Text Messages Taken Out of Context

Typed words do not communicate emotion or tone the way words do when we hear a person’s voice or watch their body-language or eye-contact. As a result, information can be misunderstood. For example, if you take a short passage from a text message and forward it without explanation, you might change the meaning in ways the author never intended.

Directions:
1) Write four text messages to a friend (160 characters maximum, including spaces).
2) Circle a group of words or sentences that have a different meaning when they are read by themselves (taken out of context).
3) Explain how the meaning of the circled words is different from the original text.

EXAMPLE 1
Original Text Message
OMG! Did you see the crazy shoes she was wearing in class today? Everyone was talking about her feet! She's so lucky. I wish I had shoes like that.

Words Taken Out of Context
OMG! Did you see the crazy shoes she was wearing in class today? Everyone was talking about her feet!

Out of Context Meaning
She has terrible taste in footwear. People were making fun of her.

EXAMPLE 2
Original Text Message
LOL! Either Mr. Tawile thinks we're dumb, or he is making stuff up. There's no way the first Native Americans to celebrate Thanksgiving were called Wampanoag.

Words Taken Out of Context
LOL! Either Mr. Tawile thinks we're dumb, or he is making stuff up.

Out of Context Meaning
The stuff Mr. Tawile says in class is so funny it can't be true.

Now it's your turn!

1) Original Text Message

Out of Context Meaning