

First day

Here we go again, I thought, the first day of fourth grade. I always got a little nervous on the first day of school. I knew a lot of the other kids who would be in my class, and I had heard that the teacher was nice. There would still be a lot of new things, though. We would have new rules and new routines. We would have new information to learn in all of the subject areas. There would also be some new things that I wouldn't expect, like maybe they moved the classes to different hallways. It was exciting, too, but that didn't mean I wasn't anxious.

We lined up outside, and for the first week the teachers held up signs with their names to help us find the right spot to line up. I knew where the fourth graders lined up, and quickly spotted the name "Mrs. Richardson" on one of the signs. She would be my new teacher for the year. As I got in line, I said hello to the friends I hadn't seen all summer. Mrs. Richardson walked down the line, introducing herself to her new students.

She stuck out her hand and said, "Hi, I'm Mrs. Richardson. What's your name?"

"Allison," I answered, and shook her hand.

"It's nice to meet you, Allison. How was your summer?"

"It was good. I got to go to the pool a lot," I said.

"That's great, Allison. Thanks for speaking in complete sentences! That shows me that your writing is probably very nice," complimented Mrs. Richardson before she moved on to the next student.

It felt great to be complimented by my new teacher!



As we entered the classroom, Mrs. Richardson showed us where to put our supplies. Then we gathered on the carpet.

"Our class needs to work together very closely in order to complete the many exciting projects we're going to do this year. You'll be working with each other frequently, so I want to make sure we're all on the same page. I want to know what is important to you, what you **value**, in your classroom, teacher, classmates, and yourself. Please take a minute and think to yourself about your values." We all sat quietly. Then Mrs. Richardson gave us a partner, asked us to introduce ourselves to each other, and asked us to share our thoughts with each other. The ideas my partner and I came up with were respect, honesty, teamwork, and fairness.

After sharing with our partner, Mrs. Richardson asked two pairs to work together to decide on three values and write them down. Our group chose respect, cooperation, and fairness. When the groups were done, each group had a chance to present their ideas, and we voted on which three we would use as our classroom values. I liked how we worked together to choose the values that would guide our classroom!



Questions

Press the correct answers

Why did Mrs Richardson think that Allison's handwriting was probably good?

- Because Allison spoke in short sentences
- Because Allison spoke in complete sentences
- Because Allison was very polite introducing herself

What did Mrs Richardson mean when she said she needed them all to 'be on the same page'?

- To work together with the same idea and intentions
- To all read the same books together
- To all use the same pen and pencil

Where did the children sit to listen to their teacher as they entered the class?

- At their tables
- They were all standing up
- On the carpet all together

Why do you think Allison always got nervous on the first day of class?

- Because of all the new friends in class
- Because of all the new things to learn
- Because of the new teacher

When Allison's group was thinking of different values, what is the meaning of the value Cooperation which they thought of?

- Being friendly to the other students
- Working together in different tasks
- Helping the teacher as much as possible

How did Allison spend her summer holidays?

- Going to the pool
- Going to the beach
- Meeting new people

The school Allison went to was very small but the children were friendly.

- True
- False
- Doesn't say

The value 'Honesty', which the pupils thought of, means to always tell the truth to other people.

True

False

Mrs Richardson wanted the pupils to work individually in order to get better marks in their exams.

True

False

All Allison's classmates were new people she hadn't met.

True

False