

General

Introductions

Mark

Reason for title: Introduce Mark.

Originally published on: 16.11.20

- Mark is new at JYP Academy
 - His family doesn't have a lot of money, but it's a great school and he's an exceptional student → scholarship
 - He got accepted in his sophomore year but waited until the start of another year
 - In the time he waited, he studied Korean so he was fluent enough (he's already bilingual so it wasn't too hard)
 - BamBam is his roommate
 - Junior in high school

Jackson

Reason for title: Introduce Jackson.

Originally published on: 16.11.20

- Yugyeom and BamBam are his only friends
 - They met when Jackson was ten and they were eight
 - His family is pretty rich but they're borderline abusive and hate him, so they payed to send him away to Korea (since the middle of elementary school, but he didn't know Yugyeom and Bam until a little later)
- Yugyeom is Jackson's roommate
- Also a junior in high school

Raincheck

Reason for title: BamBam ditches Jackson and Yugyeom so he can eat with Mark, though it's not an actual raincheck, since BamBam doesn't want to reschedule.

Originally published on: 16.11.26

- BamBam is worried about being friends with Jackson
 - BamBam immediately starts ranting about Jackson, saying Jackson is a playboy, he's obnoxious, etc
 - BamBam is a freshman, but he's been going to school in Korea since elementary school (how he knows Yugyeom and Jackson)
 - His family owns a restaurant chain → Bam convinced his family to let him live with the Kim's and also help run the restaurant in Korea

Welcome

Reason for title: Jackson still has his little “welcome” party, but only with Yugyeom.

Originally published on: 16.12.01

- Jackgyeom knows about BamBam
 - They’ve been kind of suspicious of him
 - BamBam is watchful of reputation
- Yugyeom is one of the only people that cares about Jackson

Coincidence

Reason for title: It’s a coincidence that they run into each other.

Originally published on: 16.12.06

- Jackson is drawn to Mark
 - The moment he sees Mark, he wants to befriend him (though that turns into a crush eventually)
 - Mark hates him before school even starts and Jackson only partially knows why
 - Mark thinks Jackson is just going to fuck around with him because he's supposedly an asshole
 - He’s well known at school because he’s dated so many people and because he’s sociable and attractive (despite not having many real friends)

Getting into the school year

Humiliation

Reason for title: Jackson gets made fun of by some classmates and Mark laughs at him.

Originally published on: ???

- Many students dislike or hate Jackson
 - He’s not necessarily bullied
 - Kids tease him and call him a whore
 - People still want to date him
- Mark is friendly
 - He doesn't like Jackson but he's not mean
 - He still cares about Jackson's feelings and stuff

Letter

Adjustments

Reason for title: Jackson needs to change certain aspects of himself to hide what needs to be hidden.

Originally published on: ???

- Jackson develops a crush on Mark
 - He doesn't tell anyone

- Normally when he likes someone, he goes on and on about it to Yugyeom and BamBam
 - Jackson knows that his crush on Mark is different from anything before
- He knows Mark doesn't like him

Confessions

Reason for title: Clickbait-y title that makes it seem like Jackson might confess, but it's actually other people confessing to Mark.

Originally published on: 17.01.04

- Everyone at school loves Mark
 - Pretty much all girls and some boys have low key crushes on him
 - Him being American and his backstory make people fall for him
 - He's really nice to nearly everyone and speaks Korean
 - surprisingly well
 - Mark is only mean towards one person → Jackson
 - Jackson thinks there's something wrong with him for someone so nice to think so low of him (more than the playboy thing)
 - Jackson still tries to be nice and befriend Mark, however

Cracking

Reason for title: Jackson's facade begins to crack.

Originally published on: 17.01.09

- He snaps at Yugbam during dance practice
 - His already low self-esteem is crushed
 - His facade makes him seem confident, almost cocky, and very talkative
 - He's actually the opposite, but even Yugyeom barely knows that
 - Mark is so perfect to Jackson that he compares himself to Mark
 - Jackson doesn't know what makes Mark hate him

Alone

Reason for title: Mark was "stood up" by Jackson, therefor making him alone.

Originally published on: 17.01.06

- Jackson and Mark have to work together
 - They have to work on an assignment in english together (they're both student helpers since they're already fluent—have to make some presentation or something?)
 - Mark is pissed but Jackson is secretly really happy
 - They split who works on what
- They're supposed to work separately
 - Planned to meet up the day before it's due to throw it together
 - Jackson never shows up
 - BamBam, JB, and Youngjae show up (for some reason...)

Eavesdropping

Reason for title: Yugyeom eavesdrops on Mark's conversation about Jackson.

Originally published on: 17.01.23

- Yugyeom was meant to be Jackson's delivery boy
 - Jackson felt sick from overworking
 - He was forced to stay at the dorm
 - Needed to get his half of project to Mark
 - Ends up overhearing Mark and his friends
- Yugyeom basically has a mental breakdown
 - Doesn't give Mark the half of the project
 - Jackson decides to do the whole project on his own and overnight

Absent

Reason for title: Jackson is absent from school, leaving Mark confused and worried.

Originally published on: 17.01.30

- The dance show is on Monday since chapter eleven has Mark working on the project on a Monday—two days and he does his project, the next day (Jackson skipping) is Thursday, and now is Friday
- Yugyeom becomes a delivery boy again
 - Jackson pulled an all nighter
 - Yugyeom forced him to not go to classes
 - Jackson needs to turn in his homework still
- Mark feels bad
 - Goes to Jackson
 - Buys him food and apologises

Break

Vacation

Reason for title: It's the beginning of winter vacation/winter break.

Originally published on: 17.02.06

- Performances
 - Brief recaps of each performance
 - 노잼 squad went perfectly
 - Mark went to all of his friends showcases and was impressed
- Beginning of break
 - Yugyeom is back home and BamBam in Thailand
 - Have Yugyeom meet his dad the first time after the divorce
 - BamBam can do... something
 - Mark and Jackson are left at school
 - Mark couldn't afford a ticket

- Jackson isn't wanted at home and he didn't want to bother Yugyeom's mom

Date

Reason for title: Mark and Jackson go on a friend date around town.

Originally published on: 17.02.13

- Markson goes on a "friend date"
 - Couple days into break
 - Already talked a few times
 - Mark already likes Jackson better
 - Jackson shows Mark around
 - Takes him to shops and little cafes
 - Shows him cute areas to hang out
 - They learn more about each other
 - Mark used to be very shy and lonely
 - Jackson hints at why he lives alone
- Afterward Mark helps Jackson move out

Confrontation

Reason for title: Jackson and Jaebum meet at Mrs. Kang's house and get into an argument.

