



Name: _____ Class: _____

Read the text and answer the following questions.

First Day at School

It was my first day in my new school, and I was feeling extremely nervous. I was on my own, waiting for the teacher to take me to the classroom. The trouble was, when I was nervous, I would say really silly things. I would get my words mixed up, stutter and talk complete rubbish. I wanted to make a good first impression on my new school friends, so I had to come up with a plan. I decided to say as little as I could, so that I wouldn't say anything embarrassing.

Before long, Mr. Lockwood arrived to take me to my new class.

"Welcome to our school, Klara," Mr. Lockwood said, smiling. "I hope you haven't been waiting long?"

I shook my head.

Smiling again, Mr. Lockwood said, "Did you walk to school, or come in a car?"

I had to answer this. I decided to make the action of steering a wheel to mime driving in a car. At this point, Mr. Lockwood's smile slipped a little.

He tried again.

"I hope you will be very happy here," he said with a grin. To which I shrugged my shoulders, and his face creased into a slight frown before he quickly changed back to a friendly smile. OK, so now I was coming across as rude.

We walked into the busy classroom, and Mr. Lockwood gave me a seat next to the children who he introduced as Manu and Emma.

"Hello, how are you?" asked Manu.



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I replied to this by putting my thumbs up. Mr. Lockwood and Manu exchanged glances and I realised my plan may be backfiring. I knew my face looked strange and scared - not what I had intended at all!

I had to make my mind up, and fast. I needed to say something interesting, groundbreaking and fascinating that would make me sound exciting and a fun friend to have. I had to stop panicking, this wasn't the end of the world, just my first day at school. Then I remembered what my mum had said; she told me to smile and be friendly. OK, I'll smile. I grinned from ear to ear, and Emma looked shocked at my sudden change in demeanour. I think I was now starting to look a little crazy, which was the complete opposite of what I wanted to achieve. Manu turned away and started to write in his book. Mr. Lockwood looked uncomfortable, and I could see he was struggling for something to say too.

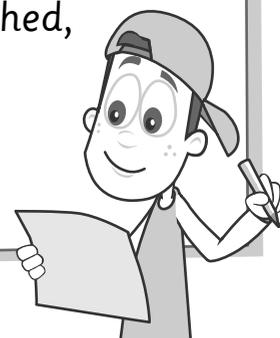
This was catastrophic! I realised I was making a huge mistake, and was coming across exactly as I had feared, even without speaking. I decided the only thing I could do was be me, and just hope that everyone would like me, boring as I thought I was.

"I'm sorry, I'm a little nervous with it being my first day," I managed to spit out, eventually.

I could see Emma's shoulders visibly relax.

"Oh I am glad, I did think you seemed a little tense," she said kindly. Manu and Mr. Lockwood smiled at me too, with relief in their eyes.

I started to relax. I spotted Emma's colourful pencil case in front of her. "I like your pencil case," I said to Emma. We all laughed, "I mean pencil case!"





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1 What point of view is the story being written in?

2 Who is telling the story?

3 How does Klara feel on her first day at her new school?

4 What does Klara worry about on her first day?

5 What was Klara's plan for her first day?

6 Why did Manu and Mr. Lockwood "exchange glances"?

7 What do you think "backfiring" means?

8 How did Klara's demeanour change suddenly?

9 How do you think Klara appeared to Mr. Lockwood?

10 Why did Manu turn away?

11 When did Klara realise she was making a "huge mistake"?

12 How do you think Klara will get on at her new school?
