

Name: _____



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The New Kid

by Dan Greco

The classroom hummed with anticipation. A new student, Dante, was scheduled to join them today.

When Mr. Harrison introduced Dante, he mumbled a greeting and quickly took his seat, eyes fixed

on his shoes.

During group work, Dante remained silent, sketching intently on his paper rather than engaging in conversation. A few students exchanged whispers, saying, "I guess he doesn't want to talk to us."

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Chloe observed Dante carefully. She noticed his shoulders were slightly hunched, and he continuously fidgeted with his pencil. When a classmate asked a question, he would blush and avert his gaze. Chloe recalled her own initial days at a new school—a period filled with a mix of apprehension and shyness. It became clear to her that Dante



you could help us on our project by sketching some of our ideas?"



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demanding question, she leaned in slightly. "Hey, Dante," she said softly, "that looks cool. What are you drawing?"

Dante looked up, surprised, but his eyes held steady this time. "It's a dragon," he murmured, displaying his artwork. "I enjoy drawing."

"Awesome!" Chloe exclaimed with genuine excitement. "Maybe

By the end of class, Dante remained somewhat reserved, but he was visibly more at ease and smiling. Chloe recognized that understanding what someone may be feeling in a situation, even when they don't voice it, could truly help them feel like they belonged. She beamed with pride that her intervention turned around what could have been a really difficult day.

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1. At first, what did the students think was the cause of Dante's quietness?

2. What did Chloe realize was likely the real cause of Dante's quietness?

a. He was experiencing anxiety from being at a new school.

A banner featuring a cartoon superhero character on the left, wearing a red cape and a blue suit with a shield emblem that says 'MJS'. To the right of the character, the word 'Preview' is written in large, bold, red letters. Below 'Preview', the text reads 'Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.' in a smaller, black font.

4. Chloe's awareness helped improve Dante's day. Do you think it helped anyone else? Explain your answer.

5. What word best describes how Chloe felt at the end of the story?

a. anxious b. proud c. shy d. amused

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Match each vocabulary word from the story with the correct definition.



1. ____ anticipation

a. made small, nervous movements, often with the hands and fingers



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4. ____ avert

d. excited expectation

5. ____ initial

e. worry, especially about the future

6. ____ apprehension

f. quiet

7. ____ intervention

g. done with great concentration

8. ____ reserved

h. early; first

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The New Kid

In the story, *The New Kid*, Chloe demonstrated good social intelligence. This means understanding the actions, motives, and feelings of others and oneself, as well as knowing how to act in different social situations.

Is social intelligence a strength of yours? On the lines below, write about how you can get even better at it—even if you feel it already is a strength. Include one new way you will practice being aware of the motives and feelings of others.



ANSWER KEY

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1. At first, what did the students think was the cause of Dante's quietness?

They thought he didn't want to talk to them.

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5. What word best describes how Chloe felt at the end of the story?

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