Originally published on: 17.02.14

- At Jackson's apartment complex
 - Meet Mrs. Kang
 - She brags about how great Jackson is
 - Initially thought Jackson brought his boyfriend
 - (move "moving out" stuff here)
- Moving out
 - Jackson needs to collect his stuff from his apartment
 - His apartment was sold before, but the buyers weren't moving in until around then (some foreigners so it was delayed and stuff)
 - Probably around midway through break but after Christmas
 - He sees a neighbor he's well acquainted with
 - He had an older neighbor (Mrs. Kang—JB's grandmother but he doesn't know) a lot and they are friendly with each other
 - After moving all his stuff, he talks to her and they converse and stuff. She later eventually tells him that her grandson is coming to visit and she wants her to meet him
 - She doesn't talk about her grandson often but she speaks very highly of him when she does (plus she's like "you're both gay, if you know what i mean" and "i'm sure he won't mind") so Jackson agrees to meet him
 - CONFRONTATION BETWEEN JB AND JACKSON

Relax

Reason for title: Jackson tries to calm himself down and only succeeds when Yugyeom shows up.

Originally published on: 17.02.20

- Jackson spends the day alone
 - Mark wants to go out by himself—secretly buys Jackson a Christmas present
 - Reflects on what has happened so far
 - No more BamBam
 - Now Mark
 - Feelings for Mark
- Yugyeom surprise visit
 - Walks in on Jackson sulking
 - Mark gets jealous

Sleepover

Reason for title: Yugyeom, Jackson, and Mark have a sleepover

Originally published on: 17.02.27

- Mark and Jackson have a “sleep over”... with Yugyeom
 - Christmas Eve to Christmas day
 - In Jackson’s room
- Jackson and Mark are sad
 - Mark is jealous of Jackgyeom
 - He doesn’t have a friendship like theirs
 - Kinda thinks Yugyeom will “steal” Jackson from him

Christmas

Reason for title: It’s Christmas.

Originally published on: 17.03.06

- Exchange gifts
 - Presents
 - The only presents Jackson gets are from Yugyeom and Mark
 - Mark’s family and friends sent him gifts through the mail, making Jackson wish he had a family like that
- MARKSON FLIRTING

Back to school

Untangle

Reason for title: Now that school has started again, Mark decides it’s best to untangle himself from the mess he got in with Jackson.

Originally published on: 17.03.13

- Mark starts actually developing feelings for Jackson
 - Talking to Jackson made him start to like him more
 - Mark didn't realise how nice Jackson really was
 - It causes him to avoid Jackson more than he usually does
- Mark feels guilty about not talking to Jackson
 - Sneaks into his room in the middle of the night
 - They talk a little and tease each other
 - Mark sleeps over at Jackson's dorm
 - CHAOSSSSSSSSSS

Lost

Reason for title: With all that's been happening, neither Mark nor Jackson know what to do. Also, Jackson "loses" in the sense that everyone hates him even more, meaning that he lost. Originally published on: 17.03.20

- Everyone is suspicious of Mark and Jackson
 - They start picking on Mark
 - Usually Jackson's "victims" are left alone and it's Jackson that takes the blow
 - Both Mark and Jackson are made fun of
- Jackson confesses to Mark
 - He's desperate not to lose Mark
 - He blurts it out during english class
 - Everyone is watching
- Mark harshly rejects Jackson with only slight hesitation
 - He doesn't know who is more important to him
 - BamBam is worried about Mark's reputation but Jackson doesn't deserve to be hurt
 - Jackson is very genuine and his crush is pretty bad
 - Acts without thinking about what he's about to do
 - Basically kills Jackson's feelings
 - Jackson cries for the first time in front of people

Outside

Reason for title: Jackson is now an outsider to the school
Originally published on: 17.03.27

- Feels very alone
 - Hasn't talked to anyone
 - Wants to talk to Yugyeom
 - Yugyeom is busy with schoolwork with his classmate, Jungkook
 - Decides to just study
 - After fencing practice
- Comes back from studying hoping that he can finally talk to Yugyeom
 - Yugyeom hid how stressed he was until then

- He has competition in dance
- Feels like he's not good anymore
- Jackson decides to let Yugyeom talk instead

Unjustified

Reason for title: Mark's actions are not totally justifiable, considering how broken Jackson is.

Originally published on: 17.04.03

- False rumors spread
 - People say Jackson was forceful
 - Jackson wanted Mark for sex (?)
 - Was being rude and inconsiderate when confession
 - They say Jackson had it coming
 - Believe that he's the one at fault for all his failed relationships (only true for a couple situations)
 - Everyone just hates him, and the rejection is an excuse to be mean
- Mark sees the change in Jackson
 - Change in treatment
 - People are being especially brutal
 - Jackson usually managed to plaster a fake smile on
 - Change in manner and appearance
 - Jackson wears a lot baggier clothes (shy, sweater paws)
 - Confident facade is gone
 - Not totally out of heartbreak—doesn't want to act differently or try too hard for people who hate him
 - Guilt

Progress

Reason for title: Not everyone completely hates Jackson.

Originally published on: 17.04.10

- Jackson is overwhelmed and goes to a practice room
 - Jinyoung and Youngjae are impressed with him
 - Youngjae is the most bitter about Jackson's confession
 - Jinyoung believes strongly in the "don't judge a book by its cover" thing
- Jinyoung asks Jackson for tutoring in English
 - Jinyoung secretly has a crush on Jackson
 - Excuse to get to know Jackson
 - Wants to know the truth about the confession since Mark won't talk about it
 - Wants to know if he's more than just the rumors about him
 - Doesn't really need tutoring
 - He does want to get ahead of the class
 - Really wants to become fluent
 - Wants to fix things between Mark and Jackson?

Rewind

Reason for title: Things would be easier if they all could just rewind to before.

Originally published on: 17.04.17

- Jackson thinks about why he's unwanted
 - Weight
 - Decides to eat less
 - Work out more
 - Annoying
 - Talk way less
 - Keep to himself whenever possible
- Mark and Yugyeom
 - Yugyeom visits Mark with the intention of telling him off
 - Mark ends up crying
 - Yugyeom tells him to take back Jackson (better for the both of them)
- Study session day two
 - Jackson's study plan
 - Jinyoung is already really good at English, so Jackson wants to focus on conversing and reading (for practical, everyday use) and give vocabulary or grammar to study when necessary.

