

Name: _____

Jezzabelle's Old School

by Neal Levin

It was Jezzabelle's first day at her new school. She didn't like it one bit.

Everyone was in groups. They ate lunch together. They played on teams.

"At my old school, we didn't say the Pledge," Jezzabelle told Hannah at recess. "We sang 'Old McDonald' instead."

Hannah looked at her like she had marshmallows for brains.

"At my old school, if you didn't want to take a spelling test, you could do jumping jacks instead." She did three jumping jacks to show her.

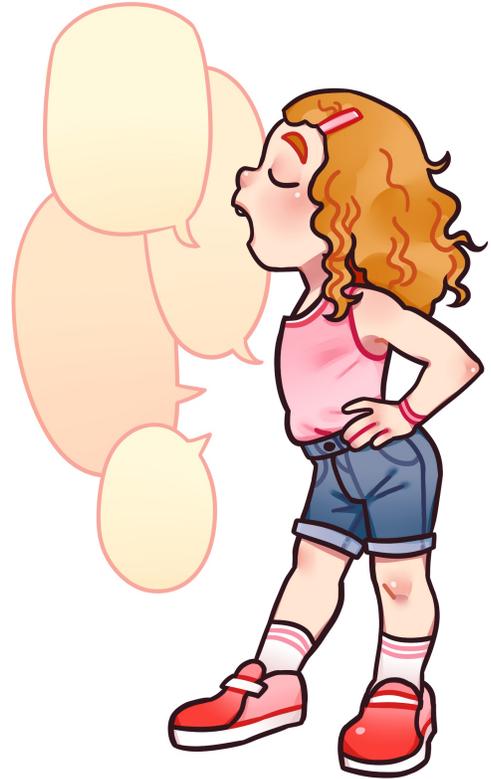
"That's silly," Hannah said.

"At my old school, I was better than everyone else." Jezzabelle counted on her fingertips. "I was the best in science. I was the best in art. In fact, I was the best in everything."

"You're fibbing, Jezzabelle! Nobody can be the best in everything."

"You weren't at my old school!" Jezzabelle cried. "At my old school, people weren't mean to me, either."

It was true. None of the kids at her old school were mean to her. None of them yelled at her. In fact, they hardly talked to her at all.



"If your old school was so great, why don't you go back there?" Hannah said.

"At my old school," Jezzabelle said quietly, "I didn't have any friends." She turned away so Hannah wouldn't see her teardrops. "I can tell you don't want to be my friend either. Just like at my old school."

She knew what would happen now. Hannah would ignore her too.

"Wait," Hannah said. "I never said I don't want to be friends. I just don't like it when people..."

"Stretch the truth?" Jezzabelle said.

Hannah nodded.

"Well, maybe I can shrink it back," Jezzabelle said. "Want to know what we really did at my old school? Every Friday we had a poetry contest. The winner got to take the hamster home for the weekend."

"That sounds fun," said Hannah. "Let's suggest it to Mrs. Andrews."

Jezzabelle smiled.

Here at her new school people might act differently.

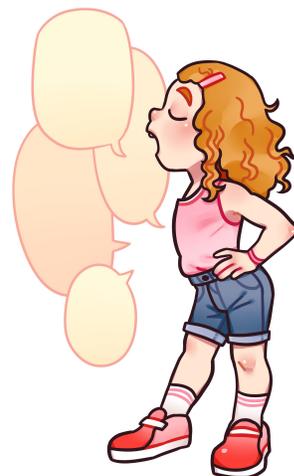
Starting with Jezzabelle herself.



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1. Why doesn't Jezzabelle like her new school when the story begins?
 - a. Students in her class are teasing her.
 - b. All the other kids are in groups.
 - c. The teachers are asking her too many questions.
 - d. She doesn't know where anything is.
2. Why does Jezzabelle begin to exaggerate, or stretch the truth, about her old school to Hannah?
 - a. She wants to make Hannah jealous of her old school.
 - b. She wants to annoy Hannah.
 - c. She wants to impress Hannah so she'll want to be friends.
 - d. She wants to give Hannah a reason not to like her.
3. Based on what you read in the story, what is Jezzabelle really afraid of happening at her new school?

4. Hannah tells Jezzabelle that she wants to be her friend, but Jezzabelle shouldn't stretch the truth. What does Jezzabelle learn about herself when she finally tells Hannah something true about her old school?

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Fill in the missing letters to create words from the story.

Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. r e _ _ e _ _ _

clue: a break in between classes at school

1. _____

2. s h _ _ i n _ _

clue: make something smaller

2. _____

3. i _ _ _ o _ _ e

clue: pay no attention to someone or something

3. _____

4. f _ _ b _ _ i n _ _

clue: lying; not telling the truth

4. _____

5. m a _ _ s _ _ m a _ _ _ o _ _ s

clue: soft and fluffy treats you put in hot chocolate

5. _____

6. s _ _ _ e t _ _ _

clue: make something longer or wider

6. _____

ANSWER KEY

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1. Why doesn't Jezzabelle like her new school when the story begins? **b**
 - a. Students in her class are teasing her.
 - b. All the other kids are in groups.**
 - c. The teachers are asking her too many questions.
 - d. She doesn't know where anything is.
2. Why does Jezzabelle begin to exaggerate, or stretch the truth, about her old school to Hannah? **c**
 - a. She wants to make Hannah jealous of her old school.
 - b. She wants to annoy Hannah.
 - c. She wants to impress Hannah so she'll want to be friends.**
 - d. She wants to give Hannah a reason not to like her.
3. Based on what you read in the story, what is Jezzabelle really afraid of happening at her new school?
Jezzabelle is really afraid that no one will want to be her friend, just like at her old school.
4. Hannah tells Jezzabelle that she wants to be her friend, but Jezzabelle shouldn't stretch the truth. What does Jezzabelle learn about herself when she finally tells Hannah something true about her old school?
Jezzabelle learns that if she acts differently than she did at her old school, maybe other kids will act differently toward her and want to be her friend.

ANSWER KEY

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Fill in the missing letters to create words from the story.

Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. r e c e s s

clue: a break in between classes at school

1. recess

2. s h r i n k

clue: to make something smaller

2. shrink

3. i g n o r e

clue: pay no attention to someone or something

3. ignore

4. f i b b i n g

clue: lying; not telling the truth

4. fibbing

5. m a r s h m a l l o w s

clue: soft and fluffy treats you put in hot chocolate

5. marshmallows

6. s t r e t c h

clue: make something longer or wider

6. stretch