

Bay Shore Middle School Summer Reading Assignment

MRS. CATANZARO'S
Incoming Sixth Graders
2024

Directions: Read the short story, "First Day Folly" b

"First Day Folly" by READWORKS

the category or
type of literature

narrative/ voice
that is telling
the story

chara

people
or animals that take
part in the action
of the story

the
main character)

character that
goes up against
the main
character)

the problem or
struggle between
opposing
characters or
forces

the
way the conflict
is
solved; the
outcome of the
struggle
(The eÆ

What is the " " (central idea) of the short story, "First Day Folly" by READWORKS? Write 3-4 sentences that explain _____
_____ and _____

1 During the week before school started this year, I suddenly got really nervous. It took me a couple of days to figure out that the butterflies in my stomach were due to anxiety about school. I've always been very good at academics, so I just didn't think I could possibly be afraid of the start of another year, but this year I was beginning middle school—7th grade—and all I felt was

5 "Thanks, Mom. That's not very reassuring," I said. "Aren't you supposed to tell me that I'm going to be great and that it's a piece of cake?"

6 "No, I'm supposed to tell you the truth," she said. "And that includes you being great. But being a pre-teen isn't a piece of cake."

7 I sighed. She was definitely right.

8 Later that night, we talked about what I might be fretting about. It was Thursday night. I had three days until I had to walk through the middle school doors, no longer just a kid.

9 "I think the work is going to be harder," I began. "And the people are going to be mean. And I haven't met many of the teachers. The building is different. How could I have forgotten that I'm in 7th grade now?"

10 "Because you were having so much fun on our camping trip?" Mom joked.

11 "Har har. And yeah, that was fun. I guess I just had such a good time this summer that I forgot to prepare for this year," I said.

12 Mom took time to listen to me and reassure me that I wouldn't come up against anything that I couldn't handle. As for the people, she said, well... I couldn't change how anyone was going to act, but I

could act friendly to everyone else. I went to bed feeling a little bit better.

13 During my last weekend of freedom, Mom and I took some day trips: Friday the aquarium, and Saturday a berry farm for blueberry picking. Saturday afternoon, we bought pie from a local farm stand and ate half of it together before we even got home. I was feeling better about the whole school thing when Mom got a call that evening—it was her work.

14 “Anne, I won’t be able to take you to school on Monday,” she said, hanging up the phone. “What? Why not? I need you to be there for me!”

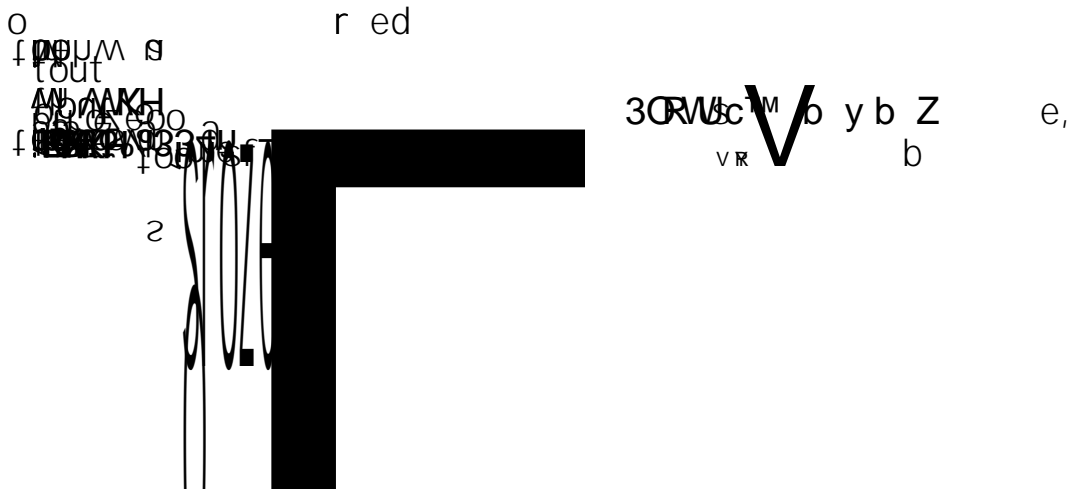
two by two.

16 Mom wasn't in the kitchen.

I thought. I knew she had to work, but she could have at least wished me luck on my first day. There was no food waiting for me on the counter, either, so I shoved a bag of frozen bagels into my bag, hoping they'd defrost by the time I got to school.

17 When I got outside, I didn't see the bus at the corner.

What a nightmare. How could this have happened? I wanted to cry, but I was too stressed out to sit down and sob. I knew where the



smiled. "It's Sunday, Anne."

20 "I am an idiot," I said. I sat down on the sidewalk, sweaty and out of breath. "I was so nervous about school starting that I woke up and thought it was Monday. I thought you had left for work without even saying goodbye."

21 "Just because I can't take you to school tomorrow doesn't mean I won't still wake you up and hug you goodbye!" Mom said, hugging me. "Let's go home... Is that an entire bag of frozen bagels in your backpack?"

22 I smiled. The next day, Mom did in fact wake me up to say good-bye and good luck, and I caught the bus just fine. Day one of school was easy, and while I knew every day wouldn't be, at least I'd never have to survive my accidental first day again.