Speak

Reason for title: Mark and Jackson just need to speak to each other to make things right

Originally published on: 17.04.24

- Mark wants to talk to Jackson after school
 - Jinyoung caught Jackson right after fencing practice
 - Tells him he can't study that night
 - Also brings up how Jackson's been acting even more strangely than usual
 - Mark gets kinda jealous
 - He didn't know that the two even knew each other
 - Wants to know why Jinyoung is acting different around Jackson than around him and BamBam

Trust

Reason for title: Mark and Yugyeom need to figure out whether or not to trust Jinyoung and Jackson

Originally published on: 17.05.01

- Mark (kinda) confronts Jinyoung
 - Jinyoung lies
 - Says it's embarrassing talking to Mark
 - Claims he has pure intentions

- Mark can see through him
 - Mark is good at reading Jinyoung
 - Knows something is up for sure
- Yugyeom (kinda) confronts Jackson
 - Jackson is being truthful
 - He doesn't know about Jinyoung's malintent
 - Just thinks Jinyoung likes languages
 - Avoids talking about the kissing thing and Yugyeom can't bring it up because Jackson doesn't know he knows

Loss

Reason for title: BamBam's dad dies and Jackson decides that, even though they're not really friends anymore, he can't just let BamBam go through the loss alone

Originally published on: 17.05.08

- BamBam's dad dies
 - Jackson tries to fix things with him
 - Cuts a study session short with Jinyoung
 - Mark walks into the dorm while the two are trying to reconcile
 - BamBam feels the tension between the two
 - Forces them to talk
 - HAPPY TIMES (soon)

Mending

Reason for title: Things get fixed between Mark and Jackson and between Jackson and BamBam (for the most part).

Originally published on: 17.05.15

- Mark and Jackson talk
 - Mark apologises and admits that he likes Jackson
 - Mark finally expresses how bad he feels
 - They kiss (AHHHHH)
- Jinyoung spreads rumors about Jackson
 - Lies and acts to his roommate
 - Fake cries and says Jackson tried to make a move
 - Said he's afraid of Jackson finding out he told so his roommate says he'll spread the news anonymously
 - Does it because he wants to make Jackson take comfort in him

Backwards

Reason for title: Jackson thought he was moving forward when progress seems to start undoing itself.

Originally published on: 17.05.22

- Jackson sneaks out to the vending machines

- He hasn't been eating
 - He's in a good mood because of Mark so he is willing to eat
 - Overhears people talking in his dorm about him
- New rumors (started by Jinyoung but he doesn't know)
 - About hooking up with BamBam and Jinyoung
 - Ever since the Mark thing it's been iffy
 - The three still don't really talk to Jackson in class
 - Translucent clip
 - Kinda hopeless but not entirely
 - Realises that things can be looking up for him

Broken

Reason for title: Jinyoung's heart breaks after finding out about Markson.

Originally published on: 17.05.29

- Mark confronts Jinyoung again
 - Tells Jinyoung that he's with Jackson
 - Explains what happened over break
 - Mentions that Jackson told him that he overheard Jinyoung coming up with the lie
 - Jinyoung realises how much of an ass he's been
 - Jinyoung agrees to stop
 - Genuinely feels bad
 - Still kinda wants Mark and Jackson to teach him English
- Jinyoung isn't salty
 - Expression
 - Focuses more on art and music rather than crushing people's dreams
 - Probably will be really successful one day

Healed

Reason for title: Things are better for everyone now.

Originally published on: 17.06.05

- Official
 - Mark walks Jackson to class again
 - Mark asks Jackson out
 - BOYFRIENDS
- Jackson talks to Jinyoung
 - Stop by casually as if normal study session
 - Jinyoung explains himself
 - Apologises
 - Fix things

Smile

Reason for title: People are smiling? I dunno it's pretty similar to last chapter

Originally published on: 17.06.12

- Mark and Jackson are happy that they're together
 - Go on their first official date (skip school)
 - Just like over break
 - End up studying anyway
 - Mark asks about Jackson's last relationships
 - Vaguely explains
 - Mark kind understands?

Support

Reason for title: Jackson has people to really on now that things are getting better

Originally published on: 17.06.19

- Mark and Jackson talk more
 - Jackson decides to tell Mark about his parents
 - Mark is surprised when Jackson begins crying
 - Assures him that Mark will always be there, whether as friends or more
- BamBam and Yugyeom
 - Decide to forgive
 - Yugyeom doesn't hate BamBam now that he's trying to fix things
 - Become best friends again (maybe more?)

Together

Reason for title: Everyone's hanging out together

Originally published on: 17.06.26

- Decide to have everyone hang out
 - Mix group of friends
 - Really means Jackson introduced to Mark's friends as his boyfriend
 - Introduce Yugyeom to everyone
 - Jackson is happy
 - 2jae is still kinda weird about him
 - But he's just really happy he's being given a chance
 - FRIENDSHIP
- End??

Characters

Main Characters

Mark

Mark Tuan (段宜恩) is a junior at JYP academy. He specialises in math, though he is generally very smart. He's very kind and caring, but believes strongly in his own opinions. Numbers are significant in his decision making, since more is more, no matter who or what is being counted. He's somewhat disconnected from his emotions, as he won't let them sway what's wrong and right to him.

His family isn't very wealthy compared to the other people at his school. It took a lot of hard work to get enough money to move to Korea, and his family supported him all the way. They're very loving, so Mark doesn't fully understand what it's like to grow up in a different kind of household. When making judgements about other people, how they're brought up doesn't usually come to mind.

Jackson

Jackson Wang (王嘉爾) is a junior at JYP academy. He was accepted into the school because of his ability to learn and speak languages. He's fluent in Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, and English; he's studying French, Japanese, and Thai. Though he's very intelligent, his emotions can throw off the decisions he makes and how he acts around other people. His friends are the most important people in his life, and he would do anything to protect them; however, he's not the type of person to lie for their sake.

His family owns a huge company in Hong Kong, making them very rich. Because of this, Jackson was pushed away and ignored as a kid. He has an older brother that was lucky enough to be raised before their parents were too busy for their kids. His brother moved to Australia and almost never contacts them. By the time Jackson turned nine, his parents decided that they would just send Jackson to Korea so they wouldn't have to deal with him. They hired someone to take care of him until he was in junior high, when he could take care of himself.

Jackson's attachment and trust issues make it difficult to make friends, as if it wasn't hard enough with his reputation of a fuckboy. It's hard for him to talk to new people and, once he gets comfortable around someone, he gets clingy. This is part of the reason that he wants to find love so badly; he thinks that the right person will change him for the better and fill the hole his parents left.

