

The Bully

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

Carson was going back to school after Spring Break. He had heard that a new boy would be starting at his school. Carson was anxious to meet him and make a new friend. That day at lunch, the new boy came and sat across from Carson. Carson said hi and asked him his name. The boy answered, "None of your business." Carson was surprised that the boy would be so mean. Carson ate his lunch in silence.

School let out, and on the walk home the new boy came up behind Carson and said, "Let me have your homework so I can copy it." "I know you finished it at school." "I'm not giving you my homework," said Carson. "That would be cheating." As Carson started to walk away, the boy tripped Carson. Carson fell, ripped his pants, and got a big scrape on his knee. The boy started laughing and ran away. Carson got up and headed home. "What happened?" asked mom when Carson came into the kitchen. The new boy at school tripped me because I wouldn't let him copy my homework," said Carson. "Who is this new boy?" mom asked. "His name is Jack, and I only know that because I heard the teacher call him that." "He was mean to me at lunch when I asked him his name," said Carson.

The next day Carson's mom went to the school and told the principal what had happened. Jack was called to the office and admitted he tripped Carson. "Why?" asked Mrs. Rogers the principal. Carson was only trying to be nice to you in the cafeteria yesterday when he asked you your name." "This is the third school I've been in since school started," said Jack. "I guess I was trying to be a tough guy so no one would mess with me." "Well, did it ever cross your mind that if you would just be yourself and be kind, the kids would be your friend?" asked Mrs. Rogers. Jack said he was very sorry. Mrs. Rogers said that Jack needed to talk to Carson and tell him he was sorry. Jack did apologize to Carson and his mom. Carson's mom invited Jack to the house for dinner. Carson told his mom that Jack is really nice but just had a hard time fitting in. "I'm glad you have a new friend," said Carson's mom.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Why was Carson off from school?
 - A. Christmas break
 - B. Spring break
 - C. Summer vacation
 - D. None of the above

2. Where did the boy sit in the cafeteria?
 - A. Next to Carson
 - B. Behind Carson
 - C. To the left of Carson
 - D. Across from Carson

3. What did the boy want from Carson?
 - A. His lunch money
 - B. His jacket
 - C. His homework
 - D. His football

4. How would you describe the boy in the story?
 - A. Mean
 - B. Nice
 - C. Kind
 - D. Happy

5. How did the boy change at the end of the story?
 - A. He was angry.
 - B. He was crying.
 - C. He was mean.
 - D. He was nice and became friends with Carson.

The Bully– Answer Key

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