

Out of Style

Written by Kelly Hashway

As soon as Jamal walked into class he saw Damon's bright red Space Walker sneakers. Jamal was one of the only students in his class now who didn't have them. He looked down at his own sneakers and sighed. His parents had just bought them a month ago. No way would they buy him new sneakers already, and especially not the Space Walkers, which cost almost a hundred dollars a pair.



"Hey, check it out," Damon said, sticking his foot in the aisle between their desks. "Got them last night."



Things to Discuss:

1. Is Jamal being bullied in this story? Explain.
2. List some words that describe how Jamal probably felt when Beth and Damon asked him when he was getting Space Walker sneakers?
3. Is it possible to be cool without spending a lot of money on clothes? Explain.
4. Should Jamal lie to his friends and tell them that he's getting Space Walker sneakers soon? Why or why not?
5. If you were Jamal, how would you answer Damon's question?

Teacher's Discussion Guide

Out of Style

Written by Kelly Hashway

Read and discuss.

1. Is Jamal being bullied in this story? Explain.

No, Jamal is not really being bullied. It's not necessarily polite to ask someone when they're going to receive something expensive, however his classmates were not trying to be mean, rude or hurtful.

2. List some words that describe how Jamal probably felt when Beth and Damon asked him when he was getting Space Walker sneakers?

sad, disappointed (because he won't be getting Space Walker sneakers)
embarrassed (because he's one of the only kids without the sneakers)
nervous (about how to answer Damon's question)
too proud (to answer the question honestly)
afraid (that others won't like him if he doesn't have Space Walker sneakers)

3.



~ PREVIEW ~

Please log in or register to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

4. Should Jamal lie to his friends and tell them that he's getting Space Walker sneakers soon? Why or why not?

Lying probably isn't the best thing for Jamal to do in this situation. His friends would eventually find out that he's not getting the sneakers and it would likely lead them to ask the question again at a later time.

5. If you were Jamal, how would you answer Damon's question?

Probably the best thing to do is to answer honestly. He might simply say, "I don't think I'll be getting Space Walkers. They're pretty expensive." Or, he might say something like, "I just got the ones I have last month."