Yugyeom

Yugyeom Kim (김유겸) is a freshman at JYP academy. His talents including computer programming and dance, among other things. He's young, but takes very good care of his

friends, especially Jackson. He's a very emotional person, though he's good at controlling them. His true emotions can be easily hidden given the situation and he rarely ever cries. He's very good at reading and understanding people because he tends to observe rather than participate.

His parents are divorced with his mom being the one having custody of him and his brother. His dad was abusive when he was younger, usually targeting his mom. Yugyeom and his brother were still beat a few times, and that's why their mom fought to divorce him. Eventually, his dad became better and they could have a civilised conversation, but he and Yugyeom's mom never got back together. (Yugyeom's mom's maiden name is Kim, so her name is the same as he ex-husband's.)

Yugyeom's mom is good friends with BamBam's mom, since they met in college. BamBam's parents trusted her to take care of BamBam because they knew each other for so long and because Yugyeom's mom manages the Korean branch of their restaurant. Both Yugyeom and BamBam have authoritative influence on the restaurant.

BamBam

Kunpimook Bhuwakul (กันต์พิมุกต์ ภูวกุล) is a freshman at JYP academy. He got accepted into the school for his potential in the forensics department and talent in fashion and modeling. Looks and reputation matter to him the most compared to his friends. How other people see him is sometimes put before other people's emotions, so he can be seen as a jerk once in awhile. His friends are still very important to him, even if he doesn't show it often.

Since he lives in Korea, away from his family in Thailand, the best way he can show he cares is through money. He works at the restaurant when he can to earn money and does small jobs for his friends. He has a very tightly knit family, so they were hesitant on letting him go. They saw his potential even as a kid, so they figured he'd have the best chances in Korea.

Secondary Characters

Jinyoung

Jinyoung Park (박진영) is a sophomore at JYP academy. His talents are in the creative arts area, mostly in writing, art, and music. He draws and paints a lot, while also enjoying writing music and playing the piano. He's not as emotionally expressive as Jackson or Yugyeom, but he doesn't usually hide what he feels. If anything, he sometimes just tones down his reactions. Compared to his friends, he's the most understanding and least judgemental.

His family owns a restaurant in Busan, which he helps run whenever he visits. The restaurant is rather successful, so his family has a little more money than an average family. His parents raised him a little more traditionally, though not as traditionally as JB. He's very well behaved and has a firm set of moral beliefs.

Youngjae

Youngjae Choi (최영재) is a sophomore at JYP academy. He is extremely talented at music, but not exceptionally smart. He's slightly above average, but is only barely average under the standards of the school. He's seen as the baby of his friend group, even though he's not actually the youngest. He often depends on Jinyoung and JB to help him when he's lost or confused.

He's the youngest in his family, so he grew up a little bit sheltered. His parents babied him the most and he was the most protected as a kid. They were hesitant to let Youngjae move to Seoul, but ultimately allowed him because they knew how important music is to him.

JB

Jaebum Im (임재범) is a junior at JYP academy. His skills in cooking and photography were the main factors that got him into the school, though his dancing also contributed. He doesn't like to express his emotions often, but if he does, he usually does so through his pictures. He's the one who keeps all his friends in line and makes sure they don't do anything stupid.

His family owns a farm, not too far from Seoul. They were hesitant to let JB move to the city, since he's their only child. Though he loves his parents, he was kind of raised emotionally distant from them. Most conversations between them revolve around work or school and nothing else.

Tertiary Characters

Youngji

Youngji Heo (허영지) is Jackson's mean ex-girlfriend.

Sana

Sana Minatozaki (湊崎 紗夏) is the first person that ever confessed to Mark.

Taehyung

Taehyung Kim (김태형) is the first boy that ever confessed to Mark.

Sehun

Sehun Oh (오세훈) is a sophomore that Mark walked in on masturbating.

Jungkook

Jungkook Jeon (전정국) is a friend of Yugyeom's.

Classes

	Jackson	Mark	Yugyeom	BamBam	JB	Jinyoung	Youngjae
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1st	Japanese	Physics	Coding	Forensic	Math	Math	Theory
2nd	Math	Math	Software	English	Science	English	Piano
3rd	Science	Science	English	Math	Baking	Sketching	English
4th	Lunch	Stats	Math	Modeling	Photography	Painting	Song Wr
5th	Dance	Korean	Dance	Dance	Dance	Choir	Choir
6th	Linguistic	Lunch	Science	Lunch	Cooking (1)	Lunch	Math
7th	French	Computer	Lunch	Science	Cooking (2)	Writing	Lunch
8th	English*	English*	Website	Fashion	English	Science	Science

* = Mark and Jackson are like teacher helpers since they're fluent

Math Classes

General

All students have to take one math class based on a placement test taken at the beginning of the year. In addition to the required class, students can take different elective math classes.

Stats

Statistics; Students use math to find the probability of events (standard deviation, average, mode, median, bell curve, etc). Both fake and real scenarios are given to students.

Science Classes

General

All students have to take one science class based on a placement test taken at the beginning of the year. In addition to the required class, students can take different elective science classes.

Physics

Most students that choose to take physics are in higher math classes. A lot of problems throughout the class are realistic and practical scenarios, for application in real life (lol).

Forensics

A recommendation is required to take this class. Students learn about crime investigation and develop deduction skills.

Lunch Info

General

All students are required to take lunch. Lunch periods are fourth through seventh periods. Students are allowed to spend their lunch period in the library and in their dorm in addition to the lunch room. The only exception for not having a lunch is if the student is taking a class that entitles eating in the course (cooking classes, home ec, etc).

Languages

English

All students have to take English. English placement is determined year, but exceptions are made if the student opts to test into a higher class. If the student is already fluent in English, they're placed into the level of their year as a teacher helper.

Korean

Students that aren't already fluent or need improvement in Korean have to use an elective space for Korean. Given the situation, the student can take it for a year or just one semester. If necessary, it can be taken for longer.

Linguistics

Students must be taking a language in addition to English to take this course. Students learn about language in general (patterns across language, history, spoken vs. written, etc).

Japanese

Many students choose to take Japanese if they take a language in addition to English.

French

Only a handful of students take French.

P.E.

General

A P.E. class is not required. Before and after school sports are encouraged, but not all students participate in them.

Dance

Students that take dance can be placed in three levels: normal, intermediate, and advanced. It's advised that students with no experience not take the course. Placement is tested before school, but can be changed during the year. Students in the highest level have more free time during the period to practice because there is less teaching/coaching.

