

Please contact jfann@mcisd.esc18.net with any questions and to submit assignments.

Students have the week to read the story and answer the comprehension questions.

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"The Crush"

Bobby had a crush on Tanya. He did not want his friends to know. His friends would make fun of him because Tanya was a "nerd". She was a really good student. She asked questions and she answered the teacher's questions. She always had her pencil and her notebook ready for class. She was very smart. She did all of the homework and all of the classwork. Bobby and his friends sat in the back of the room. They never answered questions. Bobby pretended it was because he did not care. He pretended it was because he was "cool".

The truth was that Bobby could not read well. He did not think he was very good at anything. He could not write well. He had to use his fingers to add numbers. If he tried to do the work, he had to ask for help. He did not want to ask for help or else his friends might make fun of him. Instead of trying and asking for help, Bobby gave up. He watched pretty Tanya get A's and B's. He got F's. Bobby wished he could be like Tanya. He also wished that Tanya would be his girlfriend.

One day the teacher Mrs. Jones asked Bobby to read a page from a book. Bobby told the teacher, "No. I don't feel like it." Bobby said this because he was not able to read the book. He did not want everyone to know he could not read.

"Bobby, if you do not read I will call the Principal and you will be in trouble."

"Go ahead, you're stupid anyway," Bobby knew it was wrong to call the teacher stupid. He was angry with himself for not being able to read. When the Principal Mr. Todd came into the room, Bobby knew he had made a mistake. He said sorry to Mrs. Jones. When Bobby apologized to Mrs. Jones, Tanya smiled at him. After class, Tanya walked up to Bobby. Her hair was wavy, long, and brown. Her matching brown skin looked soft and perfect.

"Bobby, why didn't you just read when Mrs. Jones asked you to? No offense, but that was stupid of *you*. It's not good to get in trouble. School is important for our future." Tanya flashed a bright smile and her strawberry lip-gloss was shining. Bobby did not know what to say. He knew that Tanya was right.

"The truth is that I can't read. I'm scared that if I ask for help my friends will make fun of me. I will not look cool anymore." Bobby felt comfortable telling Tanya the truth. She seemed so nice.

"If they make fun of you for caring about your future, than they are not good friends. I think it's cool to do good in school. If we do good in school, we will get good jobs, we will have money, and we will have nice cars and houses. Then we will be the cool ones. The nerds will be the losers who dropped out of high school and have no money and no jobs!" Tanya's speech made Bobby realize that his friends were not cool for sitting in the back of the room or making other kids laugh by swearing at teachers. Bobby realized that they were actually the nerds and students like Tanya were the cool ones!

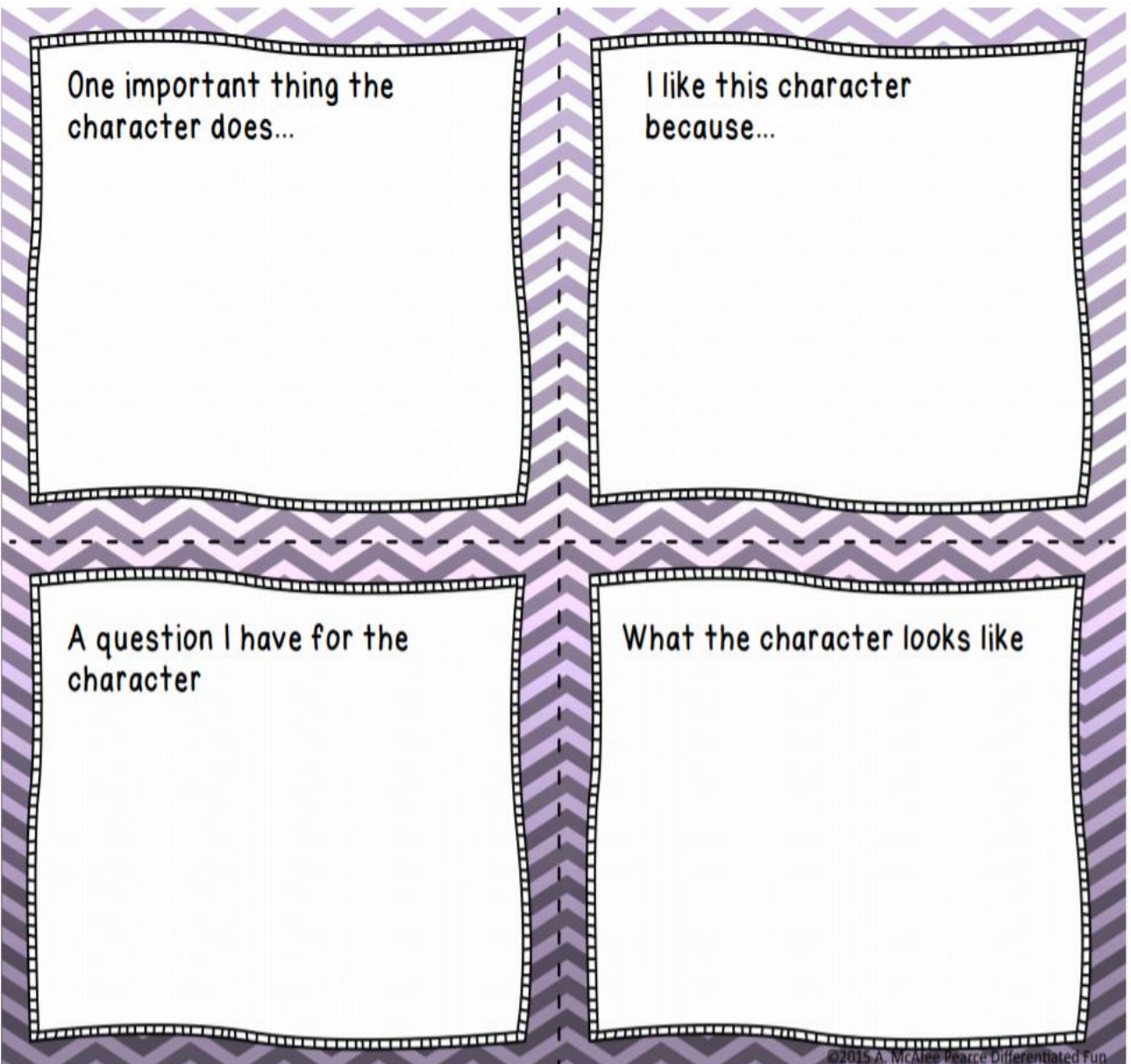


The next day Bobby came into class with his pencil sharpened and his notebook open. He was ready to learn. Tanya turned around in her seat and winked at him. Her bright smile made him feel the happiest he had felt in a long time. When the teacher called on him, Bobby told her in front of everyone that he needed help. He wasn't ashamed anymore. He wanted more out of his life.



Comprehension Questions

1. Retell the story from beginning to end in your own words. Use at least 4 sentences, place them in order, and illustrate them. You may use index cards for each event.
2. Why did Bobby pretend that he did not care about school? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
3. Describe Tanya's personality and physical characteristics.
4. The word "good" is underlined as a grammatical error on page 3. "Good" is an adjective but this sentence requires an adverb. Replace "good" with a grammatically correct word and rewrite Tanya's quote.
5. What lesson has Bobby learned by the end of the story?
6. Make a Text-to-Self connection with a character in the story. How are you alike? Have you ever experienced anything similar? Write 3-4 sentences and refer to specific events in the text.



One important thing the character does...

I like this character because...

A question I have for the character

What the character looks like