

**MISSING THE FINAL EXAM**

PROFESSOR FREUD announced in her syllabus for Math 190 that there will be no make up final exams, and when the final starts, the door will be locked and no one can enter or leave the classroom. Kim's final is on the last day of school at noon, on December 18. No student, she emphasized, would pass the course without taking the final exam and there would be no make up tests! As the semester drew to a close, KIM had an "A" average in Professor Freud's Math class, and she had been studying diligently for the test with her study group.

ARNOLD, Kim's husband, felt threatened that he had only a high school diploma while his wife was getting close to her college degree. Arnold worked at a bakery, and his co-worker PHILIP began teasing that Kim would soon dump Arnold for a college guy. That's when Arnold started accusing Kim of having an affair and demanding she drop out of college. She told Arnold he was being ridiculous. In fact, she said, a young man in her study group had asked her out, but she had refused. Instead of feeling better, Arnold became even angrier. With Philip continuing to provoke him, Arnold became sure Kim was having an affair, and he began telling her every day that she was stupid and would never get a degree in teaching.

Despite the tension at home, Kim felt prepared for her math final. Since Arnold had hidden the car keys, she decided to take the bus to the college and would get a ride home with her friend, CINDY, from her English class, CINDY invited Kim to join her and some other students for an end-of-semester celebration. Kim told Cindy she had a Math final the next day, and Cindy promised she'd make sure Kim got in early enough to get a good night's sleep. "I deserve some fun, and I'm all ready ready for the final," Kim decided, and hopped into the car. The celebration went long into the night. Kim kept asking Cindy to take her home, but Cindy kept saying, "Don't be such a bore. Have another drink." When Cindy finally took Kim home, it was 4:30 in the morning. She sighed with relief when she found that Arnold had already fallen asleep.

When Kim woke up, it was 11:30, just 30 minutes until her Math final. She could make it to the college in time by car, so she shook Arnold and begged him to drive her. He just snapped, "Oh sure, you stay out all night with your college friends. Then, I'm supposed to get up on my day off and drive you all over town. Forget it." "At least give me the keys," she said, but Arnold merely rolled over and went back to sleep. Panicked, Kim called Professor Freud's office and told MARY the secretary that she was having car trouble. "Don't worry," Mary assured Kim, "I'm sure Professor Freud won't care if you take the final in her office as she'll be here grading papers all afternoon. Just be sure to be here two hours before she leaves at 5:00 p.m." Relieved, Kim decided not to wake Arnold again; instead she decided to get a little more sleep, and she took the bus later.

At 2:15, Kim walked into Professor Freud's office, Scantron in hand and ready for the test. Professor Freud said, "Sorry, Kim, you've missed the final." She refused to let Kim take the final and gave Kim an "F" for the course.

Listed below are the characters in this story. Rank them in order of their responsibility for Kim's failing grade in Math 190. Give a different score to each character. Be prepared to explain your choices.

Most responsible < 1 2 3 4 5 6 > Least responsible

\_\_\_\_\_ Professor Freud, the teacher

\_\_\_\_\_ Philip, Arnold's co-worker

\_\_\_\_\_ Kim, the psychology student

\_\_\_\_\_ Cindy, Kim's classmate

\_\_\_\_\_ Arnold, Kim's husband

\_\_\_\_\_ Mary, Prof. Freud's Secretary