Music Classes

Choir

Students in choir can be placed in four different levels. The lowest level is for inexperienced students who haven't sung before or taken lessons. The highest level is for the best singers, and usually are experienced with other instruments. The highest level also has a lot of opportunities for solos and chamber groups.

Songwriting

Students must know basic music theory and play an instrument to take this class. There are three levels, and placement is purely based off amount of songwriting classes taken through JYP. Taking music theory through the school is not necessary as anything that's not expected to be known will be taught. Students have to seek help individually if they don't know something. Chord progressions, melody making, and lyric composition are the focus of the class.

Theory

There are six levels of music theory that can be taken. Placement is based on a combination of three things: years playing music, ability to play music, and a placement test from before the school year starts. Students learn music theory (what more can be said...)

Lessons

Students must be recommended by the school to take lessons as a class. The student is given private lessons on the instrument of specialty, paid for by the school. Concerts are held twice a year to display the students' skills. The concert is separate from other programs' concerts (choir, orchestra, dance, etc).

Fashion Classes

Fashion

Students learn about making clothes and fashion trends around the world (current and present). There are four levels of fashion, and placement is based purely on other fashion classes taken previously. If the student hasn't taken a fashion class through the school before, they're placed into the first level no matter what.

Modeling

A recommendation is required to take this class. Students learn how to model for different kinds of mediums and situations. There is only one level of modeling. Once a certain skill/ability is obtained, the student becomes a mentor for lower level students. If the period is shared with a photography and/or painting class, classes may do combined projects where the student models to be photographed or painted.

Cooking Classes

Cooking

There are three levels of cooking that can be taken. All levels are two consecutive periods long. To accommodate the extra period, the student's lunch is taken away. Students cook what they eat during this class.

Baking

There are only two levels of baking that are offered. Most of the baking isn't actually done in class, and is actually done afterwards. Students make the parts like cake batter during class and put it into the oven before the period ends. The teacher will take care of anything in the oven done outside of the period.

Art Classes

Photography

There are three different levels of photography. Placement is based off a test given before the school year. Students learn about photographing techniques as well as basics to photoshop.

Painting

There are four levels of painting. Placement is based off previous testing. Students learn about painting and paint (um... yes). It's not necessary to take sketching, but it's recommended.

Sketching

There are four levels of sketching. Placement is based off previous testing. Students learn about sketching and drawing. It's not necessary to take painting, but it's recommended.

Computer Classes

Computer Principles

Students need to have a certain grasp of math to take this class. Basics of computer (like binary) is taught. This is the only class of this level, because the following classes are part of a track that is chosen by the student.

Computer Software

This is a class that can be taken sometime after computer principles (not directly after but on that path). A recommendation is required to take this class without having taken Computer Principles. Students learn about the most basic and essential softwares that run on a computer.

Website Design

Coding must be taken at the same time as website design, unless the student has already taken the highest level. There are three levels of website design. At the lower levels, design basics are taught. At the highest level, students are presented with real world scenarios, like making websites for companies and businesses. Once the highest level taught is surpassed, the student will be given a free period. The student is expected to help lower level students, students in other programs that need websites, and even the school, depending on the skill of the student.

Coding

There are four levels of coding. Placement is based off testing. There's nothing after the highest level, so students are just expected to take a different elective. If the student isn't already taking website design, it is recommended.

Clips

Between Mark and Jackson

✓ Jackson's Confession

[Context: Jackson told Mark to meet him in at the spot they hung out at during winter break. Mark didn't want to go, but something in him told him he had to.

"Hey, Mark," Jackson mumbled, staring at the ground. He could hear his heart pounding in his chest and he felt like his head was swimming. This was a day he hoped would never come, yet there he was, about to confess his true feelings to Mark.

"Is something wrong? Why'd you ask me to come here?" Mark's tone was indifferent, almost cold. He slightly regretted how harsh he was when he saw the look on Jackson's face, all scared and embarrassed.

"I just wanted to tell you that I... I've had feelings for you for a while now." Jackson's could have sworn that his heart stopped beating before it came back faster than ever. Suddenly, he wasn't able to think straight and words began to carelessly spill. "I know you hate me and I don't fully know why, but I still developed feelings for you. I'm sure that you've received enough confessions to be sick of this stuff, considering how popular and well liked you are. I mean, this probably isn't any different than any of those ones. It's just that I've never felt this strongly about someone and-"

That's when Mark slapped him.

“Did you really think that I was going to fall for that shit?” Mark scoffed, but his stomach was doing somersaults at the thought of Jackson liking him. As amazing as that feeling was, he knew he couldn't risk getting his feelings hurt or ruining his focus from school. “Go whore around with someone else.”

“O-oh...” Tears began to sting at Jackson's eyes, and he desperately tried to wipe them away. “I'm sorry. I'll go now.”]

Jackson's Thoughts

✓ Jealous of Yugyeom

[Context: Jackson is going to his dorm after fencing practice. Yugyeom is there, hanging out with a classmate, Jungkook. They're doing something... I dunno just figure it out. Before winter break and after Markson has to do a project together. Maybe link this to be before the piano thing instead of buying books.

“Hey, Jackson!” Yugyeom greeted when he heard the door open.

Jackson walked in, still sweaty and in his fencing uniform. A boy was sitting next to Yugyeom on the bottom bunk, papers scattered around them. The boy was familiar to Jackson—probably from passing him in the halls or something—but he didn't know who the kid was.

“Hi, Yugyeom and...” Jackson trailed off, waiting for one of the two to cut in.

“Jungkook. My name is Jungkook Jeon.” Jungkook gave an awkward smile and started organizing their mess of papers.

“Sorry I didn't tell you he was coming earlier. We can go to the library or something-”

“No, you're good,” Jackson insisted. “I was just gonna quickly clean up and head out.” That wasn't his original plan. After practice, he really just wanted to hang out in his room and talk to Yugyeom. Yugyeom had a friend over, though, and Jackson didn't want to cut in.

“Head out to where?” Yugyeom asked, skeptically. It was his way of asking “are you sure?” because he knew Jackson didn't have anything to do. Jackson had told him himself that he did the next few days' worth of homework ahead of time. Unless their schoolmates had suddenly started liking Jackson, Yugyeom knew he had no one to meet, either.

“I'm going to head into town to buy some books.” Yugyeom raised his eyebrow. “Workbooks and stuff for French and Thai.”

“Okay, then... We'll be here.”

And with that, Jackson took fresh clothes and headed off to the bathrooms. It took him no time to wash up, and almost unfortunately so. He didn't want to have to go back to his room and interrupt Yugyeom and Jungkook again, but he knew he had to if he wanted to actually head out. He really did need books.

