3, 2--

Tip finally grabs the tablet. Ella tries to grab it back, but Tip moves quicker and manages to hide it behind their back. The two fight over control of the tablet.

Ella: Tip!! Come on, this is important! Everyone needs to know that living without water is completely unacceptable.

Tip: I'm pretty sure they already do. My community hasn't had water for 18 years, Ella!

The tablet slips out of their hands and crashes to the ground. They both gasp. Ella picks it up, inspects it, then breathes a sigh of relief.

End

Ella: It's okay. We didn't break it.

Tip: Good thing it's in that case.

Ella: Definitely. *[Beat]* Tip...I'm sorry.

Tip: You should be.

Ella: I am. I should've listened to what you were trying to say. I almost got us into a lot of trouble.

Tip: Yeah, well...it's okay. I get that you're just trying to help, but you need to understand that you can't just *do* things. You gotta look before you leap. That's what my kohkum always tells me.

Ella: Okay. I'm listening now. Tip, did you say you haven't had water for 18 years?

Tip: We have running water but it's contaminated. It's no good to wash with or drink.

Ella: Really?

Tip: Yeah.

Ella: *[Thinking]* So...your problem is similar to mine.

Tip: Not really. You said you haven't had water for 4 days. That's a pretty big difference.

Ella: Yeah, because the pipes are frozen.

Tip: So there you go. The pipes won't be frozen forever. They're just frozen today.

Ella: "Frozen today..." hey, that makes me think of a better caption for our photo: Leaders of Tomorrow, Frozen in Today!

Tip shoots her a look.

Ella: Sorry. Forget it. It is good though...

Tip: Can you just stop?! For one second!?!