

Name: _____

Frankenstein Face

by Kelly Hashway



Tara stared at her reflection in the side mirror of her mother's car. Black stitches lined her right cheek. It had been days since she'd fallen off her bike and had to get stitches, but Tara still wasn't used to how she looked.

"I can't go," Tara said. "I look like Frankenstein."

"Honey, you look fine," her mother said. "Those stitches will be out in no time."

"Then why can't I start soccer camp after the stitches are out?" Tara asked.

"No one is going to see your stitches. The doctor said you need to cover them up with a bandage to keep dirt from getting in them. You're lucky the doctor is even letting you go to soccer camp."

"I wish he wasn't. Everyone is going to laugh at me."

Tara's mother sighed and put a bandage over the stitches. "There, that's better."

Tara looked in the mirror again. Somehow the bandage made it worse. She tugged her baseball cap lower on her forehead, hoping to keep her cheek in shadow. "Bye," she mumbled, opening the car door and stepping onto the soccer field.

The other kids were already warming up. Tara thought about telling Coach Mason she had a stomachache and sitting out. Maybe no one would pay attention to her if she wasn't actually practicing.

"New arrival!" Coach Mason yelled. "You must be Tara. Your mom told me about your bike accident. Why don't you take a spot over there and let me know if there are any skills you're not feeling up to."

Tara turned and saw all eyes were on her.

"You had a bike accident?" one girl asked.

"Did you have to get stitches?" a boy asked.

Tara didn't know what to say. They weren't making fun of her. At least not yet. "Um, yeah."

"Can we see?" the boy asked, sounding really excited.

"I'm not supposed to take the bandage off because I might get dirt in the stitches," Tara said.

"Maybe some other time," the boy said.

"Here, I'll show you what we're working on," the girl said.

"Okay," Tara said, unable to keep from smiling.

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1. How did Tara feel throughout most of the story?

- a. positive
- b. angry
- c. excited
- d. nervous

2. Why did Tara have stitches?

3. Why does Tara have to keep a bandage over the stitches?

4. How do you know Tara was feeling a little better at the end of the story?

5. How did the other kids at soccer camp react to Tara's stitches?

- a. They didn't notice.
- b. They were confused.
- c. They made fun of her.
- d. They were curious.

6. How did the coach react to Tara's stitches?

- a. She didn't know about them because Tara hid them.
- b. She was concerned, but still willing to let Tara play.
- c. She was curious to know more.
- d. She told Tara to sit out and not play today.

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Vocabulary

The words below are scrambled vocabulary words from the story. Unscramble each word and write in on the line. Look back at the story to be sure you spell each word correctly.



1.

h	k	e
e	c	

Clue: part of the face

2.

l	m	m	e
b	d	u	

Clue: spoke softly and not clearly

3.

r	i	n	n	n	F
k	a	t	s	e	e

Clue: fictional monster with a scar on his head

4.

e	a	a	n
d	b	g	

Clue: covering for a cut

5.

t	h	s	h	a	a
c	c	m	e	o	

Clue: type of sickness

6.

r	o	s
c	e	c

Clue: sport where most players do not use their hands

ANSWER KEY

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1. How did Tara feel throughout most of the story? **d**
 - a. positive
 - b. angry
 - c. excited
 - d. **nervous**
2. Why did Tara have stitches?
She was in a bicycle accident.
3. Why does Tara have to keep a bandage over the stitches?
To keep the stitches from getting dirty
4. How do you know Tara was feeling a little better at the end of the story?
The story says she was unable to keep from smiling.
5. How did the other kids at soccer camp react to Tara's stitches? **d**
 - a. They didn't notice.
 - b. They were confused.
 - c. They made fun of her.
 - d. **They were curious.**
6. How did the coach react to Tara's stitches? **b**
 - a. She didn't know about them because Tara hid them.
 - b. **She was concerned, but still willing to let Tara play.**
 - c. She was curious to know more.
 - d. She told Tara to sit out and not play today.

ANSWER KEY

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Vocabulary

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1.

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cheek

Clue: part of the face

2.

l	m	m	e
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mumbled

Clue: spoke softly and not clearly

3.

r	i	n	n	n	F
k	a	t	s	e	e

Frankenstein

Clue: fictional monster with a scar on his head

4.

e	a	a	n
d	b	g	

bandage

Clue: covering for a cut

5.

t	h	s	h	a	a
c	c	m	e	o	

stomachache

Clue: type of sickness

6.

r	o	s
c	e	c

soccer

Clue: sport where most players do not use their hands