When he got back to his dorm, Yugyeom and Jungkook seemed very focused on whatever was on the laptop in front of them, so neither of them noticed Jackson. Part of Jackson wished that they had, because, when they hadn't, it made him feel so invisible. He would also admit that he was jealous, even when he knew he shouldn't be.

Once he grabbed his stuff and walked out, he couldn't help but scold himself. What was so wrong with him that he got jealous that his friend also had his own friends? He wasn't quite sure what exactly he was jealous of, but he could feel it in the pit of his stomach and on the frown on his lips. Maybe it was that Yugyeom was hanging out with other people, or maybe it was the fact that Yugyeom *could* hang out with other people. Either way, he knew he had to get over himself and suck it up.]

✓ More Significant Problems

[Context: the end of the chapter when Jackson confessed to Mark. Last sentence would be the actual end of chapter??]

Cheek stinging and heart aching, Jackson made his way back to his room. The sense of rejection and shame was too strong for him to ignore, and all he wanted to do was talk to somebody. He just wanted reassurance that there was someone who cared for him, that he wasn't alone.

As Jackson walked up the stairs, he could hear the upcoming conversation in his mind. He pictured himself walking into his dorm, Yugyeom laying on a bed and playing on his phone. He imagined that Yugyeom sat up because he noticed something was wrong, and him asking Jackson what the problem was.

"I told him, Yugyeom."

"You did? That's great!"

"It's not. I was so stupid to think that he felt anything for me other than hate. I'm so dumb."

Then the fantasy versions of him and Yugyeom hugged, making Jackson feel even more empty than he was a moment ago. Yugyeom's arms were like a second home to Jackson, however strange that sounded. At that moment, Jackson would kill for something familiar, something comfortable.

When he opened the dorm door, he didn't see Yugyeom laying on a bed. Instead, he saw Yugyeom hunched over a desk, hands running through his hair. Jackson's mind went blank for a moment before he rushed over to Yugyeom's side.

"What's wrong?"

"Just... the usual stuff, you know. Lots of homework, I guess." Yugyeom sighed and stood up.

"Don't lie. What's really wrong?" Jackson followed Yugyeom as Yugyeom walked towards the bunk bed. Yugyeom didn't even bother trying to shoo him off.

"That new student. He's a really good dancer—have you seen him before? He just... gave me some constructive criticism. That's all. I'm overreacting."

After hearing Yugyeom's words, Jackson knew he was going to try to force Yugyeom to talk for the rest of the night. He knew that Yugyeom was very sensitive to criticism, even though almost everything he did was already close to perfect. He didn't want Yugyeom to lose his confidence in his dancing and he definitely didn't want his best friend to be sad over some some stupid thing someone else said.

It took him a little while to realise that he was pushing back his own problems and putting Yugyeom's before his. His heart ached to talk to somebody, to rant about Mark and what had happened, but he couldn't just ignore Yugyeom. Yugyeom was clearly hurting.

"Look, I'll talk about it later." Yugyeom flopped onto his back and gave Jackson a half-smile.

"What did you do today?"

"Nothing."]

Jackson Composing Music

[Context: towards midway of story? it has to be established that youngjae and jinyoung don't really like jackson. after something bad happens to jackson (maybe right before the dance show and he's at the height of being stressed)

After making sure the practice room was empty, Jackson rushed over to the piano and haphazardly took a seat on the bench. He nearly knocked over two music stands on the way, but he barely noticed in his desperation to play.

Music always had a place in Jackson's life, just never strong enough to be apart of his life at JYP academy. He never thought himself that great, since he went to such a talented school and heard music students practice so often. When he compared himself to them, he couldn't see himself as anything more than average, so he was cautious about playing in front of others.

With the amount of stress and shit he was in at that point, he didn't care anymore, and just wanted to make music.

To warm up, Jackson played short parts of songs he knew, nostalgia hitting him after each note. Sometimes he forgot how much he loved the piano, but once he started playing, he forgot about everything else. The piano calmed him in a way nearly nothing else could.

Soon enough, years and years of music theory came rushing to him, and he felt the need to write. Though he was mostly self taught, he couldn't discredit the effort he put into reading about making chord progressions and melodies so he could write songs. It was a given that what he could compose wouldn't be as good as a music student could, but he wouldn't let that thought deter him this time around. He deserved a break from everything.

A simple chord progression and short melody was scrawled onto a piece of paper in no time. Jackson knew he probably wouldn't give the paper a second look after he left the practice room, so he just let his ideas spill through his pencil. As he got farther into the song, his surroundings became invisible and all he heard was the piano and his voice. Words that only barely made sense were coming out as soon as they came to his head, but it was how Jackson wrote lyrics, so he kept going until he did something he liked.

He got all the way through three verses and a chorus before the door to his room opened. His hands flew away from the piano and he hastily shoved the bench towards the wall, worried he would be in some sort of trouble. Practice rooms were open to all students, so his fear wasn't justified, yet a part of him still believed he might be getting yelled at. When he looked at the doorway, he saw not a teacher, but Jinyoung and Youngjae staring at him in awe.

"That... that was you?" Jinyoung stumbled out. Jackson's face flushed in embarrassment.

"You could hear me from outside?" Jackson glanced at the pieces of paper spread on the piano, suddenly ashamed he had written anything in the first place.

"Yeah. Everyone walking through the music hallway was wondering who it was singing, but no one wanted to go in to check. There were no other rooms open and we needed to practice and you had been in here for a few hours, so..." Youngjae replied, his eyebrows creased, still confused.

"Oh. I'm sorry. I'll let you use the room now," Jackson rushed out, guilty that he had hogged the room for so long.

"Wait, Jackson." Jinyoung blocked the doorway and held Jackson's arm. "Did you write that?"

"I... Well-"

“Because that was really good. How come I’ve never seen you practicing before?” Jinyoung had a smile on his face that was genuine. It made Jackson more confident, and he felt proud of himself.

“You think so? I was just venting...” Jackson awkwardly gathered up just papers, sparing a few shy glances at the other two.

“It was better than anything I’ve written so far, and that’s a lot coming from someone in the music program,” Youngjae stated quietly.

“Um, thank you. I should... I should get going now.” Without another word, Jackson pushed past Jinyoung and Youngjae and B-lined for his room.]

Fluent in Thai

[Context: It’s sometime after Jackson confessed to Mark and he doesn’t want to talk to anyone. Jackson is spending his lunch in the library. He’s not eating, and instead is studying.

