

Lunchroom Loneliness

Written by Kelly Hashway

Danny carried his lunch into the cafeteria and looked around. He always ate lunch with his best friend, Marcus, but Marcus was absent. Who would Danny sit with?

"Please find a seat, Danny," Mrs. Montgomery, the cafeteria monitor, said.

Danny noticed a line forming behind him. He was holding everyone up as he tried to figure out where to sit. He walked around the front tables and saw Joey, a boy from his class. As Danny approached the table, he noticed there was an empty seat next to .

A superhero boy with a red cape and a blue mask holding a sandwich. The word "PREVIEW" is written in large red letters above the text.

sec
ask

~PREVIEW~

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mpty
Danny

The boys looked at Danny and shook their heads.

"This table is for 5th graders only!" one boy shouted. We don't let little kids like you sit here."

Now what was Danny going to do?

Things to Discuss:

1. How do you think Danny felt when he could not find a seat in the cafeteria?
2. Do you think Joey did anything wrong? Why or why not?
3. Do you think the 5th graders did anything wrong? Why or why not?
4. What might Danny say to someone in the cafeteria if he wanted to sit by them?
5. Was Danny being bullied? Why or why not?

Name: _____

Anti-Bullying Story: Read and Discuss

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In the story, "Lunchroom Loneliness," Danny is having trouble finding a place to sit. Imagine you saw a person like Danny in the cafeteria looking for a seat. What would you say to him or her?

In the space below, draw yourself inviting a friend to sit at your table in the cafeteria. Include speech bubbles to show the conversation.

A cartoon illustration of a superhero boy with brown hair, wearing a red cape and a blue suit with a red 'S' emblem on the chest. He is flying through the air, holding a sandwich in one hand. The background is white with a red double-line border around the text area.

~PREVIEW~

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Teacher's Discussion Guide



Anti-Bullying Story

Lunchroom Loneliness

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Read the story aloud and discuss.

1. How do you think Danny felt when he could not find a seat in the cafeteria?

He probably felt left out, lonely, or unwelcome. He may have been nervous or felt anxious.

2. [



~PREVIEW~

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3. [

Yes, they were rude to Danny. Older students should be positive role models for younger students, and they should have made Danny feel welcome and comfortable around them.

4. What might Danny say to someone in the cafeteria if he wanted to sit by them?

"I usually sit with Marcus, but he's not here today. Can I sit at your table?"

"Is this seat taken?"

"I'd like to join you for lunch. Do you have room at your table?"

5. Was Danny being bullied? Why or why not?

In a way, he was being bullied because his schoolmates were making a conscious effort to exclude him.