

Alyssa Wears a Bow Tie



Alyssa is excited for her first day of school. Summer was fun, but she always likes it when school starts again in September. There will probably be new kids in her class. Alyssa likes making new friends.

Alyssa thinks a lot about what she wants to wear on the first day of school. Her mom and dad say first impressions are important, so Alyssa wants to look nice.

Alyssa and her mom go to the department store to get her new clothes. They walk past the boys' section. Alyssa sees a bow tie. It has blue and pink stripes, and ties around the neck. Alyssa likes it. No, she loves it!

"Mom, may I have that?" Alyssa says, pointing to the bow tie.

"But that's for boys," Alyssa's mom says.

"Why?" Alyssa asks. "It's a bow. And it's pretty."

"Well..." Alyssa's mom says. She is thinking. Alyssa crosses her fingers.

"O.K., I guess we can get it."

Alyssa jumps up and down in excitement. “Yay!”

They pick up the bow tie. Alyssa and her mom also pick out a white dress with a collar with buttons down the front. It’s sort of like a boy’s shirt, but a dress. Alyssa thinks it will look cool with the bow tie.

On the morning of the first day of school, Alyssa is very, very excited. She hardly eats any of her breakfast, even though her dad made waffles. Her dad shows her how to tie the bow tie. It’s harder than tying your shoe!

Alyssa’s dad walks her to the bus stop. When they get there, Alyssa’s friend Aved is waiting there already with her mom. “Hi Aved!” Alyssa says. She’s happy to see her friend.

“Is that your dad’s?” Aved says, pointing to Alyssa’s new bow tie.

“Um, no,” Alyssa says. “It’s mine!”

“But bow ties are for boys!” Aved says. Alyssa is embarrassed. That is what her mom said, too! Maybe she shouldn’t wear the bow tie. But she also doesn’t want to take it off in front of her dad. So she just shrugs and says nothing.

The bus comes, and Alyssa and Aved get on. They sit together. Another classmate Tommy gets on at the next stop. “Bow ties are for boys!” Tommy says. “Don’t you know that?”

“Yes,” Alyssa mumbles. Now she is really embarrassed. All the new kids will think she’s dumb for wearing a bow tie. She will ask the teacher when she gets to school to help her take it off.

When they get to school, Alyssa and Aved walk across the parking lot toward the front doors. Alyssa has her head down. Suddenly, Alyssa hears, “A bow tie! That’s so cool.” Alyssa looks up, and sees a 7th grader looking at her.

“What?” Alyssa says.

“I like your bow tie!” the older girl says. “It is very cool. You must be very creative.”

Alyssa doesn’t feel embarrassed anymore. She likes being creative. She can’t wait to show her bow tie to her art teacher.

When one of her classmates says, “Bow ties are for boys,” Alyssa says, “Bow ties are for everyone. Especially if you are creative, like me!”

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Why does Alyssa go to the department store to buy new clothes?

- A** Her clothes do not fit her anymore.
- B** She wants to look nice for the first day of school.
- C** Her mother thinks she needs new clothes.

2. Alyssa is embarrassed by her bow tie for the first time when she meets her friend Aved at the bus stop. Why does Alyssa become embarrassed by her bow tie?

- A** Aved says that bow ties are for boys.
- B** Alyssa's mom said that bow ties are for boys.
- C** Aved won't speak to Alyssa when he sees her bow tie.

3. Alyssa does not feel embarrassed by her bow tie after she speaks with the 7th grader. Which evidence from the story supports this statement?

- A** Alyssa bought her bow tie to wear it on the first day of school.
- B** One of Alyssa's classmates says, "Bow ties are for boys."
- C** Alyssa can't wait to show her bowtie to her art teacher.

4. What does Alyssa end up thinking about her bow tie?

- A** The bow tie shows that she is creative.
- B** The bow tie does not show that she is creative.
- C** The bow tie does not really mean anything to her.

5. What is the story mostly about?

- A how Alyssa and other people think about Alyssa wearing a bow tie to school
- B how people think bow ties are for boys
- C how Alyssa went shopping with her mother before her first day of school

6. Read the following sentences: "When they get to school, Alyssa and Aved walk across the parking lot toward the front doors. Alyssa has her head down."

Why does the author describe that "Alyssa has her head down"?

- A in order to show that Alyssa is lost
- B in order to show that Alyssa is proud
- C in order to show that Alyssa is embarrassed

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Alyssa's classmates tell her that bow ties are for boys, _____ she feels embarrassed.

- A because
- B so
- C but

8. Who gave Alyssa permission to buy her bow tie?

9. In the middle of the story Alyssa felt embarrassed about her bow tie. By the end of the story Alyssa seemed proud of her bow tie. Why did Alyssa change her feelings about her bow tie?

10. Alyssa says, "Bow ties are for everyone. Especially if you're creative, like me!" What lesson did Alyssa learn? Use evidence from the text to support your thinking.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 460

1. Why does Alyssa go to the department store to buy new clothes?

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- B She wants to look nice for the first day of school.**
- C Her mother thinks she needs new clothes.

2. Alyssa is embarrassed by her bow tie for the first time when she meets her friend Aveed at the bus stop. Why does Alyssa become embarrassed by her bow tie?

- A Aveed says that bow ties are for boys.**
- B Alyssa's mom said that bow ties are for boys.
- C Aveed won't speak to Alyssa when he sees her bow tie.

3. Alyssa does not feel embarrassed by her bow tie after she speaks with the 7th grader. Which evidence from the story supports this statement?

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8. Who gave Alyssa permission to buy her bow tie?

Suggested answer: Alyssa's mother

9. In the middle of the story Alyssa felt embarrassed about her bow tie. By the end of the story Alyssa seemed proud of her bow tie. Why did Alyssa change her feelings about her bow tie?

Suggested answer: Students should indicate that Alyssa changed her feelings because an older girl told her the bow tie was "very cool." The girl thought she was creative. Alyssa liked being creative and didn't feel embarrassed anymore.

10. Alyssa says, "Bow ties are for everyone. Especially if you're creative, like me!" What lesson did Alyssa learn? Use evidence from the text to support your thinking.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary as long as they are supported by information in the text. Students may explain that she learned that she should be herself and wear the clothes she liked to wear. Alyssa also learned that it is hard not to pay attention to what other people think. Students may also note that she learned that clothes can reveal a character or personality trait since her bow tie revealed that she is creative.