

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 .





~ PREVIEW ~

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empty
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?

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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.



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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. [

A red-bordered rectangular box containing a superhero character on the left and text on the right. The superhero is wearing a red suit with a blue cape and a shield emblem on his chest. The text reads: "PREVIEW" in large red letters, followed by "Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet." in black text. To the right of the box, the word "chair." is written in red.

chair.

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.