

The First Day

Henry was so nervous. He hadn't even been able to sleep.

Now, as the big yellow school bus rolled up to the school, he felt like a prisoner being dropped off at prison. There was a fence around school. There were people telling him what to do and when to do it. There were big, mean kids waiting to pound him. He couldn't leave when he wanted to, either.

Henry swallowed anxiously as the kids around him got out of their seats and began heading down the aisle to the open door. As he walked down the steps to exit, he wondered what his teacher would be like.

It would probably be a scary man this year. The guy would be like 300 pounds, like a football player. He'd have a shaved head and hairy arms, like a bear. He'd growl and flash his sharp teeth at anyone who didn't know their multiplication tables. It would be awful.

As he walked up the front steps into the school and the double doors ate him in one giant bite, he wondered what school lunch would be like this year. The macaroni and cheese would probably stick to the tray, even if he turned it upside down. The canned fruits and vegetables would be like mush. The pizza would be cardboard with red sauce and rubber cheese. It would be gross.

As he walked down the hall, he wondered about his classmates. How awful would they be? They would probably be wild, like gorillas battling for control of the jungle. Each one would be bigger, stronger, louder, and meaner than him. They'd smack him around and steal his cookies, because he was a weaker version of them. It would be horrible.

As he reached his classroom door, he wondered about homework. Surely he'd get a stack of papers like a phone book. His math book would be like one of those old dictionaries that takes two men just to lift it. It would be scary.

He stepped into the room. A pretty, young woman stepped over, shook his hand and smiled. "I'm Mrs. Stacey. Nice to meet you, Henry, right?"

Henry blinked in surprise. "How'd you know?"

"We've been expecting you." She replied warmly.

Henry glanced around the room. Bright, smiling faces all looked up from their neat desks, and they honestly seemed friendly. The room was decorated brightly and nicely, and no one looked like they wanted to pound him.

Maybe it wasn't going to be so bad after all, especially since they were serving chicken for lunch.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Where is Henry going?
 - A. on a field trip
 - B. to school for the first day
 - C. home
 - D. to the library

2. How does Henry feel as the bus drives up to the school?
 - A. like a prisoner
 - B. like a student
 - C. like an athlete
 - D. like a soldier

3. Which of these is Henry NOT worried about?
 - A. his classmates
 - B. his teacher
 - C. his lunch
 - D. his clothes

4. How would you describe Henry's feelings as he walks up to his class door?
 - A. anxious and nervous
 - B. angry and upset
 - C. tired and bored
 - D. happy and excited

5. What changes Henry's mind about school?
 - A. He sees his friends inside the room.
 - B. He sits with his brother at lunch.
 - C. His mom packed him a great lunch.
 - D. His teacher and classmates seem friendly and nice.

The First Day – Answer Key

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