

Name: _____

The Clear Choice

by Kelly Hashway



Rachel squinted at the board. *Was that a five or an eight?* Her friends copied the math problems into their notebooks, but Rachel couldn't see the board from the back of the room.

"Rachel, is something wrong?" Mrs. Grimes asked.

"No, Mrs. Grimes."

Rachel slid over in her seat, trying to copy the problems from Jenny's paper.

"Rachel, would you please come to my desk?" Mrs. Grimes said.

Rachel jumped. She walked up to Mrs. Grimes's desk at the front of the room. "I wasn't trying to cheat." Rachel lowered her head and whispered, "I just can't see the board."

"Oh, that is a problem. It sounds like you're nearsighted. Do you have glasses you should be wearing?"

Rachel felt a lump in her throat. Her parents had taken her for glasses two weeks ago, but she didn't want to wear them in class where everyone would see.

Mrs. Grimes sighed. "I think I see the problem. You don't want your friends to know you need glasses. Is that right?"

Rachel nodded.

"Well, there is another solution. I could move your seat to the front of the room."

"But then I wouldn't be by Jenny and Amanda," Rachel said.

"You're going to have to make a decision, Rachel. Either you wear your glasses or I move your seat. The choice is up to you."

Rachel turned to look at Jenny and Amanda. Jenny had a worried expression on her face. Amanda mouthed the words, "What's wrong?"

They were good friends, and Rachel wanted to continue sitting by them.

"I think I'm going to keep my seat in the back," Rachel said.

Mrs. Grimes nodded. "Okay, but if I don't see you wearing your glasses when you're copying problems from the board, I'll be forced to move your seat."

"I understand." Rachel walked back to her seat, wondering how she was going to tell Jenny and Amanda that she needed to wear glasses.

"Are you in trouble?" Jenny asked.

"You look scared," Amanda said.

"I'm not in trouble. I just have to wear my glasses if I'm going to sit back here with you."

"Then put them on," Jenny said with a shrug.

Rachel smiled. "I will."

Note from the Author

Kelly Hashway

"The Clear Choice" is based on a true story from when I got glasses in third grade. I was so scared to let everyone see me wearing them, but sitting by my friends was more important to me than letting the class see me in glasses. I hope you enjoyed the story!

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1. Where was Rachel's seat in the classroom?
 - a. in the front
 - b. in the middle
 - c. in the back
 - d. near Mrs. Grimes' desk

2. Before Mrs. Grimes called Rachel to her desk, what two things did Rachel try to do when she couldn't see the board?

3. Why didn't Rachel want to wear her glasses?
 - a. She doesn't like the way she looks in them.
 - b. She does not know where she put them.
 - c. Her friends tease her when she wears them.
 - d. She does not want her friends to know she has them.

4. What was Mrs. Grimes going to do if Rachel chose not to wear her glasses?

5. How did Rachel react when her teachers called her up to talk with her?
 - a. She was cheerful.
 - b. She did not speak.
 - c. She was respectful.
 - d. She complained.

Now try this: On the back of this page, write two sentences that describe what Jenny and Amanda might say when they see Rachel wear her glasses.

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The Clear Choice

Vocabulary

Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story. Then, write the full word on the line.

1. _ e c _ _ _ _ n

clue: choice

1. _____

2. _ e _ _ _ _ _ _ _ t _ _ d

clue: unable to clearly see things far away

2. _____

3. _ _ _ _ h

clue: subject dealing with numbers

3. _____

4. _ _ _ i _ _ _ _ r e _

clue: spoke very softly

4. _____

5. _ o _ _ _ _ d

clue: moved head up and down

5. _____

6. _ x _ _ _ _ _ _ _ o _

clue: the feelings shown on a person's face

6. _____

7. _ _ _ _ _ n _ _ _ d

clue: closed the eyes halfway to see better

7. _____

ANSWER KEY

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 - a. in the front
 - b. in the middle
 - c. **in the back**
 - d. near Mrs. Grimes' desk
2. Before Mrs. Grimes called Rachel to her desk, what two things did Rachel try to do when she couldn't see the board?

She tried squinting and copying from her friend's paper.

3. Why didn't Rachel want to wear her glasses?
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4. What was Mrs. Grimes going to do if Rachel chose not to wear her glasses?

She was going to make her sit in the front of the room away from her friends.

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 - a. She was cheerful.
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clue: choice

1. d e c i s i o n

2. n e a r s i g h t e d

clue: unable to clearly see things far away

2. n e a r s i g h t e d

3. m a t h

clue: subject dealing with numbers

3. m a t h

4. w h i s p e r e d

clue: spoke very softly

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7. s q u i n t e d

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