How we became friends

by Brook Deans

I've known Layla for three years, but we've only been friends since the start of the year. I know that isn't very long, but she's become a good friend.

It wasn't always this way, however. Layla was part of a group of students who I didn't like at all. They were very popular, but they weren't very nice. They looked down on everybody and other students seemed scared of them. I'm sure there's a group like that at every school in the world. They ignored me and I ignored them. But I always felt that Layla was a bit different, like she didn't really want to be in that group.

One day, I got on the train in our city. I was on my way to the hospital to visit my grandpa. But I didn't have any journeys left on my travel card, and I didn't have any money with me. The ticket inspector said, "You have to get off this train," but suddenly somebody said, "It's OK. I can buy you a ticket." It was Layla! I sat next to her and we chatted for a long time. She told me that she wasn't very happy. She didn't really like those students that she hung out with, because they only talked about themselves. But she found it hard to make other friends.

And that's how our friendship began. We found out that we had a lot in common—we're both really into roller blading, and horror movies. We're different in other ways, though. Layla is quite serious, whereas I laugh a lot—usually at myself! But we trust each other, and that's important, too. She still hangs around with that group sometimes, but I know she's been happier since we became friends.

5 4 1

Reading

1 Read the text. Number the events in the correct order.

a Brook and Layla became friends. ____

b Layla started hanging out with a group of students. __1__

c Layla became happier. ____

d Brook didn't have her travel card. ____

e Brook's grandpa went into hospital. ____

f Brook and Layla chatted properly for the first time. ____

2 Read the text again. Answer the questions.

When did Brook and Layla first meet?

Three years ago.

1 Why did Brook think that Layla's group of friends weren't very nice?

_____

2 Who was Brook going to visit?

_____

3 How did Layla help Brook on the train?

_____

4 Why didn't Layla like the students in her group very much?

_____

5 How are Brook and Layla similar, and how are they different?

_____

_____

Writing

3 Write a short story about how two people became friends. You can write about yourself and one of your friends, or invent the characters in the story. Remember to use pronouns to avoid repeating nouns, and use linking words like *but*, *because*, and *then*.

- How long have the people been friends?
- What happened when they first spent time together properly?
- What have they got in common?
- Why do they like each other?

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