

## Katherine Low

Katherine Low, a Chinese American student in Louise Malcolm's sex education class, taps lightly on the open office door and asks if Ms. Malcolm can spare a few minutes to talk to her. Ms. Malcolm, who has become very friendly with Katherine, invites her to sit down and reminds her that these are regular office hours to see students individually. Since Katherine seems nervous, Ms. Malcolm closes her office door and says, "Now we can speak privately without being disturbed. What is it you wanted to talk about?" After some encouragement, Katherine tells Ms. Malcolm that she, her father, and two brothers have been in the United States for only one year, her mother having died before the family immigrated. They have no other relatives here. Katherine's menstrual periods have become erratic and very painful, with occasional hemorrhaging. She is worried and wonders what she should do. Ms. Malcolm refers her to a free clinic for women near the school and reassures her that the staff is courteous, friendly, and highly competent. Ms. Malcolm telephones the clinic, after obtaining Katherine's permission, and arranges an appointment for her.

"Well, I hope everything will be okay," concludes Ms. Malcolm in a hearty tone of voice. "Do feel free to come back to talk to me at any time."

Katherine does not show up for class the next week, and Ms. Malcolm is informed that Katherine requested and received a transfer to another section. Why did Katherine want to transfer out of Ms. Malcolm's class?

## Possible Explanations

- (1) Katherine thought Ms. Malcolm was angry with her, so she wanted to avoid dealing with this teacher in the future.  
(Turn to page 100.)
- (2) Katherine was angry at Ms. Malcolm because the teacher called the clinic. She thought Ms. Malcolm was not confident that Katherine knew how to make an appointment over the telephone.  
(Turn to page 134.)
- (3) Katherine regretted mentioning her personal problems to Ms. Malcolm and wanted to avoid her.  
(Turn to page 109.)
- (4) Katherine was unable to keep her appointment at the clinic, and she didn't want Ms. Malcolm to find out.  
(Turn to page 143.)

**For Katherine Low, you chose Answer No. 1**

*Katherine thought Ms. Malcolm was angry with her, so she wanted to avoid dealing with this teacher in the future.*

In the United States, a person shows sincerity and friendliness by using a hearty tone of voice, raising the speaking volume. In China, raising one's voice is a sign of anger. This is the best choice. Turn to page 88 for the next incident.

**For Katherine Low, you chose Answer No. 2**

*Katherine was angry at Ms. Malcolm because the teacher called the clinic. She thought Ms. Malcolm was not confident that Katherine knew how to make an appointment over the telephone.*

It is unlikely that Katherine would resent Ms. Malcolm's initiative in telephoning. Ms. Malcolm was acting properly in accordance with both cultures: American, because she asked for permission before proceeding; Chinese, because, as an older person, Ms. Malcolm should take the initiative. Go back to page 87 and try again.

**For Katherine Low, you chose Answer No. 3**

*Katherine regretted mentioning her personal problems to Ms. Malcolm and wanted to avoid her.*

While Katherine could have regretted discussing her problem with her teacher, there is a better explanation. Return to page 87 and try again.

**For Katherine Low, you chose Answer No. 4**

*Katherine was unable to keep her appointment at the clinic, and she didn't want Ms. Malcolm to find out.*

We have no information on whether or not Katherine kept her appointment. Go back to page 87 and try again.