Jelly

A Seat for Someone New

LITTLE READERS



BEFORE YOU READ

Look and Wonder

1. Where do you like eating lunch?
2. What makes a place comfortable?
3. Why might someone choose a quiet seat?
4. Share an idea with a partner.



Mina carried her lunch into the hall.
Ben and Max had saved a seat.
Their table was near the serving counter.
Trays clattered as children walked past.



A new boy sat near the window.

His name was Jun.

He had joined their class on Monday.

Today was his third lunch at school.



Jun opened a small green lunch box.

He sat at one end of his table.

The other chairs were empty.

Mina looked over at him again.



"We should ask him to sit here."

Ben moved his bag off a chair.

Max pushed a cup out of the way.

Mina walked over to the window table.



"There is a place beside us."
Mina pointed back at her friends.
Jun smiled and thanked her quietly.
But he did not pick up his box.



"I like sitting here," he said.
He put his spoon beside his food.
Mina waited for a moment.
Then she went back to her table.



Ben looked at the empty chair.

"Maybe he wants to eat alone."

Max watched Jun look toward their table.

"He smiled when Mina asked him."



A tray fell near the serving counter.
It made a loud crash on the floor.
Everyone nearby turned to look.
Jun pressed his lips together by the window.



A helper picked up the fallen tray.
The children went back to their lunches.
Mina looked from the counter to Jun.
She wondered about his quieter table.



After lunch, they met by the door.
Jun carried his closed green box.
Ben asked if he liked their school.
Jun nodded and looked toward the yard.



"I like the library best so far."
Jun smiled at the low book shelf.
Max liked the library too.
They talked about a book of animals.



At break, Jun joined their ball game.

He rolled the ball to Ben.

Mina stopped it near the low wall.

Jun laughed when Max missed a pass.



He did not seem to mind company.
Ben thought about the empty lunch chairs.
Maybe there was another reason.
He decided to ask at lunch tomorrow.



The next day, Jun chose the same table.
His green box sat by the window.
Ben walked over before sitting down.
"What do you like about this place?"



Jun looked toward the busy counter.

"It is quieter over here."

He touched the edge of his box.

"I can hear people talking beside me."



Ben listened from the window table.
The trays still made a clattering sound.
But the counter was farther away.
He could hear Jun without leaning closer.



"Our table is quite loud," Ben said.

Jun gave a small nod.

"I wanted to hear Mina yesterday."

He looked down at his spoon.



Mina came over with her tray.
Max followed with his lunch box.
They stopped beside an empty chair.
Ben told them what Jun had said.



"Could we sit here with you?"
Mina held her tray with both hands.
Jun looked at the empty chairs.
His smile grew much wider this time.



"Yes, there is lots of room."

Jun moved his box a little closer.

Ben pulled out the chair beside him.

Max checked that the path stayed clear.



Stop and Think

WHAT HAVE YOU READ SO FAR?

1. Where did Jun choose to sit?
2. Why did the first invitation fail?
3. What did Jun like about his table?
4. What did Ben ask differently?



Make a Prediction

USE THE CLUES

1. How might their lunch change here?
2. What should they keep clear?
3. How could they welcome another child?
4. What might Jun enjoy talking about?



Mina set her tray on the table.
She could see a tree through the glass.
Its leaves moved in the wind.
The counter noise sounded farther away.



Max spoke about the ball game.
Jun told him about the missed pass.
Ben laughed and passed the water jug.
No one had to shout across the table.



A group arrived at the serving counter.
The hall grew louder for a while.
Mina paused until a trolley rolled past.
Then she finished telling her story.



Jun asked about the book of animals.

Max said it had a page about foxes.

Ben wanted to see that page too.

They planned a library visit after lunch.



Ms. Lee passed by their table.

"You found a different spot today."

Mina pointed toward the distant counter.

"We can hear each other here."



Ms. Lee looked at the clear walkway.
She checked that everyone had space.
"This table is a good choice."
Then she went to help another child.



Ben glanced at their old table.
Other children had taken the spare seats.
They were talking happily over lunch.
Different groups liked different tables.



"I thought you wanted to be alone."

Ben looked at Jun beside him.

Jun shook his head gently.

"I wanted a quieter place to eat."



Mina remembered her first invitation.
She had only pointed to her own table.
She had not asked about his choice.
"I am glad you told us," she said.



Jun closed his empty lunch box.
Max stacked his things on his tray.
They checked under their chairs for crumbs.
Then they walked to the library together.



Max found the animal book quickly.
Jun opened it to the fox page.
The friends leaned around the low table.
They spoke softly near the other readers.



One picture showed a fox in snow.
Ben pointed to its thick tail.
Jun found tracks behind its feet.
Mina counted them with her finger.



The library bell gave a soft chime.
They put the book back in its place.
Jun walked beside Ben to class.
They talked about the fox's little tracks.



On Friday, another child looked for a seat.

Her name was Ella.

She held a bowl and a tray.

Mina moved her bag under the table.



"Would you like to sit here?"

Mina pointed to the empty chair.

"It is quieter near this window."

Ella looked at the bright tree outside.



Ella set down her tray and smiled.
"I like watching those leaves."
Jun made space for the water jug.
Ben passed her a clean cup.



They talked about the coming weekend.

Ella planned to visit her grandpa.

Jun wanted to borrow another book.

Max hoped for another ball game.



When a trolley clattered past, they paused.
Then Ella finished her story.
Jun could hear every word beside him.
Mina watched him smile at the ending.



After lunch, they pushed their chairs in.
The window table was empty again.
Sunlight lay across its clean top.
The walkway beside it stayed clear.



Jun waited for his friends at the door.
His green box was under one arm.
Ben asked about the afternoon game.
They walked out to the yard together.



Talk About the Story

LOOK BACK AT THE WHOLE STORY

1. Why did Jun choose the window table?
2. What had Ben first assumed?
3. How did the friends change their plan?
4. How did Mina invite Ella?



Think and Discuss

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR LIFE

1. How can you ask about a preference?
2. What makes a good place to talk?
3. How could you offer more than one choice?
4. What can you learn by listening?



Put the Pictures in Order

Look at the four pictures.

Write 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the boxes.



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



D ☐

Point to the pictures and tell the story.

Tell the Story

USE THE FOUR PICTURES ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

First ...

Next ...

Then ...

Finally ...



Plan a Place to Talk

Draw a comfortable place to sit together.

Add something that helps you listen.

I like this place because _____

I could ask _____



The End

Thank you for reading.

Look closely and share your ideas.

What would you like to explore next?