Years of studying allowed Jackson to be able to speak so many languages, but never in those years had he ever hated being fluent in one.

He stared at the book in his hands with more hatred than he had ever felt for an inanimate object. Each letter he read sounded in his head in a voice he really wished was comforting him at that moment. Every word sounded like BamBam, and he hated it.

Jackson started learning Thai when he was a freshman, since he was really starting to get excited about his language learning ability. Although he was already studying French and Japanese, he decided that it wouldn’t be too difficult to add Thai to the list. He figured that learning it would be a fairly easy, considering one of his best friends spoke it. If he needed help, BamBam was basically a walking dictionary.

With the way things turned out, he learned a language to speak to someone who hated him.]

Ex-friend

[Context: Jackson on him and BamBam no longer being friends.

He just never thought that things would go down the way they did.

To BamBam, Jackson was just another classmate, just that guy who got slapped by his new best friend. It wasn’t like Jackson thought they’d have the perfect friendship for the rest of their lives, but he didn’t think that their goodbye would be so harsh. Jackson never realised how much BamBam hid from, and he felt like an idiot for letting himself get hurt the way he did.

Jackson was aware that he hurt Yugyeom in the process, too. He assumed that Yugyeom would've sided with BamBam, so he didn't bother thinking about the consequences of breaking away from BamBam. For some reason unknown to Jackson, Yugyeom stuck with him instead of his "Thai counterpart," as they would have said, and that killed Jackson.

As thankful as Jackson was for Yugyeom, he couldn't handle knowing that he was making it hard for him. Yugyeom was a little brother to Jackson, so Jackson felt the need to protect and take care of him, and he was doing the opposite by keeping Yugyeom in his life. It would have been so much easier for him if he had stuck with BamBam, that much Jackson knew. Yugyeom wouldn't have gotten teased for being friends with "the playboy," he wouldn't have been on bad terms with BamBam, and he wouldn't have felt like he lost his chance with his first crush.

Yeah, Jackson knew how much Yugyeom liked BamBam. Yugyeom didn't know it, but Jackson saw the way he acted weirdly around BamBam and how different he was with BamBam no longer being their friend. He knew that Yugyeom had probably thought about leaving Jackson and how Yugyeom probably thought he was being selfish by thinking it. Jackson would have understood perfectly well. Maybe if both of his only friends had left him, it would have been easier for all three of them.]

✓ Start of Jackbam reconciling

[Context: After Jackson confessed to Mark and Mark is still pretending to hate him. BamBam's father just died, and Jackson heard the news from Yugyeom. Jackson finds BamBam to talk to him about it.—eventually leads to them making up.

"Bam, I heard what happened. Are you okay?" Jackson asked as soon as the dorm's door opened. BamBam just rolled his eyes and began closing the door.

"Fuck off." The door was stopped right before it shut, Jackson's foot preventing it from closing.

"I just wanted to talk—" The door suddenly swung open to reveal a pissed off BamBam.

"I'm fine, and I don't need your pity—or anyone else's!"

"I'm not trying to give you pity. I know it can be hard but talking always helps. We can talk about anything, just please don't shut me out anymore." Jackson fought the urge to hug BamBam, because he knew he wouldn't appreciate it.

"What the fuck would you even know? You have no idea what it feels like. You barely have a family to start off with, it's not like you'll ever know what it's like to lose a part of it," BamBam snapped.

His words were a slap in the face to Jackson. He was aware that BamBam wasn't in the best mood given the situation, but what he said was true. Jackson *wouldn't* truly understand how

BamBam felt. His family had never given a shit about him, so he wouldn't miss them much if they were gone.

"Shit, Jackson. I didn't mean... I just-"

"It's okay..."]

✓ **Translucent, Transparent, Opaque**

[Context: The epiphany part of the book, where the title is used in the revelation. After BamBam and him have made up, and people think Jackson's planning on dating BamBam or something. "Oh he's suddenly talking to the poor kid" or something.

A week full of rumours and whispers finally brought Jackson to the brim of overflowing. Since him and BamBam started talking again, all anyone had spoken about was the possibility of Jackson trying to hook up with him. Both he and BamBam knew that was far from the case, but there wasn't much they could do to change everyone's minds.

Jackson had overheard enough conversations to get a better understanding of how his peers thought of him. He knew that those thoughts weren't good; he just never thought they were so bad as to think he'd take advantage of someone's emotional state. Word had somehow spread that BamBam's dad died and how BamBam was a bit unstable, emotionally. All Jackson wanted was to help out his friend. All anyone thought of it was Jackson trying to get into BamBam's pants.

It occurred to Jackson that people thought him to be an open book. His classmates saw him as someone easy to understand, someone not worth getting to know. Before meeting Mark, something like that wouldn't have bothered Jackson. He didn't want to befriend someone who thought so little of him. But after meeting Mark, he realised he was doing the same thing by assuming that about those people.

Mark thought he understood Jackson, yet Jackson still wanted to get to know him. Even when Mark had indirectly called him a whore, something inside Jackson told him there was more. There was more to Mark than what he thought of Jackson. If he continued to think Jackson was a terrible person, he would still be the charming guy Jackson grew feelings for.

He just wished that, if anyone, Mark would be the one to look deeper. He wanted Mark to be the one to turn the page and read on, the one to try and understand him. He wanted Mark to realise that he wasn't transparent, and that there was more to him than what he put out for others too see. He wanted Mark to take off the translucent cover that was clouding who he really was.]

Mark's Thoughts

✓ Partner Assignment Turn-In

[Context: Mark has to turn in his partner assignment with Jackson, but Jackson is sick.

"Please do any last minute adjustments to your projects and turn them in on my desk when you're done," the teacher instructed.

Out of habit, Mark turned to glare at Jackson, but, of course, Jackson wasn't there. Panic suddenly surged through his system as he was rendered clueless on what to do. With Jackson sick the past week, he had no idea if Jackson had even finished his part of the project. Their assignment was worth a huge portion of their grade, and the only thing Mark could think of was talking to the teacher.

"Sir, Jackson has been sick-" Mark started the moment he reached the desk.

"Oh, I know. But it's fine-" the teacher began.

"We haven't been able to work together on finishing the project since he's been so sick," Mark interrupted, his statement only a half truth.

"That's alright, from what I understand, there wasn't much left to do anyway." Mark was stuck in a state of confusion. The plan had been that they each do half of the work, then come together to make the final product. None of that had happened.

"But sir-"

"I understand that you may be worried about Jackson's health, but he'll recover. His roommate came earlier this morning to drop off your project. He told me that Jackson just put the final touches on the assignment—he didn't have to overwork himself." In a dazed state, Mark nodded and headed back to his seat.

