

A NEW SCHOOL

Have you ever felt lonely? I know the feeling can linger with a person for a long time but loneliness can sometimes be a killer. especially If you are in a room full of people but still feel like you do not have anyone to talk to. 35

On my first day of school, I went to the administration office to settle my registration. After I finished with my registration in the office, the attendee walked me to my classroom. 36 She introduced me to the whole class, and the class teacher welcomed me and pointed me to my seat.

37 I began to feel anxious and self-conscious. The first period was English and I can still remember the topic on that day - nouns. Thankfully, I had a strong command In the language. 38 This however, was only to my own detriment, as the other students thought I was a snob and was showing off my command of English to the rest of the class.

During recess. as expected, I sat on the table and ate my food alone. 39 Perhaps I was unwelcomed in these uncharted waters? I could not tell. There were cliques of students all over the place - the usual gender split, as boys hung out with boys, while the girls on their own. I suddenly realised I am just a solitary entity amidst of all these students.

40 For the first time ever, I realised that loneliness is not when you are alone without anybody's presence. but it is a feeling when people who do not welcome you. surround you. It is a feeling when people act as If you did not exist.

- A. I sat down and felt a wave of stares piercing right through me.
- B. I cannot help my nerves as I made my way into my class.
- C. Despite being surrounded by hundreds of people my age with all the noise and chatter, I cannot help but feel lonely.
- D. I noticed some of my classmates were glaring at me.
- E. I was glad that everyone was so friendly and welcoming.
- F. It was the most horrible experience in my life!
- G. This is how I felt like when I first began schooling in a new environment.
- H. Hence, the questions were quite a breeze to answer.