

Getting Ready for Class

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Jane was always getting yelled at for not being ready for class. It happened so often, that she could see her teacher's mouth open to yell at her as soon as she stepped through the door. What had been gentle reminders at first had become insistent and irritated comments. She didn't really blame her teacher that much, though. She knew she hated repeating herself, so why wouldn't her teacher?

Just once, if it drove herself crazy, she wanted to impress her teacher by being ready. She got her things out the night before, and then organized them carefully. She made sure her agenda was signed by her parents. She sharpened three pencils to razor tips. She double-checked to make sure there wasn't a single question left unanswered in her homework. Then she made sure she'd read her pages in the novel she was supposed to keep up in. Things looked good.

After a late night preparing, she fell asleep, but woke up late. In the rush for the bus in the morning, she somehow forgot her backpack. Between breakfast, putting shoes on, and taking out the trash, she forgot her entire backpack! Man, was she going to catch it at school. Here she was trying to impress her teacher, and she'd just disappoint him further.

Jane felt sick. It was like someone had punched her in the guts. She dreaded the arrival at school. Whining as she stepped down off the bus, she decided to go take her medicine and get the punishment she deserved. How could she be so irresponsible?

Right as she was about to go into class, she heard her name being paged over the school intercom. She had to go to the office? Had her teacher already told the principal? Had they said that she had left her whole backpack at home? With leaden feet, she stumbled into the office, only to find her mother waiting for her.

"You forgot your backpack. I know you tried hard to get ready, so I wanted to make sure you had your things."

Jane laughed in relief and rushed off to class after hugging her mother. That day, the teacher didn't yell at her. Instead, when he got ready to yell, he closed his mouth and smiled. He was happy to see she was ready, and Jane was happy to be doing the right thing.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Why is Jane usually getting in trouble in class?
 - A. She says rude things.
 - B. She's often late.
 - C. She's not prepared.
 - D. She sleeps in class.

2. What does Jane plan to do the night before school?
 - A. Get a lot of sleep.
 - B. Do her homework
 - C. Eat a good breakfast.
 - D. Get everything ready for the next day.

3. What happens the next morning?
 - A. Jane forgets her backpack.
 - B. Jane sleeps in and misses the bus.
 - C. Jane's backpack rips.
 - D. Jane's brother gets sick on her homework.

4. Why is Jane really upset when she gets to school?
 - A. She tried hard to get ready for school, and then she didn't do her homework.
 - B. She hates school.
 - C. She really wanted to do things right, but forgot her lunch money.
 - D. She wanted to make her teacher happy, but thought she'd disappoint him again.

5. How does Jane's teacher react when she has her things ready?
 - A. He is mean still.
 - B. He smiles and seems happy.
 - C. He's angry and yells at someone else.
 - D. He doesn't notice.

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