Afraid to Cry

https://www.eslfast.com/begin5/b5/b5013.htm



Dean was known as the tough guy at school. He always wore tight shirts that showed off his muscles. He always pushed the skinny kids at school. He always treated the teachers like they didn't matter. He never did his homework. He got into a lot of fights. People were afraid of him, and Dean loved it.

Dean's world turned upside down when his brother passed away. He still went to class. His English teacher was talking about Shakespeare, whom Dean's brother admired. Hearing about Shakespeare reminded Dean of his own brother. His eyes started to water. He didn't want anyone to see him cry. He got up from his desk. "Dean, you can't get up while I am teaching," Mr. Chen said.

Everyone stared at Dean. Everyone could see the tears in his eyes. They laughed at him. Dean ran out of the classroom. Mr. Chen followed him and sat down with him. "Dean, it's okay to cry. Something tragic happened. Go ahead and cry." Dean put his head on Mr. Chen's shoulder and cried out loud. It was the first time he cried in front of someone. It was the first time he didn't act tough.

1. UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS



Unscramble the following words to form meaningful sentences from the story:

a) always / he / the / skinny / kids / pushed

_____

b) his / death / brother's / changed / Dean's / life

_____

c) okay / to / cry / it's / Mr. Chen / said

_____

d) at / everyone / him / laughed

_____

e) cried / Dean / Mr. Chen's / shoulder / on

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS



2. TRUE OR FALSE

Read the statements and write **True** or **False**.

a) Dean was known for being kind and helpful at school.

_____

b) Dean never did his homework.

_____

c) Dean's brother passed away, but it didn't affect him emotionally.

_____

d) Dean left the classroom without asking permission.

_____

e) Mr. Chen supported Dean after he ran out of the classroom.

_____

3. CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION

Select the correct answer for each question.



a) What kind of shirts did Dean always wear?

- (A) Loose shirts
- (B) Tight shirts
- (C) Formal shirts

b) Who was talking about Shakespeare in class?

- (A) Dean
- (B) Mr. Chen
- (C) Dean's brother

c) How did Dean react when he remembered his brother?

- (A) He got angry.
- (B) He started crying.
- (C) He laughed.

d) What did Mr. Chen tell Dean?

- (A) "Stop crying."
- (B) "It's okay to cry."
- (C) "Go back to class."

e) What was significant about Dean crying in front of someone?

- (A) It was his way of acting tough.
- (B) It was the first time he showed vulnerability.
- (C) It made the other students stop bullying him.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4. Comprehension Questions



1. What were some of Dean's behaviors that made people afraid of him?

---

2. What event caused Dean's world to change?

---

3. Why did Shakespeare remind Dean of his brother?

---

4. How did the other students react when they saw Dean crying?

---

5. What did Mr. Chen do to help Dean after he ran out of the classroom?



5. Interpretation Questions

1. Why do you think Dean acted tough and bullied others before his brother's death?

---

2. What does Mr. Chen's reaction to Dean's crying say about him as a teacher?

---

3. How might Dean's vulnerability in front of Mr. Chen change his life or behavior going forward?

---

4. What lessons can be learned from this story about coping with loss and expressing emotions?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SIMPLE PAST

1. Affirmative Sentences (Irregular Verbs)

Complete the sentences using the simple past form of the verbs in parentheses:

a) She _____ (go) to the library to find a quiet place.
b) He _____ (see) his best friend crying after the game.
c) They _____ (break) the window while playing soccer.
d) The boy _____ (give) his favorite book to the teacher.
e) The students _____ (take) their seats before the bell rang.



2. Negative Sentences

Complete the sentences in the negative form:



a) He finished his homework before class.
He _____ his homework before class.
b) They laughed at their friend's mistake.
They _____ at their friend's mistake.
c) The teacher followed the student after class.
The teacher _____ the student after class.
d) She remembered the answer to the question.
She _____ the answer to the question.
e) The boy pushed his classmate in the hallway.
The boy _____ his classmate in the hallway.

3. Interrogative Sentences

Form questions in the simple past for the following answers:



a) Answer: He left the classroom early.
_____ the classroom early?
b) Answer: The teacher helped him after class.
_____ him after class?
c) Answer: They laughed because the joke was funny.
_____ because the joke was funny?
d) Answer: She remembered her brother when she read the story.
_____ her brother when she read the story?
e) Answer: The student cried because he was upset.
_____ because he was upset?

LIVEWORKSHEETS