

Name: _____

Date: _____

Eighth Grade Reading Comprehension 14: The New Kid: California

I had always been nervous about the first day of school, but this year was different. This year, I was starting eighth grade, the last year of middle school, and I was determined to make it my best year yet. But as I walked into the classroom, I saw someone new sitting in my seat.

He was tall and lanky, with a mop of curly hair that fell over his forehead. He looked up as I approached and gave me a tentative smile.

"Hi," I said. "I think you're in my seat."

"Oh, sorry," he said, grabbing his backpack and moving to the next desk over.

We introduced ourselves. His name was Alex and he had just moved to town from California. I could tell he was nervous, too. I decided to be friendly and show him around the school. Over the next few weeks, Alex and I became friends. He was a great addition to our class. He was funny and smart, and he always had interesting stories to tell about his life in California.

One day, we were sitting in the cafeteria when one of the popular kids walked by and snickered at Alex's lunch. He had brought a burrito from home, and the other kids thought it was weird.

I could see the hurt in Alex's eyes, and I knew I had to do something. I stood up and walked over to the popular kid.

"Hey," I said. "That wasn't cool. You shouldn't make fun of someone for what they eat."

The popular kid just laughed and walked away, but I could tell that Alex appreciated my support.

From that day on, Alex and I were even closer. We had each other's backs, and we had a lot of fun together. And at the end of the year, when it was time to say goodbye to middle school, I knew that Alex was one of the best things that had happened to me that year.

Questions:

1. Who is the protagonist of the story?
2. Who is the new kid and where is he from?
3. What did the popular kid make fun of Alex for?
4. How did the protagonist stand up for Alex?
5. What happens at the end of the story?

Summary Question:

What is the story about and what lesson does it teach?

Iseb Year 8 Sample English Comprehension

Victoria Burrill



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