



First, Mrs Ross introduced a new kid to the class. 'This is Rima. She's from the north of Iraq. She has only just come to live here, so I want you all to help her find her way around.'

Billy nudged me. 'Hey! It's that girl from summer camp,' he whispered. Rima was scared of everything at camp and, of course, I made up a silly nickname for her: Rima the Screamer.

When Mrs Ross turned to the board, I wrote the nickname on a bit of paper and passed it to the desk next to me. 'Pass it on,' I whispered.

Mrs Ross didn't notice the note going from hand to hand. Most of the kids read the nickname and a lot of them were giggling.

The fun stopped when Big-Boss Ross turned around. She soon had us working. First, she read us a short story and then she set an assignment.

'I want you to write something about your holidays,' she said. 'Choose a favourite place and think of something interesting that happened there. I want you to describe the place and the event for the rest of the class.'



Activities

5 Underline the nicknames that Jason has made up. Tick the reasons for the nicknames.

a) Mrs Ross has got a business.

b) Mrs Ross gives orders.

c) Rima has got a loud scream.

d) Rima is an immigrant.

Of course, I immediately thought of camp and the day I gave Rima her nickname. It was at the start of the second week. After breakfast, the monitors showed the new arrivals the sailing boats and Jess and I went to the beach. Suddenly a wave crashed down on the sand, near the boats. It splashed over the boats and on to some of the kids.



One of the kids screamed and ran up the beach. 'Come back, Rima!' called a monitor. 'Don't be scared!' 'There goes Rima the Screamer!' I said to Jess. She laughed and that was Rima's nickname for the rest of the month. Of course, I didn't write about that for Big-Boss Ross! Instead I wrote about learning to surf.

At morning break, Billy and I were surrounded by kids from the class. They all wanted to know more about Rima's nickname. 'How do you know her?' they asked. 'Why did you give her that nickname? What did she do?'



Activities

6 Discuss the questions with a classmate.

- a) Why doesn't Jason tell Mrs Ross about the nickname?
- b) Why does he tell his friends?
- c) Do you think he told his family?
- d) Why are his friends interested?

Story focus

In *Jason's last joke*, the events of the first day of school are told from one character's point of view, or POV.

1 Circle the correct POV for the story.



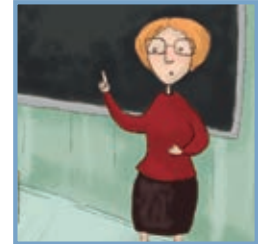
Rima



Jason



Billy



Mrs Ross

2 Use the key to underline and classify the sentences.

— Jason's POV

— Rima's POV

Camp pranks are such good fun!

The sleeping bag prank was horrible!

The fireworks were fabulous!

The fireworks sounded like bombs.

I had a great time playing by the rough sea.

I was terrified of the rough sea.

3 In groups, answer the questions and give your reasons.

- a) Is Jason popular at school?
- b) How and why does this change?
- c) Do you think Jason is a bully?
- d) Does Jason know he is behaving badly?
- e) Are Jason's friends bullies too?
- f) Why doesn't Rima tell Mrs Ross about the pranks at summer camp?
- g) How do you think Jason feels at the end of the story?
- h) What important thing does Jason do at the end?
- i) Why's it important?

4 Work with a classmate and find examples of bullying in the story.

a) name calling

b) physical bullying

c) social bullying

Jason says ...
that's bullying.

I (don't) agree
because...

Creative writing

The first day at school after the holidays is always difficult. The children are so busy talking to each other. I'm always strict from the start of the first class.

When I walked into the classroom, the children stood up and chanted, 'Good morning, Mrs Ross!' Jason Bellows whispered, 'Good morning Mrs Big-Boss.'

He thought I couldn't hear him but of course I could. 'Quiet at the back!' I shouted.

Then I introduced a new student. 'This is Rima,' I explained. 'She has come to live here from Iraq.' Rima was a refugee and I wanted the children to be especially kind to her. 'Please make her feel welcome,' I told the class.

1 Read the text and do the activities.

- Underline the words that people actually **say** in red.
- Underline the verbs describing **how** people speak in blue.
- Circle the punctuation marks used to indicate speech.

2 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- The text is about an event that happens...
 - at the start of class.
 - at break time.
 - at lunch.
 - after school.
- The text describes the event from the POV of...
 - Billy.
 - Jason.
 - Mrs Ross.
 - Rima.
- The narrator of the text feels...
 - nervous.
 - serious.
 - happy.
 - irritated.
 - bored.

3 Discuss the questions with a classmate.

- How does Jason feel at the start/end of school?
- How does Rima feel at the start/end of school?
- What does Jason think of the other kids at the start/end of school?
- What does Rima think of the other kids at the start/end of school?

I think Jason feels...

He thinks the other kids are...