

Name: _____

The New Girl

by Kelly Hashway

Shelby sat at her desk and watched as her classmates came into the room. She was always the first one in class because then she could study everyone else as they got to school. She knew who was fighting, who got new shoes, and who forgot their homework. Shelby kept on top of everything going on at Hayword Elementary.



But this morning, Shelby saw a new face. A girl walked into the room wearing a ratty old jacket that was two sizes too big and a worn out winter hat with holes in it. Shelby raised an eyebrow as she tried to figure out the girl's story.

"Who's that?" Nicole asked.

"New girl," Shelby said. "Total tomboy."

"How do you know?" Nicole asked.

"Look at her jacket. I bet she bought it in the boys' department."

Mr. Ryan walked over to the new girl and led her to the front of the room. "Quiet down, everyone. There's someone I'd like you to meet. This is Amber Dresky. She's new to Hayword, and I want you all to make her feel welcome."

Amber stared at her feet instead of looking at the class.

"Amber's family has traveled a lot, so I'm sure she has many exciting stories to share," Mr. Ryan continued.

Amber shifted uncomfortably.

"Maybe you can tell us about some of the places you've been once we get to know each other a little better," Mr. Ryan said. "You can take your seat now."

Shelby watched Amber walk back to her seat.

"Shelby," Mr. Ryan said, "since you are the eyes and ears of Hayward, I thought you could show Amber around."

Shelby's eyes widened, but she didn't want to disappoint Mr. Ryan. "Um, sure."

"Why don't you sit by Amber today?"

Shelby grabbed her books and moved to the back of the room. She stared at Amber's jacket.

Amber followed Shelby's stare. "It's my older brother's jacket. He's overseas in the army. I miss him."

Shelby's stomach sank. Amber wasn't a tomboy, and she didn't have bad taste in clothes either. She just missed her brother.

"That must be hard," Shelby said.

Amber nodded.

"Maybe we could sit together at lunch. You could tell me about your brother and the places you've been."

"Really?"

"Yeah," Shelby smiled. "Welcome to Hayward."

About the the Author: Kelly Hashway

Kelly Hashway is a children's book author. You may enjoy reading her latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, which will be available in Spring 2011.

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1. Describe the setting of this story.

2. What did Shelby think of Amber when she first saw her?

- a. She was excited to get to know Amber better.
- b. She didn't like the way Amber dressed.
- c. She was confused when Amber wouldn't talk to her.
- d. She thought Amber talked about herself too much.

3. Explain why Amber's jacket didn't fit her properly.

4. What lesson is the author trying to teach in this story?

5. What does Mr. Ryan mean when he tells Shelby that she is "the eyes and ears of Hayward"?

- a. She is always a helpful student.
- b. She pays attention in class.
- c. She has excellent vision and hearing.
- d. She knows a lot about everyone in the school.

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The New Girl

Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story. Then, write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. ___ a ___ ___ y

clue: old, tattered

1. _____

2. ___ e ___ ___ ___ ___ e n ___

clue: section of a store

2. _____

3. ___ ___ ___ t

clue: past tense of keep

3. _____

4. ___ i ___ ___ ___ ___ i n ___

clue: to let down

4. _____

5. ___ ___ e ___ ___ e ___ s

clue: on another continent

5. _____

6. ___ ___ ___ f ___ ___ d

clue: moved

6. _____

7. ___ ___ ___ ___ t ___ ___ g

clue: arguing; not getting along well

7. _____

ANSWER KEY

The New Girl

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1. Describe the setting of this story.

This story takes place in the morning in Mr. Ryan's classroom at Hayward Elementary school.

2. What did Shelby think of Amber when she first saw her? **b**

- a. She was excited to get to know Amber better.
- b. She didn't like the way Amber dressed.
- c. She was confused when Amber wouldn't talk to her.
- d. She thought Amber talked about herself too much.

3. Explain why Amber's jacket didn't fit her properly.

It was her older brother's jacket. Her older brother was overseas and she missed him.

4. What lesson is the author trying to teach in this story?

Don't judge people until you get to know them.

5. What does Mr. Ryan mean when he tells Shelby that she is "the eyes and ears of Hayward"? **d**

- a. She is always a helpful student.
- b. She pays attention in class.
- c. She has excellent vision and hearing.
- d. She knows a lot about everyone in the school.

ANSWER KEY



The New Girl

Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story. Then, write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. r a t t y

clue: old, tattered

1. ratty

2. d e p a r t m e n t

clue: section of a store

2. department

3. k e p t

clue: past tense of keep

3. kept

4. d i s a p p o i n t

clue: to let down

4. disappoint

5. o v e r s e a s

clue: on another continent

5. overseas

6. s h i f t e d

clue: moved

6. shifted

7. f i g h t i n g

clue: arguing; not getting along well

7. fighting