

A Clear Dilemma

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Beth waved to Gina as they walked into school. She noticed something about Gina looked different. "You got new glasses," Beth said.

"Yeah." Gina lowered her head. "I'm going to run to the bathroom. See you in class."

Beth walked to class and sat down in her seat. Mrs. Sherman had some notes written on the board for today's math lesson. Beth started copying them in her notebook. A few minutes later, Gina walked into class, taking her seat next to Beth. Beth watched Gina pull her glasses out of her pocket and put them in her desk. Gina squinted at the board.

"Why aren't you wearing your glasses?" Beth asked, noticing that Gina wasn't writing down the correct numbers in the practice math problems.

"I don't like them." Gina leaned forward in her seat and tilted her head at the board. "Is that a seven or a nine?"

"Gina! You're being silly. Put your new glasses on. Then you'll see the board clearly."

Gina shakes her head. "No way. They look dumb on me, and everyone stares at me when I wear them."

Beth looked at Gina, wondering how she could help. Gina would continue to have trouble in school if she wouldn't wear her glasses.



Things to Discuss:

1. Is Beth bullying Gina, or is she trying to be a good friend?
2. Gina thinks people stare at her when she wears her glasses. Why might people be doing this?
3. If you were Beth, what would you say to Gina to make her feel better?
4. If Gina and Beth's teacher noticed that Gina was not wearing her glasses, what might she say or do?

A Clear Dilemma

In the story, "A Clear Dilemma," Gina gets a new pair of glasses.

At first, she felt embarrassed and didn't like to be seen wearing them. Now, she's decided to wear them with a positive attitude.

Below you see Gina's friends commenting on her new glasses. Write Gina's positive reply to each of her friends.



Your new glasses are so stylish!

I didn't know you wore glasses.

What do you think of your new glasses?

I'm getting glasses next week. Do you like wearing them?

Teacher's Discussion Guide

Read and discuss.

1. Is Beth bullying Gina, or is she trying to be a good friend?

Beth is trying to be a good friend. She notice that Gina is not wearing her glasses, and she noticed that Gina can't see the board clearly. Beth is concerned.



2. Gina thinks people stare at her when she wears her glasses. Why might people be doing this?

Probably, they were just looking because they noticed Gina has new glasses. This does not necessarily mean they were teasing her.

3. If you were Beth, what would you say to Gina to make her feel better?

Answers will vary. Beth may tell Gina that her glasses look nice. She may also tell her that wearing glasses is no big deal; lots of people wear them.

4. If Gina and Beth's teacher noticed that Gina was not wearing her glasses, what might she say or do?

Answers will be similar to #3. Her teacher may say they look nice. She may also tell her that wearing glasses is no big deal; lots of people wear them. She might also emphasize the importance of wearing the glasses in order to do well in school.