

A Matter of Prejudice

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Before reading

1. Look at the cover of the book. Is the boy happy?
2. Why do you think he is looking at the other students?
3. Look up the word "prejudice" in a dictionary. Do you think there is a lot of prejudice nowadays?
4. Have you ever felt or seen anyone feel any kind of prejudice? Tell your classmates.

Check your reading

Chapter 1

1. Where was Mark born?
2. Why was he a special child?
3. Katherine and Bill decided they would help their son as much as they could. Check (✓) what they did:
 - ☐ They learned sign language.
 - ☐ They bought a new car.
 - ☐ They read a book about deaf children.
 - ☐ They went back to school.
 - ☐ They started to teach Mark sign language.
4. There are two methods that deaf people usually use to communicate. What are they?

Chapter 2

1. Are these sentences true or false? Check (✓) T (true) or F (false).

	T	F
a. There are some special schools for deaf children in Mark's town.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Mark loved his school when he was a little boy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Mark's mother was very protective.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. When Mark got older he became very talkative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Why did Mark get angry with his mother sometimes?
3. Who was Mark's best friend?
4. How did Mark and Carol usually communicate when they were not together?

Chapter 3

1. Who said these things?
"Why didn't you answer my question?" _____
"I didn't know you were calling on me?" _____
2. Why was Mark embarrassed?

Chapter 4

1. Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

cheerleaders weird invite prejudice

- a. Mark would have to learn to deal with _____ by himself.
 - b. Linda and Sandra never spoke to Mark because they thought he was _____.
 - c. Linda and Sandra were _____.
 - d. Linda did not _____ Mark for her birthday party.
2. Why did Mark lie to his friends when they asked him why he didn't go to the party?

Chapter 5

1. Put the sentences in the correct order.
___ Mark, Linda and Sandra became good friends.
___ Mark saw Linda and Sandra at the park.
___ Mark decided to help them.
___ The girls were afraid of the boys.
___ Mark went to the park.
___ Linda apologized for not inviting Mark to her party.

Chapter 6

1. What did Mark, Linda and Sandra's project promote?
2. Did they win anything? What?
3. How did Mark, Linda and Sandra feel and how did their teachers and parents feel when they won the competition?
4. What lesson did Mark learn?
5. What lesson did many of the other students learn?

After reading

1. Look at the pictures in the book and tell the story using your own words.
2. There is prejudice against many things. In the story, there is prejudice against deaf people. What are some other common forms of prejudice? What can we do to try to eliminate them? Discuss with your classmates.
3. Write some sentences using these words:
a. prejudice, b. complicated, c. realize, d. community, e. diversity