One of the Many Malloys

Molly Malloy has many brothers and sisters.
I liked to act like I was part of Molly’s family. When Molly’s mother said, “Supper time!” I would follow all the other kids into her house. Molly’s mother would serve everybody spaghetti from a giant pot.

My mother would come find me and want me to come home. “You have to stop eating with Molly,” she would say. “Her family will think that I don’t feed you.”
One Friday afternoon after school, I said, “Hey. Let’s rent a movie and sleep over at your house.”

Molly said, “Why do we always sleep over at my house? What about your house for a change?”

“My house is boring!” I said.

Molly said, “Oh, you don’t know how good you have it. My house is always so loud.” Molly did not understand what it was like to be an only child.
On another day Molly was frustrated because the school bus she rides home after volleyball practice had broken down. She was left waiting for another bus. I asked her, “Why didn’t you ask the bus driver to call your mom and ask her to come get you?”

Molly said, “He did call, but my mom was at baseball practice with my little brothers. She said I had to wait for the other bus.”
Molly is excited about always having sleepovers at her own house.

Molly is glad because she does not have to ride the bus home after volleyball practice.

Molly is upset because her mother is not able to pick her up.
Molly was a great student in middle school. But in high school Molly started coming to school with her homework only half finished. I always did my homework as soon as I got home from school.

One afternoon I went to Molly’s house after school. She was sitting at the kitchen table trying to study with her fingers in her ears. The television in the living room was loud. I could hear the baby crying upstairs.

“I don’t understand this math problem!” Molly shouted. “Mom! I need help!”
Molly’s mother came to the stairs holding the crying baby. “Molly, I hear you, but I’m busy with the baby right now.”

“How am I supposed to get my homework done?” Molly shouted.

“You will have to wait,” Molly’s mother shouted back.

Molly jumped to her feet. “I’m tired of waiting. It’s just not fair!” She picked up her books and stomped out of the house.

Tears were streaming down Molly’s face. “‘You’ll just have to wait!’ I bet you never hear your mom say that.”

“My mom doesn’t have eight kids. Let’s just go to my house for a while,” I said. We went inside my house. We ate popcorn and drank lemonade. My mom said, “Let’s see about that math homework.”
Together we figured out how to work the problems. I started to understand a little bit about why Molly thought I had it so good.
The narrator, who is an only child, invites her friend Molly over to work on homework and have a snack.

The narrator, who likes spending time with Molly’s large family, learns that there are some benefits to being an only child.

The narrator, who always does her homework when she gets home, goes to Molly’s house after school one day.