

Name: _____

The New Girl

by Kelly Hashway

Shelby sat at her desk and watched as her classmates came into the room. She was always the first one in class because then she could study everyone else as they got to school. She knew who was fighting, who got new shoes, and who forgot their homework. Shelby kept on top of everything going on at Hayward Elementary.

But this morning, Shelby saw a new face. A girl walked into the room wearing a ratty old jacket that was two sizes too big and a worn out winter hat with holes in it. Shelby raised an eyebrow as she tried to figure out the girl's story.



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make her feel welcome."

Amber stared at her feet instead of looking at the class.

"Amber's family has traveled a lot, so I'm sure she has many exciting stories to share," Mr. Ryan continued.

Amber shifted uncomfortably.

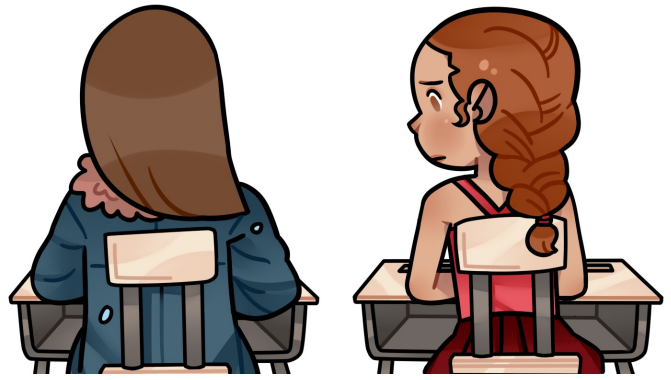
"Maybe you can tell us about some of the places you've been once we get to know each other a little better," Mr. Ryan said. "You can take your seat now."

Shelby watched Amber walk back to her seat.

"Shelby," Mr. Ryan said, "since you are the eyes and ears of Hayward, I thought you could show Amber around."

Shelby's eyes widened, but she didn't want to disappoint Mr. Ryan. "Um, sure."

"Why don't you sit by Amber today?"



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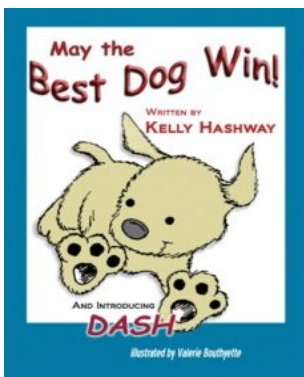
Amber nodded.

"Maybe we could sit together at lunch. You could tell me about your brother and the places you've been."

"Really?"

"Yeah," Shelby smiled. "Welcome to Hayward."

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

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1. Describe the setting of this story.

2. What did Shelby think of Amber when she first saw her?



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4. What lesson is the author trying to teach in this story?

5. What does Mr. Ryan mean when he tells Shelby that she is “the eyes and ears of Hayword”?

- a. She is always a helpful student.
- b. She pays attention in class.
- c. She has excellent vision and hearing.
- d. She knows a lot about everyone in the school.

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Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story. Then, write the full word on the line.
Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. ___ a ___ ___ y

clue: old, tattered

1. _____



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4. ___ i ___ ___ ___ ___ i n ___

clue: to let down

4. _____

5. ___ ___ e ___ ___ e ___ s

clue: on another continent

5. _____

6. ___ ___ ___ f ___ ___ d

clue: moved

6. _____

7. ___ ___ ___ ___ t ___ ___ g

clue: arguing; not getting along well

7. _____

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In the story, "The New Girl," Shelby learns an important lesson about not judging others before you get to know them. She discovers that she made a mistake by judging the new girl at school, Amber, before she knew anything about her. By the end of the story, Shelby is willing to get to know Amber by being her friend.

Do you think it's fair to judge other people before you get to know them? Why or why not?



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ANSWER KEY

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1. Describe the setting of this story.

This story takes place in the morning in Mr. Ryan's classroom at Hayword Elementary school.

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ANSWER KEY



The New Girl

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Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story. Then, write the full word on the line.
Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. r a t t y
clue: old, tattered

1. ratty

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