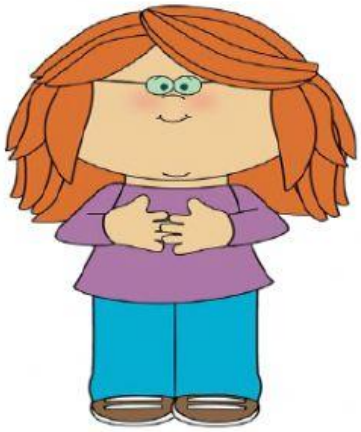
The Case of the Ugly Duckling



Once, there was a girl called Sofia, who was very quiet and shy. She always sat at the back of the class and rarely put her hand up to answer questions. You see, she had a complex about herself. She was short, overweight and she wore thick specs. But she dreamed of growing up to be beautiful. She always kept the image of the ugly duckling which turned into a beautiful swan, in her mind. One day, the class were having a Latin lesson, when an older girl walked in. She had come from the library. She was collecting books which were overdue. She asked the teacher. 'Is Sofia in this class, sir?' Immediately, all eyes turned to Sofia and she felt her face turn red. All eyes were on her!

The library girl spoke to Sofia. 'You must return your book tomorrow, or you will get a detention. I will remind you of the title: it is *Beauty Culture*.' The whole class burst out laughing. Fat, plain, specky Sofia had a book called 'Beauty Culture!' Sofia laughed too, because she knew in her heart of hearts, that one day, her dreams really would come true. She had other dreams, too. She wanted to study and become a teacher.

Answer the questions:

1) Write down two adjectives which described Sofia at school.
2) Where did she always sit?
3) Did she always put her hand up to answer questions?
4) Why did she have a complex about herself?
5) What image did Sofia always keep in her mind?
6) What was her dream regarding her looks?
7) What lesson was the class having when the girl walked in?
8) Why was that girl going round the school?
9) What happened to pupils if they didn't return their library books on time?
10) What was the title of the book that Sofia had borrowed?
11) Why did it make the whole class laugh?
12) Did Sofia cry about the incident?
13) What other ambition did Sofia have?

As Sofia grew up, she lost weight, got contact lenses and had her hair styled in expensive salons. She always wore make up and looked great. THE END

Sofia decided that looks were not everything. She studied hard and got her dream job, teaching maths in a college. THE END

Which is the best ending to the story? Justify your answer.

Beautiful Sofia

Teacher Sofia