

Hazel Grove

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- 1 Today was Community Service Day at school, and Maya's class was going on a field trip to a senior living center called Hazel Grove. It was also the first day Maya would be wearing her leg brace to school.
- 2 Walking to school with her mom, Maya looked down at her shoes. Her left sneaker was a size larger than her right, so the brace could fit inside. Maya felt unsure about wearing the brace to school, even though it was decorated with a pretty butterfly design she had chosen from a book at the doctor's office. The brace was supposed to help her walk more smoothly, and it did make her feel solid and steady as she picked her way along a muddy patch slicked with soggy leaves.
- 3 "How will I explain my brace?" Maya whispered to her mother.
- 4 "Don't worry," her mom replied.
- 5 Maya nodded, but her lip quivered as her mom kissed her goodbye at the door to her classroom.
- 6 All morning at school, kids kept glancing at the brace, but they didn't say anything. Then the teacher announced that they could sit wherever they wanted while they worked on cards for the people at Hazel Grove.
- 7 Maya thought about the hazel bush in her backyard. She started to draw the little green buds that would burst from the branches in spring. It felt good to draw. Maya's friend Samir came over and sat by her. When she stood to get another marker

- from the bin, he noticed the brace. “What’s that for?” he asked.
- 8 Maya stared down at her paper. She continued to work on her drawing.
- 9 Samir stood there a minute and then walked away. Glancing back at him later, Maya noticed Samir wasn’t working on a card. He was just quietly sitting by himself.
- 10 That afternoon the class got on a bus and headed to Hazel Grove. They brought the cards they had made. When they arrived, Maya noticed that the brace made it easier to walk up the ramp to the doors. She didn’t stumble or trip. Still, she felt a little flip-flop in her stomach when a man leaving the building glanced down at her leg.
- 11 Maya and her friend Gabriela were paired up with a woman in a wheelchair that had a pretty knitted covering over the back. She wore bright pink lipstick and a necklace of big pink plastic beads.
- 12 “I’m Joan,” she said cheerfully. “Glad to meet you.”
- 13 Shyly, they handed her the cards they had made. Joan squinted at Gabriela’s card. “You’ve written a poem!” she said to Gabriela. Gabriela blushed. Then Joan turned to Maya’s picture. “The first leaves of spring!” she cried in delight. “You like drawing?” she asked Maya.
- 14 “I do,” Maya said.
- 15 “You better keep it up then.”
- 16 “I will,” said Maya. Then, in a sudden burst of bravery, Maya asked, “What’s it like being in a wheelchair?”
- 17 “It helps me get around,” Joan said simply. Then, grinning, she added, “You’d be surprised how fast I can go in this thing!” Right then, she whizzed across the room. Then she turned around and whizzed back. “You see?”
- 18 It was true. Joan was fast in her chair. The girls and Joan talked and talked: about pets and cats and little brothers, about what it was like in the olden days. When it was time to go, Maya gave Joan a big hug.
- 19 On the bus ride back to school, Maya sat next to Samir. She told him, “This brace keeps my toe up so I can walk better.”
- 20 “Really?” he said smiling. “That’s cool.” Then they talked about the people they had met at Hazel Grove. Maya told Samir about Joan, how nice and funny she was.
- 21 When Maya’s mom met her at the door at the end of the school day, Maya skipped into her arms. “Today was the best!” Maya said. Though it was still cold and windy outside, to Maya it felt like spring. Her mom let her stay and play for a while, and Maya ran all around the playground feeling strong and fast in her new brace.

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Test Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. This question has two parts. First answer Part A, and then answer Part B.

Part A: How did Maya's feelings change from the beginning to the end of the story?

- a. In the beginning of the story, she was anxious, and at the end of the story, she was confident.
- b. In the beginning of the story, she was excited, and at the end of the story, she was disappointed.
- c. In the beginning of the story, she was embarrassed, and at the end of the story, she was frustrated.
- d. In the beginning of the story, she was jealous, and at the end of the story, she was nervous.

Part B: What evidence from the text supports how Maya felt at the end of the story?

- a. Maya's mom met her at the door at the end of the school day.
- b. Maya looked down at her shoes.
- c. Maya stared down at her paper.
- d. Maya ran all around the playground feeling strong and fast.

2. What is the meaning of the word *quivered* as it is used in the passage below?

"How will I explain my brace?" Maya whispered to her mother.

"Don't worry," her mom replied.

Maya nodded, but her lip **quivered** as her mom kissed her goodbye at the door to her classroom.

- a. turned
- b. quit
- c. quieted
- d. trembled

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Test Questions (*continued*)

3. Why did Maya stay silent when Samir asked her about her brace?

- a. Maya didn't want to share the markers with Samir.
- b. Maya was upset he didn't notice her drawing.
- c. Maya was embarrassed about wearing a brace.
- d. Maya wanted to sit by Samir while working on cards.

4. Why did Maya give Joan a big hug when it was time to go?

- a. Joan told Maya she was a good artist.
- b. Maya was worried Joan didn't like her drawings of the flowers.
- c. Joan gave Maya the confidence she needed to be different.
- d. Maya wanted Joan to know it was OK to be in a wheelchair.

5. Why did Maya sit by Samir on the bus ride back to school?

- a. Maya wanted to ask Samir if he would play on the playground with her.
- b. Maya realized Samir was trying to be friends with her.
- c. Maya was tired of Samir asking her questions about her brace.
- d. Maya wanted to ask Samir if he would walk home from school with her.