

What does this word or phrase suggest?

Brrring! The school bell resonated intrusively across the playground, announcing the start of the day. Jackson took a long, deep breath and glanced anxiously towards the door. Well, this was it. His first day at his new school. He scanned the playground swiftly, in the hope of spotting just one familiar face; he recognised no one. He was going to have to face this one all on his own. He took another deep breath and set off determinedly towards the door. He would be fine... wouldn't he?

Jackson wandered hesitantly along the corridor, uncertain of where he was going. People scrutinised him as he went; he looked and felt like a fish out of water. It wasn't long before a colossal object, in the shape of a boy, stood in his path completely obstructing his way. This couldn't be good, surely? Jackson swallowed hard and allowed his eyes to absorb the sight of the boy's dirty, battered trainers; the dark grey trousers which were ripped at the knees; the bright red jumper which stretched around the thick arms and broad shoulders of its occupant, before finally settling upon a rather surprising face. He was greeted by bright, twinkling eyes and a wide, beaming smile which appeared to spread from ear to ear.

"You must be Jackson," said the boy-giant in a deep but kindly voice. "My name's Thomas, but my friends call me Tiny... I'm your settling in buddy," he added with a wink.

"Nice to meet you, Tiny," replied Jackson with a relieved smile. Maybe this wasn't going to be so bad after all.

• 'The school bell resonated intrusively across the playground...' What does this suggest about how the bell sounded? _____

• 'People scrutinised him as he went...' What does the word 'scrutinised' suggest about the way people were looking at Jackson? _____

• '...he looked and felt like a fish out of water.' What does this suggest about how Jackson was feeling? _____

• 'Jackson wandered hesitantly along the corridor...' What does this suggest about the way Jackson was walking? _____

• What does the phrase '...he added with a wink' suggest about Tiny's understanding of the situation? _____

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Top tips for starting a new school 06/09/2016 09:30 am
By Josie Jones

Tip One: The internet is your ally! Take time to scrutinise the school website prior to your first day. Become acquainted with the daily routine; memorise the floor plan and locate your classroom; and most importantly, read about your teachers – forewarned is forearmed!

Tip Two: It's acceptable to be shy and nervous! You are being pushed completely out of your comfort zone and even the most self-assured person will consider it to be a challenging experience. I can guarantee that at least one person will approach you. Be open and honest about your feelings and insecurities (we have all been in situations like this before). Strike up a conversation by asking them questions about themselves or the school; most people are more than happy to help.

Tip Three: Chin up and smile! The likelihood is that most people will smile back! People are more inclined to approach you if they see a welcoming face. If you appear solemn and have your eyes fixed on the floor, it will discourage people from approaching you.

Remember – this could be a life defining opportunity! Just think of all the new friends you are about to meet. Good luck and stay strong!

•What did the author mean when she suggests that 'forewarned is forearmed'? _____

•'Be open and honest about your feelings and insecurities...' What does the word 'insecurities' suggest about your possible feelings at this time? _____

•'If you appear solemn and have your eyes fixed on the floor...' Explain what impression this might give to other people. _____

•'...it will discourage people from approaching you.' What does this phrase suggest about people's reaction to you? _____

'Remember – this could be a life defining opportunity!' What do you think the author is suggesting with this statement? _____