He couldn't believe that Jackson had done the whole project. Mark never gave his half of the project to him or anything, which meant that Jackson had done everything from scratch and on his own.]

Yugyeom's Thoughts

✓ GOT4 vs Jackgyeom?

[Context: The scene where Yugyeom hears people talking shit about Jackson. Kinda towards beginning.

“He’s ridiculous, honestly. I’m not sure he would have gotten into the school if it weren’t for his rich parents.”

Yugyeom peeked his head around the bookshelf to see Mark, BamBam, Jaebum, and Youngjae sitting around a table. He knew that Jaebum and Youngjae hated Jackson without even knowing him, but he wasn’t sure about Mark. Mark seemed to dislike Jackson, though that was something they couldn’t help. Rumors made people gravitate away from Jackson, and it was something both Jackson and Yugyeom were aware of. He just hoped with all he had that BamBam wouldn’t stoop so low as to becoming one of those people.

“His parents are rich?” Mark asked, his eyebrow raising.

“Yeah, they own one of the biggest companies in China,” BamBam responded, quietly.

“Then what’s Jackson doing in Korea?” Everyone but BamBam was confused. They didn’t know why Jackson was sent to Korea, but BamBam did.

“His parents...” BamBam began. His eyes wandered around the library, looking to see if there were people around them. His gaze landed on Yugyeom, who was glaring at BamBam, his look clearly telling him to stop. The others didn’t notice.

“You better not,” Yugyeom mouthed to BamBam. If BamBam told the three, the word could spread. Not only would that make Jackson’s school life harder, but it would also give his parents a bad reputation.

“Yeah, I don’t know...” He left the other three confused, because they could tell that he knew something.

“You know him better than any of us—better than anyone in this school even. Maybe except for his roommate. Surely you know something,” JB pressed. BamBam’s eyes continued to flicker between Yugyeom and his friends. The determined looks on his friend faces made his confidence waver, but nothing was more intimidating than Yugyeom’s merciless stare.

“Look, even if I did know something, it wouldn’t be my place to tell. Besides, he already has to deal with so much shit at this school. I wouldn’t want to add to that.”

Yugyeom could feel the anger flush to his face. He knew how much Jackson had to go through, and how much BamBam just added to it all. Though Jackson kept a lot to himself, Yugyeom could read Jackson like a book. He knew that Jackson rarely ever let anyone get very close to him out of fear of being thrown away. It was obvious to Yugyeom that Jackson developed issues from how his parents treated him. He didn’t want to be left alone again, but that’s exactly what BamBam did to him.

“How did you become friends with Jackson and Yugyeom anyway?” Youngjae asked. Upon hearing his name, Yugyeom moved back behind the bookshelf, still listening.

“We met in elementary school.” BamBam nervously looked around to check if Yugyeom was still there. Yugyeom had scared him shitless, making him cautious of every word that came out of his mouth.

“Was he the same asshole he is now?” JB joked. Yugyeom gritted his teeth, taking a deep breath and storming away to check out his books.

They didn’t know anything about Jackson, and it pissed the hell out of Yugyeom that they called Jackson an asshole. They didn’t know Jackson’s family situation, they didn’t hear Jackson’s stupid—but cute—little jokes, they didn’t know how soft and mushy the guy was at heart. The whole thing felt so unfair and suffocating to Yugyeom. He was aware that Jackson couldn’t do much to prove his schoolmates wrong, meaning Jackson was kind of stuck with the title he was given.

As he made his way back to his dorm, he could feel a tear slipping down his cheek. Though sensitive, he didn’t cry often, so he was surprised at the sudden outbreak of emotion. People gave him odd looks, but he gave them no thought and continued to walk. All he wanted was the best for his best friend, even if achieving that would be difficult.

He supposed that he was crying so Jackson didn’t have to, because Jackson wouldn’t cry for himself anytime soon. The times Yugyeom had seen Jackson cry were all because of something outside of himself. He had cried over movies and books, and the time Yugyeom twisted his ankle dancing. Jackson hadn’t cried when he got punched in the face at the age of twelve, or when his parents didn’t talk to him for *three years* straight. The boy Yugyeom admired so much had gone through hell and back, never once letting pity get the best of him.]

✓ Jackson acting weird

[Context: mark is suddenly gone and jackson thinks he’s lost everyone (even though yugyeom was only too busy to check his phone)]

To say Yugyeom was confused when he walked into the dorm was an understatement. Never in his life would he have thought that he’d see Jackson Wang laying on his bed in the dark, earbuds in and staring at nothing. Jackson was always so energetic and excited, no matter the time or situation. It made Yugyeom wonder what had made Jackson so down that he was just laying there.

“Jackson? What are you doing?” Yugyeom didn’t bother to turn the lights on and instead went straight to sit down next to Jackson.

“Huh?” Jackson sat up and took out an earbud. Even in the dark, Jackson could see the concern clouding Yugyeom’s eyes.

“What are you doing?” Yugyeom repeated.

“Oh. Just listening to music,” Jackson replied simply, putting his earbud back in and laying down again.

“Jackson... Are you okay? Is something wrong?” Yugyeom laid a hand on Jackson’s arm, but Jackson just shrugged it off. Usually, Jackson was so touchy-feely, so it wasn’t like him to shake someone off.

“Yeah, I’m just a little tired, that’s all.”

Jackson didn’t know when he became such a good liar, considering he almost believed himself just then. In any other situation, Jackson would have spilled his guts, because that was just how he was. Jackson was such an open book, especially his friends, and he was normally more than happy to talk through his—or their—problems. Something was different.

If he had answered honestly, all he would have said was, “I’m sad,” but Jackson knew how selfish and obnoxious that sounded. How he felt didn’t affect Yugyeom, so Yugyeom didn’t need to know about it. Besides, Jackson wasn’t willing to explain why he felt that way. That would require admitting that he liked Mark, and he had been trying so hard to keep the crush to himself.

Jackson wouldn’t admit it out loud, but he knew it was also because he was trying so hard to change himself. Ever since he got to know Mark, he was subconsciously doing things differently in an attempt to get Mark to like him. He spent so long wondering what it was that made Mark truly hate him, and their conversations over break gave him a better idea of what it could be. Mark wouldn’t like his typical self-pitying self, would he?

“Jacks...” Yugyeom put an arm on Jackson’s shoulder, but immediately retracted his hand when he Jackson shot upwards.

“Just leave me alone. I’m fine.”]