

Parent Teacher Night II

They're appearing in public together, putting a good face on things and resolved to get along. From the visual evidence—both of them sitting before me—all appears to be as it was before; they're smiling, attentive to one another and to

me, their child's teacher, as if united in tending to the boy's welfare, prompting me to question what I heard about the acrimony of the divorce, rumors of cruelty, a memo reporting the effects of the separation on the boy's grades last year.

I'm happy to see they've left their bad feelings behind. The next time I run into her, at pick-up near the school parking lot, I tell her how nice it was to finally meet the boy's father, and her look tells me how well they played their parts.